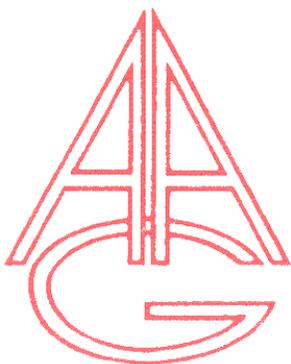


ALBERTA ASSOCIATION ON GERONTOLOGY

25 YEARS IN REVIEW



**A HISTORY OF THE ALBERTA ASSOCIATION ON GERONTOLOGY:
1980 – 2005**

A 1978 conference of the Canadian Association on Gerontology (CAG) held in Edmonton, a conference attracting 500 attendees, was the initial inspiration for the Alberta Association on Gerontology (AAG). The desirability of a provincial organization to meet the needs of seniors and those working with them was felt. An organizational meeting, attended by fifty individuals, was called December 1, 1979, and on October 20, 1980, the AAG was incorporated under the Societies Act, its object being “to bring together persons interested in gerontology for mutual benefit and exchange of information, to promote the study of aging in all its aspects”. Don Mayne was named the association’s first president (see Addendum 1 for a list of all of the association’s presidents to date).

Highlights of the AAG’s early years include the association’s representation at a meeting in Winnipeg of the Council of Affiliated Member Organizations of the CAG and “The Research Game”, designed to encourage people to think up questions they had about aging in Alberta, conducted by the association’s Research Committee. Findings would become the basis for “Project Interest”, an early aid for the AAG in assessing areas Albertans considered priorities for study. On June 23, 1981, application for affiliation with the CAG was made. The AAG’s annual outreach conferences held in Calgary and Edmonton the following year received a grant from the Senior Citizens Bureau and featured workshops focusing on “The Family and the Aging Parent” led by Marcie Jenner, a California psychologist.

In 1983, the AAG was represented at the Second Canadian Conference on Aging, “Canada and the World Assembly on Aging: A Challenge to Action”, by the then president. The association was also represented that year at a meeting of the Alberta Council on Aging Inter-Agency Council, comprising non-governmental organizations interested in policy and services for

seniors. Topics discussed here included the Nursing Home Review Panel Report, the Green Paper on pensions, and the Task Force on Older Women. In the next year, the AAG, working with the Alberta Association of Gerontological Nurses (AGNA), held a workshop in Red Deer on the cognitively impaired elderly, “Debunking the Myths of Senility”. The keynote speaker was Dr. Steve Zarit from the University of Southern California.

In 1983, the Centre for Gerontology at the University of Alberta became the host location for the AAG.

The following years, 1984 and 1985, saw the association intent on establishing ties with other like-minded organizations in the province: the Alberta Association of Social Workers, the Alberta Inter-faith Coalition on Aging, and the Geriatric Medical Society of Alberta. In 1984, the Outreach Committee offered a workshop to Alberta professionals on coordinating services to older people. As well, the association began to advocate at this time on behalf of several seniors’ groups, notably the developmentally handicapped. The issue of substance abuse in the elderly was the focus of an AAG-Alberta Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC) Substance Abuse Project funded by the Senior Citizens Bureau. The objectives of the project were to:

1. improve the skills of practitioners working with the elderly in the area of substance abuse;
2. promote more comprehensive research in the area of aging and substance abuse;
3. ensure appropriateness of future program development and the extent of services required; and
4. increase public awareness of the existence of substance abuse among the elderly.

The Substance Abuse and the Elderly Ad Hoc Committee was established by the board of directors in September of 1985. The committee prepared an information package and survey questionnaire. An annotated bibliography on substance abuse and the elderly was later prepared by the research committee.

Meanwhile, the AAG Education Committee became a major participant in the development of a gerontology certificate program at the University of Calgary. The theme of the fifth annual general meeting conference was “Supporting Families to Support: In Recognition of the Role of the Family in Care for the Elderly”.

The AAG’s fifth annual Outreach workshop, funded by the Senior Citizens Bureau, was entitled “Alcoholism and the Elderly”. The workshop was led by Dr. Sarah Saunders of the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Research Foundation of Ontario. That year’s annual general meeting coincided with a presentation facilitated by architect James Waugh from the University of Calgary. Entitled “More Than Four Walls”, its major focus was to help those attending understand the impact of institutions on residents, staff and community, and to help people learn how to reduce the effects of institutionalization.

