



Office of the Seniors Advocate Monthly Update - January 2022

What's Happening in January

New Years Day (January 1)

Office of the Seniors Advocate Reports and Releases

Long-Term Care Directory

The Seniors Advocate has released an update for the Long-Term Care Directory (formerly known as the Long-Term Care Facilities Quick Facts Directory). The Directory provides information on all publicly funded long-term care homes in British Columbia.

[Learn More](#)

Hidden and Invisible: Seniors Abuse and Neglect in British Columbia – Report

In this report, Seniors Advocate Isobel Mackenzie details the results of a systemic review of seniors' abuse and neglect in British Columbia. The review examined the protections that exist for B.C. seniors, the prevalence of seniors' abuse and neglect, the method of reporting abuse and neglect, and the response to reports of seniors' abuse and neglect.

[Learn More](#)

Seniors Advocate: “Every Resident in Long-Term Care is Entitled to a Designated Visitor”

B.C. Seniors Advocate, Isobel Mackenzie is asking the Province to declare that every resident in long term care is entitled to designate at least one person as their essential visitor.

[Learn More](#)

Home Support Survey

In December 2021, the Office of the Seniors Advocate launched the second province-wide survey of Home Support recipients and their families/caregivers. All recipients of Home Support will receive a survey package in the mail. In addition, their family/caregivers will be invited to answer a survey as well. If you have received your survey but would like assistance with completing it over the telephone, please contact our office at 1-877-952-3181. A member of our Information and Referral team would be glad to set this up for you.

[Learn More](#)

COVID-19

COVID-19 Vaccinations

As of January 4, 92.0% (4,264,858) of eligible people 12+ in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, 89.7% (3,880,253) have received their second dose and 22.2% (960,090) have received a third dose.

Beginning in January 2022, the booster plan will expand to include all British Columbians. It is important to be registered with the Get Vaccinated provincial registration system and have your immunization record must be up to date. To register, visit the [How to Get Vaccinated for COVID-19](#) website. Having the BC Vaccine Card/passport does not mean you are registered with the Get Vaccinated System. The Get Vaccinated phone centre is open seven days a week, 7 am to 7 pm. To ask questions and verify your registration please call 1-833-838-2323.

Proof of full vaccination is required to access some events, services, and business in British Columbia. This requirement applies to all people born in 2009 or earlier (12+).

[Learn More](#)

COVID-19 Update

A number of public health restrictions are in place from December 20, 2021 to January 31, 2022, limiting indoor personal gatherings, sports tournaments, and events.

[Learn More](#)

Long-Term Care update

As of January 5, there are 17 active outbreaks in long term care (LTC) facilities and one active outbreak in an assisted living (AL) facility.

[Learn More](#)

Provincial News

Statements from the Provincial Health Officer and Minister of Health

The Provincial Health Officer and the Minister of Health release regular statements that can be accessed on the [BC Government News](#) website.

Recent Announcements from the B.C. Government Impacting Seniors

- December 10 [New affordable seniors housing begins construction in Pender Harbour](#)
- December 14 [B.C.'s vaccination effort boosted by community pharmacies](#)
- December 20 [Provincial grant will benefit seniors at risk of homelessness](#)
- December 22 [New affordable homes for people with low incomes open in Powell River](#)

National News

Statements from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada

The Chief Public Health Officer of Canada releases regular statements that can be accessed on the [Government of Canada News](#) website.

Recent Announcements from the Federal Government Impacting Seniors

- December 17 [Government of Canada announces additional measures to contain the spread of the Omicron variant](#)
- December 17 [Government of Canada proposing to provide one-time payment to support low-income seniors who received pandemic benefits](#)

Seeking Your Opinion

Home Support Client and Caregiver Surveys

All recipients of Home Support service will receive a mailing from the Office of the Seniors Advocate. You can expect to receive the survey no later than the end of December 2021. If you have received your survey but would like assistance with completing it over the telephone, please contact our office at 1-877-952-3181. A member of our Information and Referral team would be glad to set this up for you.

