

Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council

Annual General Meeting

April 27, 2018 | 1 – 3 p.m.

Keynote address

New Rules for a New Game: Government funding and health outcomes for seniors

The keynote presentation will focus attendees' attention on the origins and outcomes of health and social spending in Canada generally, and Alberta specifically. In the context of an aging population, innovative research from the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy (SPP) suggests there is an overlooked upside to the diminishing returns offered by continued high levels of public spending on healthcare.

Dr. Daniel Dutton will kick off the keynote with a portrait of Canadian and Albertan spending on the formal healthcare system, showing the potential of redirecting just one cent of every dollar that presently goes towards hospitals and doctors. Dan's data will illustrate how re-focusing on so-called 'social spending' can reap significant benefits at a fraction of the cost.

Dr. Myles Leslie will then address the challenges of achieving this redistribution in spending, with a particular focus on the opportunities and changes inherent in the provision of community-based services to seniors and their informal caregivers. Myles will focus on how a change to Canada's social contract – our core narratives of how government and health interact and work – will be necessary both to open up opportunities to redirect spending, and to overcome the challenges inherent in bringing those opportunities to fruition.

Dan and Myles will describe a range of 'new rules' – from changing the social contract, to making community-based work amenable to policy, to appropriately leveraging technology, to managing (and even leveraging) competition and redundancy in the provision of community services – for the ESCC community to consider as they move forward in the new game.

Speaker bios

Dr. Daniel J. Dutton is a Post-Doctoral Scholar at University of Calgary's School of Public Policy. His current research falls into three general categories: social and health economics, applied policy, and computational epidemiology. Most of his work is quantitative, utilizing large data sets and modeling strategies from economics and epidemiology. His primary interests are population-level exposures and their impact on poverty and health, how governments can address those exposures and the distributional impacts of addressing those exposures. He also has an interest in methodological practice, including how research is done in applied epidemiology and the questions researchers answer. Dan completed his PhD in Community

Health Sciences with a specialization in Population and Public Health at the University of Calgary in 2014. Prior to his PhD Dan worked for a short time in the Ontario Ministry of Finance.

Dr. Myles Leslie is an assistant professor and qualitative research specialist pursuing a programme of healthcare services and policy research at the University of Calgary's School of Public Policy. As associate director of research for the school, Myles' own focus is on: elder care, patient engagement, and trust in government. He also has a longstanding interest in the uses, and misuses, of technology in healthcare. He presently combines these research streams in an AGE-WELL, National Centre of Excellence project aimed at understanding and improving the digital supports available to elder caregivers. Myles' PhD is from the University of Toronto, with a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Leicester (UK) followed by an appointment at Johns Hopkins Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland. Engagement – of patients broadly, of informal elder care providers and Canada's seniors specifically, and of citizens in a low-trust era – is at the heart of Myles' research portfolio and personal passion.