In 1986, an AAG Outreach Committee in Edmonton offered a one-day workshop, “Alzheimer’s: Where Are We At?” at the University of Alberta. “The Alberta Mosaic: Cultural Diversity and Aging” conference, funded in part by an Alberta Culture grant, was held at the Chateau Lake Louise. By 1987, as membership approached 300, the Ad Hoc Committee had completed the AAG’s position paper on substance abuse and the elderly and circulated it to over 100 groups and social agencies in the province. A workshop on substance abuse was sponsored at the CAG 16th Annual Scientific and Educational Meeting held in Calgary and hosted by the AAG. Other concerns of the AAG at this time included: Bill C-22, the province’s lack of certified geriatricians, and elder abuse.

The association's support for the Provincial Senior Citizens Advisory Council's Report of 1988 was expressed in letters to the Ministers of Hospitals and Medical Care, Community and Occupational Health, and Social Services. The AAG also developed a response to the report of the Mirosh Committee, "A New Vision for Long Term Care". A Substance Abuse Awareness Day was organized by the Education Committee and co-sponsored with AADAC. A proposal was submitted to Health and Welfare Canada's Seniors Independence Program (SIP) for a pilot training project intended to increase the knowledge and skills of practitioners in the assessment and intervention of alcohol abuse in seniors. The title of the proposal was "Alcohol Abuse and Older Adults: Training the Trainers".

A revision of the by-laws allowed for the formation of local chapters. A Calgary group submitted its application and became, in 1989, the AAG's first chapter. Edmonton and Lethbridge soon followed.

At the March 31, 1989 meeting of the board, the association's Mission Statement was adopted:

The AAG is a province-wide interdisciplinary organization that seeks to enhance the lives of the aging population through support of persons involved in and concerned with the field of aging.

This year the association assisted the Provincial Senior Citizens Advisory Council and the Alberta Advisory Council on Women's Issues in presenting two forums on Women and Aging, "Older Women: Past, Present and Future", in Edmonton and Lethbridge. The provincial conference, "Super Age '89", received SIP funding and a grant from the Senior Citizens Secretariat (formerly the Senior Citizens Bureau).

The Ad Hoc Substance Abuse Committee was awarded \$112,000 in funding over two years for its project, "Training the Trainers". It also provided

input to the Premier's Policy Advisory Committee on the proposed Foundation for Family Life and Drug Abuse. Letters to the Premier regarding the status of the Senior Citizens Secretariat and a proposed amendment to the Individual Rights Protection Act to protect the mentally disabled were forwarded.

The new decade saw the AAG involvement in the CAG formalized through its membership in the Council of Affiliated Organizations. Later, the Past president of AAG served as chair of the group.

The 1991 conference, "Dawn of a New Age: Facing the Future Together", was sponsored jointly by the AAG, the Centre for Gerontology, the Alberta Council on Aging and the Alberta Long Term Care Association. Its theme was collaboration.

"Alcohol Problems and Older Adults: Trainers Manual" was completed and distributed in February 1991. In September 1992, the final report of the "Training the Trainers" research project was distributed.

Representatives of the association were invited to attend a one-day forum of the Premier's Council in Support of Alberta Families. Meetings were also held with government ministers, the Alberta Council on Aging Inter-Agency Council, and members of the newly-formed provincial government Inter-Departmental Task Force. The AAG had a representative on the National Technical Assistance Program for seniors' organizations.

Four drug and substance abuse forums, "Energize, Don't Tranquillize", co-sponsored by AAG and the Seniors Advisory Council for Alberta, were held in March, 1991, in Medicine Hat, Grande Prairie, Calgary and Edmonton. "Training the Trainers" and "Suicide and the Elderly" workshops were also held.

In the following years, 1992 and 1993, the association was represented at consultation meetings with the provincial government at which a variety of issues – physical therapy, Blue Cross, home care fees, long term care facilities, and labour force participation – were discussed. “Goals for a Healthy Alberta”, a provincial conference on health goals and objectives, was attended by invitation as was a meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, at which a new federal funding initiative aimed at fostering cooperation between seniors, the private sector and government was introduced.

“New Frontiers in Aging”, the CAG 1992 Annual Scientific and Educational Meeting held in Edmonton, was hosted this year by the AAG. The then president of AAG chaired the conference.

