



## COUNCIL OF ADVISORS

The Office of the Seniors Advocate has a thirty-member 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

Over the past year, council members have been engaged in their local communities and regions representing the Office of the Seniors Advocate at several events and presentations, including the Union of BC Municipalities Convention and various senior's health and wellness events.





## COUNCIL OF ADVISORS BIOGRAPHIES

### FRASER—seven representatives

<b>Mohammad Rafiq</b> Surrey	Volunteer in community development and welfare organizations including Surrey Seniors Planning Table; seeks to reduce the intergenerational gap and develop inter-cultural communication between communities.
<b>John Barry Worsfold</b> White Rock	Adjunct professor in Department of Gerontology at Simon Fraser University; former clinical social worker in the field of psycho-geriatrics for Fraser Health Authority.
<b>Vincent Kennedy</b> Langley	Retired provincial government employee of 33 years; former Program Coordinator and Advocate for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Seniors at Wavefront Center for Communication Accessibility; ebroadcaster for Happy Hands Club of the Deaf, a social/recreational club for Metro Vancouver deaf seniors.
<b>Jerry Gosling</b> Abbotsford	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.
<b>Gwynne Cafik</b> Port Moody	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.
<b>Bong-Hwan Kim</b> Port Moody	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.
<b>Royce Shook</b> Port Coquitlam	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.
<b>Alfred Woo</b> Burnaby	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.



## INTERIOR—six representatives

<p><b>Heather McDonald</b> West Kelowna</p>	<p>Retired from Coquitlam School Board; member of Senior Citizens Service Association; Certified Seniors Advocate; in 2014 joined Westside Health Network Society as vice president, helping over 400 seniors on the westside; taken courses as a senior peer advocate funded by Health Canada and Vancouver Foundation; served on a committee with Kelowna Community Resources, participating in a project for seniors transitioning from loss and retirement; volunteered for Red Cross, Salvation Army, Gospel Mission and Food Bank.</p>
<p><b>Linda Martin</b> Passmore</p>	<p>Retired self-employed home care caregiver and president of the Passmore Seniors Branch #116; working to make a difference and be a voice and advocate for B.C.'s seniors. Past board member of Slokan Valley Seniors Housing Society for the Passmore Lodge; member of West Kootenay Seniors Transportation Committee; secretary-treasurer/grant writer of Bee Awareness Society, educating children about honey bees; volunteer and participant in the 55+ BC Games in Track and Field.</p>
<p><b>Greg Howard</b> 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><b>George Atamanenko</b> 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><b>Leo M Campeau</b> 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><b>Sandy Zeznik</b> 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

<b>Dawn Hemingway</b> Prince George	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.
<b>Bernice Magee</b> Burns Lake	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.
<b>Margaret Sutton</b> Dawson Creek	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.





## VANCOUVER COASTAL—seven representatives

<p><b>Robie Scholefield</b> Vancouver</p>	<p>Former BC TEL (now TELUS) marketing manager. Robie has been a member and volunteer for many associations. He is dedicated to improving the quality of life for seniors and persons with disabilities.</p>
<p><b>Barb Mikulec</b> Vancouver</p>	<p>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).</p>
<p><b>Marnie Simon</b> Pemberton</p>	<p>Former program head of the Perioperative nursing program at B.C. Institute of Technology; president of the Whistler Health Care Foundation for 15 years; director and Chair of the Pemberton Library Board for 8 years; member of the advisory committee to Vancouver Coastal Health for over five years representing the Sea to Sky corridor; currently a member of the fundraising committee for the Sea to Sky Hospice campaign. Marnie is a Rotarian and was president of the Pemberton Arts Council for the past four years.</p>
<p><b>Serge Haber</b> Vancouver</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>Samuel Gerszonowicz</b> Vancouver</p>	<p>Mediator; Mediate BC Civil Roster, Washington State Foreclosure Fairness Program, WA Mediation Association board member, Dispute Resolution Center volunteer; community/condominium board service, business owner, bio-technology analyst. Retirement is counter-indicated. What should matter to us: how we leave the world matters! A call to seniors action!</p>
<p><b>Penny Goldsmith</b> Vancouver</p>	<p>Former co-ordinator of PovNet, an online network for anti-poverty advocates for 18 years, until 2015. Hosted online courses on elder law and seniors residential care for advocates, care providers and community workers. Also facilitated an older adults' email list for advocates assisting seniors. Currently a member of 411 Seniors Centre Society seniors issues committee and chair of Highs &amp; Lows, an intergenerational mental health choir.</p>
<p><b>Diane Jeffries</b> West Vancouver</p>	<p>Trained in the UK as RN and Midwife. Immigrated to Canada in 1960. Later graduated from UBC with a nursing degree and a Masters, Clinical Care of the Older Adult. Took the gerontology courses at SFU. Worked as Clinical Specialist Geriatrics at VGH and Coordinator in Health Centre on Gulf Island. Presently volunteer in the Anglican Church, Seniors Centre, West Vancouver, Berkley Care Home, North Vancouver - Spouse Support Group Facilitator, Gardening. Member of two book clubs, yoga and walking exercise. Husband has been resident of the Berkley Care Home for 3 1/2 years with Lewy Body Dementia. Also, a mother and grandmother of four.</p>



## VANCOUVER ISLAND—six representatives

<p><b>Geraldine Hinton</b> 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><b>Joseph Forsyth</b> 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><b>Gladys Latty</b> Courtenay</p>	<p>Retired former campus director and college instructor; says the COA gives seniors an opportunity to voice their concerns and get government’s attention. Feels lack of money, healthcare, and loneliness are the top issues facing today’s seniors.</p>
<p><b>Ursula Banke</b> 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 &amp; budgets. Bringing a multi-cultural understanding on current issues &amp; 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><b>Margaret Monro</b> 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><b>Bill Routley</b> Chemainus</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>