# Mission Statement:

The world is aging. The first of the baby boomers have turned 70, and with longer life expectancies and lower birth rates Nowhere is the worldwide aging trend more evident than in the province of Nova Scotia, home to the oldest population in Canada. As of 2017, 19.9% of the population was aged 65 or older. By 2030, this number is expected to rise to one in four Nova Scotians (NS Shift Action Plan). As Nova Scotians continue to age, so does the demand for health care services and home facilities.

In addition, Nova Scotia’s population remains quite spatially isolated – more than twice as many people live in rural communities relative to the Canadian average. This is exacerbated by the fact that in the past, economic conditions drove many people to seek employment in other provinces. This has left an aging population with much less family support than in other regions. Rita Lajeunesse, 76, says "The problem with Nova Scotia is that a lot of us don't have the supports of our children here because they had to leave for employment. That's a hard thing for seniors here — lack of support.”

The SeniorServe app aims to help people like Rita by providing information about access to appropriate and affordable housing, in-home support, social connections and nearby services - factors listed as key elements to keeping older adults healthy. SeniorServe helps our aging population and those who care for them, even from abroad, ensure that they have access to suitable facilities and services. Through this app, we hope to support aging in place by drawing attention to the availability of facilities provincewide.

**References:**

CBC News. September 29, 2015. StatsCan reveals Nova Scotia has highest senior-to-child ratio. Available from: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/statscan-reveals-nova-scotia-has-highest-senior-to-child-ratio-1.3248803>

National Seniors Council. 2014. Report on the Social Isolation of Seniors. Final Report. Ottawa: Government of Canada.

Nova Scotia Department of Seniors. 2017. Shift: Nova Scotia’s Action Plan for an Aging Population. Halifax: Province of Nova Scotia.

Statistics Canada (May 3, 2017) 2016 Census of Population - Age (in Single Years) and Average Age (127) and Sex (3) for the Population of Canada, Provinces and Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations, 2016 and 2011 Censuses. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-400-X2016001.