“Age-Wise”, a collaborative project with the Fort Saskatchewan Seniors Advisory Council, received a SIP grant from Health and Welfare Canada. This project was completed, and a facilitators’ training manual for workshops on housing and transportation for seniors was distributed. The annotated bibliography on substance abuse was updated and distributed.

On October 23, 1992, Mary Engelmann was presented with the association’s first Award of Excellence (see Addendum 2 for a list of all Award of Excellence winners to date). Mary led the provincial Senior Citizens Bureau (later the Senior Citizens Secretariat), and had promoted interests and concerns relating to seniors across the province since the establishment of this government office.

The association was represented in 1993 at a meeting of Caritas Health Group to discuss the future of Youville Geriatric Services and the long term care program at the Edmonton General Hospital.

During these years consideration continued to be given to the AAG having a greater role in providing input to government policy. The AAG was

involved in the discussions in 1994 leading to the establishment of the Alberta Seniors Benefit program. This new government program for lower income seniors incorporated the earlier Alberta Assured Income Plan and other benefits which had previously been available to all seniors. The AAG continued to have representation on the Alberta Council on Aging Inter-Agency Council.

The association was invited by CAG to participate in the collection of data on the abuse and neglect of Alberta seniors, part of a project which resulted in a book, a special issue of the *Canadian Journal on Aging*, and full-day workshops at the CAG conferences in 1993 and 1994.

A workshop on advance directives was part of the annual general meeting in May 1995. The theme of that year's annual conference was a particularly timely one: "Meeting the Needs of Older People in Alberta: A Showcase of Innovative Approaches During a Time of Economic Restraints".

The office address continued to be at the Centre for Gerontology, University of Alberta, until January 1, 1996 when it was moved to the Education Resource Centre in Calgary. Arrangements were made for a staff person at the Centre to handle the mail, telephone and some correspondence for the AAG for a small honorarium.

From 1995 to 1997, much of the energy of AAG board members went into carrying out the Seniors Wellness and Health Promotion project. The AAG was asked to assume the management and implementation of this project, initiated by Alberta Health and funded by Alberta Health and Health Canada. To carry out the project the AAG worked in cooperation with the Alberta Council on Aging. A Steering Committee was established and two staff hired. A provincial workshop (Phase 1 of the project) was held in November 1995 and attended by senior management from 16 of the 17 regional health authorities. Following this, one-day workshops were held in 14 health regions (Phase 2 of the project) to develop action plans for

seniors wellness and health promotion in each region. Two reports (Phase 3 of the project) on the project were prepared and distributed.

On March 6 and 7, 1997, the AAG sponsored a conference, “Moving Ahead with Seniors Wellness in Alberta”, held in Edmonton. It reported on the Seniors Wellness and Health promotion project and dealt with various aspects of promoting healthy aging. The Seniors Advisory Council for Alberta (SACA) provided funding and the federal New Horizons Partners in Aging program paid the expenses of seniors from the health regions to attend. A report on the conference was distributed.

Presentations about the project were provided by AAG members at the provincial Best Practices workshop and *The CAPITAL CARE Group’s* People in Progress conference in Edmonton.

The AAG also planned and held the annual seniors information workers’ workshop in the fall of 1995 with funding from SACA. Two members of AAG presented four workshops on advanced directives in 1996 and 1997. A workshop co-sponsored with the Alberta Gerontological Nurses Association (AGNA), “Choices in Living Arrangements for Older People”, followed the 1996 annual meeting. Workshops on “Care for the Caregiver” were held in Edmonton and Calgary to assist family caregivers in providing more effective care for older persons. These workshops, held in November 1996, were funded by SACA.

The AAG also disbursed funding from a SACA grant which enabled some Albertans to attend the CAG conference; established an educational reserve fund; and established a home page on the internet.

Providing input to government policy directions continued to be an important part of the work of the AAG. Letters were sent to government ministers on the importance of gerontological education; on seniors’ health priorities and the proposed review of long term care; and on legislation

relating to the protection of persons in care (also a brief to the MLA responsible). A letter was sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of Health Canada and Alberta members of parliament concerning the need to continue the New Horizons Partners in Aging program. The University of Alberta and the University of Calgary received letters about the need for continuing education in gerontology.

