

**Applicant**

Dr. Ellen Freeman, University of Ottawa

**E-mail Address**

eefreeman@gmail.com

**Project Title**

The Prevalence of Visual Impairment, its Risk Factors, and its Consequences in Canada

**Project Summary**

Canada needs higher quality, population-based data on the burden of visual impairment. Previous studies have either applied U.S. rates to the Canadian population, have relied on the self-report of visual impairment, or have relied on small samples that may not be representative of the Canadian population. The Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging provides a rich opportunity to fill this glaring need. Our team will provide national and provincial prevalence rates of visual impairment. We will examine risk factors for visual impairment including geographic, sociodemographic, health, social, and behavioral factors. We will also examine potential mobility, mental health, disability, and employment consequences of vision loss. Finally, we will examine the frequency of eye care utilization. These data will provide policy-makers with accurate Canadian data on the problem of visual impairment and eye disease so that they can ensure adequate eye care resources for the future of our aging population.

**Keywords**

Visual impairment, eye disease, prevalence, Canada, mobility