

COVID IN THE HOUSE OF OLD



Exhibit Description

One of the first public commemorations of the pandemic, COVID in the House of Old brings stories from a national eldercare crisis to Canadians and asks them to take action.

Seven wooden storytelling chairs sit at the heart of the COVID in the House of Old exhibit, each projecting audio testimony that speaks to lives indelibly altered by the pandemic's spread through long-term care. A representational object is mounted on the back of each chair, while personal "Valentine" acknowledgements, lovingly created by family, friends and project researchers, rest on each seat. The seventh exhibit chair is held by Wikwemikong Nursing Home on Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory in Northern Ontario - a model and a wish for a better way. The chairs sit on wooden bases either 26 or 30 inches square and 10-16 inches high.

Elegy from Long Term Care Homes 2020-2021 is an audio-visual projection created from LTC death statistics using Max/MSP. Each life lost is represented by a coloured dot and a musical note.

Three context panels expand on the themes COVID Comes to the House of Old; Past is Present in Long Term Care; Radical Futures in Eldercare.

COVID in the House of Old was created by Megan J. Davies (curator, interviewer, writer), Hiroki Tanaka (artist, musician, digital creator), and Kohen Hammond (audio editor, podcast producer).

Possibilities and Logistics

COVID in the House of Old is a scalable traveling exhibit. It suits public spaces like libraries and community centres. It could be shown in health care facilities, museums, malls, educational institutions and at fall fairs. We want it to go EVERYWHERE in Canada and we will work with you to make that happen.

All 7 of the exhibit's storytelling chairs can be presented or fewer if space is limited. Elegy for Long Term Care Homes simply needs a wall on which it can be projected. If noise is an issue, then the exhibit audio for Elegy and the chairs can be accessed via QR codes that link to the project website CovidintheHouseofOld.ca

With a podcast, powerful audio, and the audio-visual impact of Elegy for Long Term Care Homes, the exhibit is easily adaptable for educational purposes. Look on our website for CIHO Educational - a set of resources suited to secondary, post-secondary and community education settings.

If you are interested in presenting COVID in the House of Old in your community or at your institution please send an email query to: info@covidinthehouseofold.ca