The chapters, now located in Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, were all continuing to be active, supporting their individual members. They held resource fairs and sponsored local conferences and discussion sessions cooperatively with other organizations such as the Alberta Centre for Gerontology, the Alzheimer's Society, and the Alberta Gerontological Nurses Association.

At the annual meeting held in 1996, the Award of Excellence was given to Vivien Lai, an employee of Alberta Health and Wellness, who was the provincial staff person associated with the Seniors Wellness and Health Promotion project, and who had been actively involved for many years in the development of policy and services for seniors, particularly in continuing care.

The association, assisted by the Calgary Chapter, hosted the CAG conference which was held in Calgary in 1997. The then president was co-chair of the conference, and the AAG sponsored a reception for Albertans attending it.

At the annual meeting in 1997, the Award of Excellence was given to Joyce Church Springate. Joyce had been the person responsible for developing the Education Resource Centre in Calgary, which provides educational materials to professionals across Alberta. She had instigated the development of computer access to enable Alberta service organizations to have quicker knowledge of, and access to, the materials available through the Resource Centre.

In the fall of 1998, the association released a survey of gerontology education courses offered by Alberta post secondary institutions.

In the spring of 1999, the board of directors changed the name of the Award of Excellence to the Mary Morrison Davis Award of Excellence in honour of Mary Morrison Davis who died in the latter part of 1998. She was a pioneer in the field of aging in Alberta and responsible for organizing and leading the move that lead to the establishment of the National Advisory Council on Aging (NACA) with the federal government. She remained actively involved with seniors issues until the time of her death at age 87 (see Addendum 3 for details of her contributions).

A conference on defining successful aging was held in Edmonton in 1998, and in 1999 the association hosted a conference, “Successful Aging for Living Well in the 21st Century”.

During this time, the AAG continued to be very active in writing letters and holding face-to-face meetings with legislators relating to the issues of older adults and those who work with them. The AAG also supported a project of Alberta Vocational Centre in Calgary to address the literacy needs of older adults in long term care institutions.

The association had a representative on a project proposed and funded by the Alberta Centre for Well-being, “Project Able”, which facilitated the participation of seniors in physical activity. This project resulted in a video developed to promote physical activity that the association advertised widely and made available to its membership. It had a representative on the Advisory Committee of the University of Alberta Faculty of Nursing, which provided feedback on curriculum development.

The AAG was invited to participate in three sessions conducted by the Long Term Care Policy Review Committee to provide feedback on long

term care services. AAG was also involved in discussions regarding the establishment of a provincial centre on gerontology.

Chapters were encouraged to give special recognition to seniors during 1999, which was the International Year of Older Persons.

The association initiated its first computer server list of the membership, which made it possible to contact the membership by e-mail, and to provide more current information to them.

At the 1998 annual meeting, Wanda Cree was given the Mary Morrison Davis Award of Excellence. She had been actively involved in working with seniors from 1974 to 1993. During her last twelve years, she was employed by the Alberta Senior Citizens Secretariat, and traveled throughout Alberta as a consultant giving talks on issues relating to older adults and providing information on resources available to meet the needs of seniors.

The Edmonton and Calgary Chapters remained active in providing education on issues and concerns. The Edmonton Chapter developed a Policy Review Committee which began to respond to government policy and to other publications relating to seniors' issues. Calgary continued to provide seniors' resource fairs. Education and networking events for members were, and continued to be, high priorities of the chapters. The Lethbridge and Medicine Hat chapters lost membership and withdrew from participation in the association.

The association had a representative on the Canadian Study of Health and Aging which was concerned with research, policy and practice. The president of AAG continued to represent the association on the Council of Associated Organizations of the CAG, and was also invited to become a member of the Seniors Advisory Council for Alberta. The AAG submitted a response to a provincial document, "Aging Together: Planning for the

Future”. The annual meeting was followed by a talk on geriatric assessment and fall prevention.

At the annual meeting in 1999, Christine Lawrence received the Mary Morrison Davis Award of Excellence. Christine had been the Executive Director of the Alberta Council on Aging for many years. She was prominent in bringing seniors’ concerns and issues to government and the public, and was known throughout the province.

The AAG continued to have an interest in gerontological education and sent letters to both the University of Alberta in Edmonton and to Mount Royal College in Calgary encouraging them to reinstate gerontological courses, which they had discontinued because of budget constraints.