Family members and caregivers to Home Support recipients are invited to complete a companion Home Support Family/Caregivers Survey. This survey can be accessed online at <https://feedback.engage.gov.bc.ca/223816> If you would like to complete this survey over the telephone or receive a paper copy (with pre-paid postage), please contact our office.

[Learn More](#)

Accessibility and the BC Building Code

The BC government is working to update the BC Building Code to make new buildings more accessible. The first step invites the public to provide feedback about barriers and priorities to enhance accessibility requirements in new buildings. Feedback will be accepted until January 13, 2022, and translations are available in Simplified and Traditional Chinese, as well as Punjabi and French.

[Learn More](#)

Senior Peer Counselling of British Columbia

Community seniors across B.C. are eligible to receive free training for their seniors' volunteers. Senior Peer Counselling in BC (SPCBC) is seeking to help older adults troubled by loneliness, social isolation, depression and anxiety. After completion a training course, be it senior peer counselling, friendly visitors or friendly phone callers, the senior volunteers will be able to help address seniors' issues in their community. Learn more by visiting the [SPCBC website](#) or contact Larry Shapiro at lshapiro@lshapiro.com or at 778-997-3294 for more information.

[Learn More](#)

Recent Research

Adapting Mindfulness-Based Interventions for Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities

(Gerontology & Geriatric Medicine)

This paper presents the results from a pilot study of an individual Mindfulness-based intervention (MBI) designed for residents of long-term care facilities.

[Learn More](#)

Navigating medical assistance in dying from Bill C-14 to Bill C-7: a qualitative study

(BMC Health Services Research)

This paper discusses Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) and the new legislation that was introduced (Bill C-7) that extended assisted death to persons whose natural death is not reasonably foreseeable.

[Learn More](#)

Care home visitor policies: a global scan of the latest strategies in countries with high vaccination rates

(International Public Policy Observer)

A scan of long-term care visitor policies was done by members of the LTCcovid network, a global platform that shares learning on COVID policy and practice responses in long-term care systems. It includes detailed case studies from six countries: Australia, Canada, Iceland, Israel, Norway and the Netherlands.

[Learn More](#)

How Residents' Quality of Life are Represented in Long-Term Care Policy: A Novel Method to Support Policy Analysis

(Journal of Long-Term Care)

A pan-Canadian research team investigated federal and provincial policies' influence on the quality of life of older people living in residential LTC in four provinces: British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, and Nova Scotia.

[Learn More](#)

Beyond Successful Aging 2.0: Inequalities, Ageism, and the Case for Normalizing Old Ages

(The Journals of Gerontology)

This article reviews challenges to Rowe and Kahn's Successful Aging (SA) framework and advocates for a paradigm shift that recasts the problem of aging. This approach seeks to normalize old age, valuing both different modes of aging and old age itself.

[Learn More](#)

The Mental and Physical Health Profiles of Older Adults Who Endorse Elevated Autistic Traits

(The Journals of Gerontology)

This paper examines adults aged 50-81 years that experienced persistent sociocommunicative traits characteristic of autism.

[Learn More](#)

Is This Phishing? Older Age Is Associated With Greater Difficulty Discriminating Between Safe and Malicious Emails

(The Journals of Gerontology)

This paper investigates whether old age is associated with differences in perceived suspiciousness of phishing emails. The findings suggest that cognitively normal older adults may be at particular risk for online fraud because of an age-associated reduction in their sensitivity to the credibility of emails.

[Learn More](#)

The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Long-Term Care in Canada

(Healthcare Quarterly)

This study investigates the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on LTC residents across Canada during the first six months of the pandemic.

[Learn More](#)

Acceptance and perception of digital health for managing nutrition in people with Parkinson's disease and their caregivers and their digital competence in the United States: A mixed-methods study

(Health science reports)

This study examines participants' acceptance and perception of using digital health for managing nutrition and participants' digital competence. The majority of participants reported digital health to be useful, but hard to use, and about half felt they needed education about existing digital health platforms.

[Learn More](#)

Outreach by the OSA

The Seniors Advocate continues to meet with seniors across the province by attending events and delivering presentations virtually. If you would like to invite the Seniors Advocate to present at your event, please contact our office at info@seniorsadvocatebc.ca.

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