

COVID^{IN THE} HOUSE OF OLD



Winnipeg: May 4-02

Gertie Lipson: I think it's important, as I like to tell my friends, it's important. You could be a good health care person, but maybe you don't take time, personal time, to let somebody who's worried or upset about something to be able to talk. But generally, they will, they will listen.

But sometimes, you know when they're in a hurry, or they're short staffed. It makes the difference. But, like, have enough time to listen to the residents.

Interviewer: All right, what's your name?

Gertie: Gertie Lipson.

Interviewer: Okay. And how old are you?

Gertie: I'm 89.

Interviewer: And when did you come to live at the Simkin center?

Gertie: Three years ago.

Interviewer: Can you tell me what it was like to live here during the pandemic?

Gertie: It was pretty bad. It was very sad. We all felt very isolated from family, from friends. Well, that's about what I think all of us were feeling. That the idea that, okay, we can't go anywhere, we have to stay in a room.

And finally, I remember one day, I was so my body felt like if I if I don't walk, I don't know what's going to happen. So, I asked Jean, if, after supper, when everybody's in their room, could I, well, everybody was in their room. But I mean to say, they weren't anywhere exposed. I said, "Could I walk up these from one end of the corridor to the other end of the corridor?" and she said that would be fine. Because I felt like my body was getting crunched up. So that helped a lot if I was able to do that. I look forward to it every evening.

It was a very bad feeling of like, almost like, hey I think they forgot about me. They don't know. They don't know what I'm doing. Or how I'm doing. And I'm wondering how are they doing? How are they getting wrong? Meaning my relatives, my friends, and it was a very, very bad time. They will, I can only repeat it several times. It was a time where it wouldn't imagine you could feel that way. So isolated, so alone is feeling that feeling that I experienced or that we experienced during that time.