At the 2000 annual meeting, Robert Bramwell, PhD received the Mary Morrison Davis Award of Excellence. Dr. Bramwell, Professor Emeritus, University of Calgary, had been a member of the AAG for many years and had been very active in promoting educational opportunities in gerontology. With a colleague in Continuing Education at the University of Calgary, he founded the Advanced Certificate in Gerontology at the university and taught in that program until it was transferred to Mount Royal College.

Some of the meetings of the board of directors started being held by teleconference in order to decrease expenses. To improve communication with the chapters, a task force was established at the 2001 annual meeting to explore the roles and responsibilities of the provincial organization and the chapters.

Two briefs on health system reports, “The Alberta Health System: Some Performance Indicators” and “A Framework for Reform” (Mazankowski Report) were submitted to the Minister of Health and Wellness as well as to other relevant ministries. The president of the AAG became the Chair of

the Advisory Board of the Centre for Gerontology (now the Alberta Centre on Aging) at the University of Alberta. The AAG was also invited to participate in a forum organized by the provincial government to develop healthy aging and seniors wellness strategies.

Don Mayne, D.D., received the Mary Morrison Davis Award of Excellence at the 2001 annual meeting. Don Mayne had worked in the field of gerontology for many years. He was responsible for administering the federal New Horizons grants in Alberta and the Northwest Territories, and was well known in Alberta. The New Horizons grants had helped to develop seniors centres throughout the province. Some of the grant funds were also used to establish outreach services and services relating to elder abuse. Don Mayne was the first president of the AAG and later served as treasurer.

In 2002, a major effort of the AAG was to sponsor an invitational provincial one-day summit on the future of gerontological education and research. It was held in Calgary in October 2002 and was funded by the Seniors Advisory Council for Alberta, the Canadian Institute on Health and Aging, the University of Calgary and Athabasca University.

The Summit was organized around three themes:

- 1. the vision, education content, and delivery options for accessible and transferable gerontological education in Alberta;**
- 2. making gerontology a viable career track: recruitment and retention issues for education and employment; and**
- 3. the needs for gerontological research in Alberta.**

A publication was distributed widely with recommendations resulting from the Summit. One follow-up action arising from the Summit was the establishment of a province-wide Steering Committee to Establish a Framework for Gerontology Education in Alberta.

The AAG was invited to attend a national seniors' forum on research in Ottawa by the Canadian Institute on Health Information to provide input relating to future directions for gerontological research. The Alberta government also invited the AAG to participate in a stakeholders' discussion on primary health care reform. The association continued its policy of working cooperatively with other organizations, and two board members were invited to present workshops at the annual meeting of the Psychologists' Association of Alberta. The web site, www.aagweb.ca was revised and updated.

At the 2003 annual meeting, the AAG accepted the report of the task force on the roles and responsibilities of the provincial organization and the chapters, which included some suggestions for changes to be made to by-laws. As a result of the report, an all-day meeting with provincial board and chapter representatives was held in Red Deer in October 2003 to discuss actions to be taken. The following six goals were agreed upon for the association's and chapters' work:

1. to strengthen and improve communication, collaboration and resource sharing;
2. to increase awareness of issues and careers in the field of gerontology;
3. to encourage and develop educational opportunities;
4. to maintain and increase membership;
5. to encourage and support basic and applied research; and
6. to work toward financial stability.

A research event was held at the University of Calgary and later a similar event, co-sponsored by the Centre on Gerontology, was held at the University of Alberta.

At the annual meeting in 2002, Holly Crayston received the Mary Morrison Davis Award of Excellence. Holly Crayston had been active in supporting

seniors issues as a member of the municipal council in Calgary, and was also an active member of the Seniors Advisory Council for Alberta.

Two briefs were prepared and submitted to government. One was a response to a provincial publication by the Alberta Seniors Ministry and the Alberta Council on Aging on “Current and Future Roles and Needs of Senior Centres in Alberta”; the other was a publication from the Consumers Association of Canada on continuing care, entitled “Elder Care on the Auction Block”.

