



COUNCIL OF ADVISORS

The Office of the Seniors Advocate has a Council of Advisors (COA) that provides valuable insight into seniors' issues in B.C. This group of engaged and connected seniors represents each of the province's five health authority regions and comes from a wide range of educational, professional and socio-economic backgrounds. The COA serves as both a sounding board for the Seniors Advocate as well as a conduit to the Advocate for information and concerns from all regions of the province.

The Council meets in person twice yearly and participates in facilitated discussion on a range of topics. Five COA sub-committees were formed in 2018/19, each focusing on areas of importance to seniors:

- Federal Advisory Committee
- Rural Issues Advisory Committee
- Disability Issues Advisory Committee
- Active Aging Advisory Committee
- Multicultural Issues Advisory Committee

The authority for this council is found in the Seniors Advocate Act section 6, "Power to Establish Advisory Council".

The inaugural Council was selected by the Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of B.C. (COSCO) from over 300 applications.

The maximum term on the council is three years.





COUNCIL OF ADVISORS BIOGRAPHIES

FRASER—five representatives

<p>Jerry Gosling Abbotsford</p>	<p>Transit operator, aiming to help seniors across the province improve their lifestyle when it comes to housing, public safety and healthy eating. Jerry is working to become better informed of senior’s issues and to advocate for B.C. residents. He is the recipient of the Order of Abbotsford in recognition of volunteer service and community involvement.</p>
<p>Gwynne Cafik Port Moody</p>	<p>As a full-time Wealth Advisor and CPCA (Certified Professional Consultant on Aging) with Credential Securities at Vancity, Gwynne works with clients, coaching them through various stages of their life cycle and assisting them through major life events. Her focus is on growing financial assets, retirement income planning and estate planning. As an advocate for senior clients, she provides appropriate resources, so clients can age well, living their best well-planned life.</p>
<p>Bong-Hwan Kim Port Moody</p>	<p>Retired Government of Manitoba civil servant. Served as President, Korean Society of Manitoba; President, Korean Canadian Housing Corporation Inc.; Chair, Refugee Concerns Committee, Winnipeg Presbytery, United Church of Canada; Vice-president, Folk Arts Council of Winnipeg; received a Doctorate in Sociology from the University of Manitoba; currently serves as the Vice-president of the Korean Senior Citizens’ Society of B.C.</p>
<p>Royce Shook Port Coquitlam</p>	<p>Senior Vital Issue’s team member looking into the issue of senior isolation. Sits on the Port Coquitlam Mayors Round Table. Former board member, Share Family & Community Services Society. Award winning blogger on senior issues. 43 years in public education teaching grades 8 to 12 in Surrey; 10 years in post-secondary education as area chair for the University of Phoenix in curriculum development. Currently a workshop facilitator, mentor and trainer for COSCO Health and Wellness Institute.</p>
<p>Alfred Woo Burnaby</p>	<p>Retired lawyer with career service as a Crown attorney, executive experience with regulatory bodies, and in private legal practice at retirement. Currently serves on board of directors in a seniors outreach services society and as a peer counsellor. Member of and a past president of his Lions club. Volunteers with a seniors community centre. He is a member and past president of his military veterans unit.</p>



INTERIOR—four representatives

<p>Greg Howard Kamloops</p>	<p>Retired educator with 43 years in public education; volunteer with Operation Red Nose, Rotary, B.C. Winter Games, and B.C. Career Education Society; caregiver for his father and in-laws and believes education is key to assisting seniors.</p>
<p>George Atamanenko 150 Mile House</p>	<p>Community activist and consultant, regional planner and rancher; past-president of the Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin Board of Directors; chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee; speaks English, Russian and Ukrainian, and is active in preserving heritage and culture.</p>
<p>Leo M Campeau Lavington</p>	<p>Leo is a retired BC Ambulance Paramedic (EHS) and former fire chief - Kootenay Boundary Fire Services. He is a member of the BC Fire Chiefs, Canadian Fire Chiefs, and a local assistant fire commissioner. His volunteer service includes PEP Area Coordinator, North Okanagan Therapeutic Riding Association, North Okanagan Community Life Society, North Okanagan Valley Gleaners Society, Schubert Seniors Centre, and Habitat for Humanity (VERNON B.C.)</p>
<p>Sandy Zeznik Cranbrook</p>	<p>Sandy is a retired teacher/principal and district principal. She is a community volunteer with Rotary, Cranbrook Public Library, CARP East Kootenay, Seniors in Partnership, Age Friendly Committee, Chamber Information Centre, Cranbrook Health Care Auxiliary, Cranbrook Seniors Hall, Co-chair of 2018 55+ games (Kimberley/Cranbrook) and other non-profits. Sandy loves to travel and is an active Dragon Boat paddler.</p>