In 2004, the association introduced a bursary to be awarded for the first time in 2005 to a student in Alberta who has an interest in any aspect of aging. The high number of qualified applicants led the board to decide to increase the number of bursaries awarded to two in 2006. This support for students followed the lead of the chapters. The Calgary Chapter had earlier established a bursary for students in the Mount Royal College Gerontology Program. In its very early days the Edmonton Chapter had provided a monetary award to students enrolled in the Gerontology Certificate Program at the University of Alberta. A student representative was added to the association’s board of directors in 2004.

In the year 2005, the Alberta Association on Gerontology will be 25 years old. Since 1980, it has been supporting persons involved in and concerned with gerontology in their efforts to enhance the lives of the aging population. Membership currently stands at approximately 200. Later this year the association is participating in the provincial government’s invitational symposium “Unleashing Innovation in Health Systems”.

The AAG is co-hosting a conference on April 14-15, 2005 in Red Deer to honour these 25 years of service and to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Alberta. The conference theme is “Finding a Way Through the Maze: Supporting Alberta Seniors Facing Mental Health & Cognition Challenges”. It is particularly fitting that the AAG is collaborating with one of its long

time partners, the Alberta Association of Gerontological Nurses for this 25th anniversary conference and that one of the keynote speakers is Dr. Steve Zarit, who spoke at the AAG/AGNA Conference in Red Deer in the early '80's.

History 1980 – 1994 prepared for the Alberta Association on Gerontology by Karin L. Kellogg, with assistance from the Harper ACA Foundation in August 1995.

History revised and updated for the Alberta Association on Gerontology by Mary Engelmann and Wanda Cree in April 2005.

ADDENDUM 1

PRESIDENTS OF THE AAG SINCE ITS INCEPTION

1979 – 1980	Don Mayne, New Horizons, Edmonton
1980 – 1981	Sharron Smythe, University of Calgary
1981 – 1982	Ursula Kasting, Lethbridge Senior Citizens Organization, Lethbridge
1983 – 1985	Norah Keating, University of Alberta
1985 – 1987	Lynn McDonald, University of Calgary
1987 – 1991	Ruth Wolfe, Consultant, Edmonton
1991 – 1993	Micheline Neville, Greater Edmonton Foundation, Edmonton
1993 – 1995	Harry Boddington, Retired, Edmonton
1995 – 1997	Mary Engelmann, Retired, Edmonton
1997 – 2001	Sandra Hirst, University of Calgary
2001 – 2005	Corinne Schalm, <i>The CAPITAL CARE Group</i>, Edmonton

ADDENDUM 2

MARY MORRISON DAVIS AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

1992 MARY ENGELMANN

1996 VIVIEN LAI

1997 JOYCE CHURCH SPRINGATE

1998 WANDA CREE

1999 CHRISTINE LAWRENCE

2000 ROBERT BRAMWELL

2001 DON MAYNE

2002 HOLLY CRAYSTON

ADDENDUM 3

MARY MORRISON DAVIS

Mary Morrison Davis was born in Alberta and lived and worked in Alberta most of her 87 years. She held a master's degree in social work from McGill University. In her work with veterans in Edmonton, she soon became aware of service gaps and needs for older people.

She was instrumental in organizing the first conference on aging held in Alberta in 1967, which resulted in the establishment of the Alberta Council on Aging.

She spearheaded the organization of a community group that established the Society for the Retired and Semi-Retired, now a large seniors centre in downtown Edmonton. It was the first seniors centre in Alberta to provide information and referral services to seniors. Mary was a member of the AAG Board of Directors and later president of the Board.

Mary was an early member of the Canadian Association on Gerontology, and was active in promoting the fledgling organization in Alberta.

She organized a group of seniors from most of the provinces in Canada, applied for a grant from the New Horizons program, and held a meeting of the group in Ottawa. Out of this effort, the National Advisory Council on Aging was developed.

She was well known locally, provincially and nationally. Mary was knowledgeable about gerontological issues and literature, and served as a mentor to many workers just beginning work in the field at a time when there were few publications available.

She received the Order of Canada for volunteer activities and services to others.

When she became afflicted with macular degeneration which resulted in reduced vision, she went to the CNIB in Edmonton and set up a support group for seniors with low vision.

When she died, the AAG board felt that such a well known and vital person deserved some type of special recognition as a pioneer in gerontological services. Consequently the AAG board voted to rename their Award of Excellence, the Mary Morrison Davis Award of Excellence. They felt it was appropriate to name an award of excellence after such an exemplary champion of aging and older people.