NORTHERN—three representatives

<p>Bernice Magee Burns Lake</p>	<p>Trained as a registered nurse; former photographer, realtor, and mayor and councillor of Burns Lake; current president of the Burns Lake and District Community Foundation, treasurer of the Burns Lake and District Seniors Society; secretary of the Lakes District Family Enhancement Society; membership chair of the Nechako Lakes Liberal Association; Terry Fox Run volunteer; and volunteer with the Emergency Social Services Reception Centre during wildfire season.</p>
<p>Margaret Sutton Dawson Creek</p>	<p>Retired teacher (39 years – UK, Singapore, Sask., B.C.); committee member and past director of BC Retired Teachers’ Assn.; founder and facilitator of “Meals for You” (volunteers providing frozen meals for seniors); founding member of S.P Seniors Access Service Society providing support for seniors; secretary of South Peace Health Services Society; facilitator for “Grief Share”; recipient of the Governor General’s Caring Canadian Award.</p>
<p>Dawn Hemingway Prince George</p>	<p>Associate professor and chair of the School of Social Work at the University of Northern British Columbia; immediate past president of the B.C. Psychogeriatric Association; serves on Northern Health Authority’s Elder Program Council; provincial director for Nidus Personal Planning Resource Centre and Registry; Prince George Better at Home Advisory Committee; Prince George Council of Seniors Advisory Committee; leadership team for the Stand Up for the North Committee.</p>



VANCOUVER COASTAL—two representatives

Barb Mikulec Vancouver	Retired teacher and director of the B.C. Retired Teachers Association; feels the top three issues facing seniors today are housing, healthcare and outliving their resources; takes part in Salish weaving, oil painting and Scottish country dancing; board member of the Kerrisdale Community Centre; committee member of the National Pensioners Federation, director of BC Forum, secretary of Metro Vancouver Cross Cultural Seniors Network, involved with the Council of Senior Citizens Organizations of B.C. (COSCO).
Serge Haber Vancouver	Involved in Seniors Advisory Council for Greater Vancouver; founder and past president emeritus of the Jewish Seniors Alliance of Greater Vancouver; currently involved in outreach, research, advocacy and peer support programs for seniors in Greater Vancouver; contributed to improvements in HandyDart system; attends regular meetings of COSCO, B.C. Health Coalition, and B.C. Coalition of People with Disabilities.



VANCOUVER ISLAND—five representatives

<p>Geraldine Hinton Victoria</p>	<p>Former nurse clinician with a focus on teaching geriatric care to nursing students ; former organizational consultant to the Victoria Institute of Gerontology at the Fairfield Health Centre; retired executive director of the B.C. Government Office for Seniors: long history of service with St John Ambulance, developed a revolutionary program for seniors facing loneliness and poverty; awarded the Alzheimer Society of B.C.’s Clyde and Lanny Slade Memorial Leadership Award; YM/YWCA Women of Distinction Lifetime Achievement Award; current member of Alzheimer Society of B.C., Government House Board of Trustees, and Veterans’ Memorial Lodge at Broadmead, among many others.</p>
<p>Joseph Forsyth Parksville</p>	<p>Retired consultant on privacy issues and former Assistant Deputy Minister, Individual Rights and Citizenship in Alberta; experience in government with respect to senior’s and women’s issues, and human rights; wants B.C. seniors to obtain the supports needed to remain in their homes for as long as possible.</p>
<p>Ursula Banke Tofino</p>	<p>Having lived and worked on the west coast for over 50 years, Ursula understands the challenges facing rural communities. She has served on committees and boards of local organizations and gained experience in reviewing proposals, research materials, plans, reports & budgets. Bringing a multi-cultural understanding on current issues & challenges for seniors, she aims to find creative ways to support seniors who wish to age in the rural communities they helped build.</p>
<p>Margaret Monro Salt Spring Island</p>	<p>Margaret is a retired registered nurse and received her BSN at the University of Victoria. She had a career in the Canadian Forces and moved to Salt Spring when her husband retired. On Salt Spring, Margaret changed her focus to geriatric nursing and became interested in care for caregivers. She started a Support Group for Caregivers that has met weekly for over 20 years. She is a member of Family Caregivers of BC and the Alzheimer Society of BC and is on the board of the Gulf Islands Seniors' Residence Association.</p>
<p>Bill Routley Nanaimo</p>	<p>Bill began his career in the forest industry working at the Youbou sawmill where he served as safety chairman and then as plant chair. His passion for helping people earned him election as president of IWA Local 1-80 Duncan BC; now USW-Steelworkers Local 1-1937. He was a union representative from 1985 to 2009. Bill served as a pension trustee on the IWA-Forest Industry Pension Plan and was a trustee on the IWA-Forest Industry Health and Welfare Benefit Plan. Bill’s service to the community also includes five years as a school trustee in Lake Cowichan. Bill was elected MLA for the Cowichan Valley for two terms from 2009-2017.</p>