



## About the Council of Advisors

### Purpose

The Council of Advisors (COA) provides the Office of the Seniors Advocate (OSA) with advice and feedback on the issues facing seniors in British Columbia. The purpose of the volunteer council is to provide the perspective of seniors from diverse backgrounds, ages, geographical areas and cultures.

The authority for the creation of this council is found in the [Seniors Advocate Act](#) section 6 - Power to Establish Advisory Council.

### Composition

The council is comprised of 15 seniors who bring representation from:

- All five B.C. health authority regions.
- Diverse urban, suburban, rural and remote communities.
- Diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Balance of gender identities and sexual orientation.

### Selection

New COA members will be selected by the COA Membership Committee (with final approval provided by the Seniors Advocate) based on the following general criteria:

- 55 years of age or older.
- Resident of British Columbia.
- Able to regularly access a computer and use email and internet applications, MS Office programs and Zoom.
- Able to travel three times a year to two-day meetings, likely in the Lower Mainland and participate in teleconferences when necessary.
- **Not** employed by or have a financial interest in the BC government, or any company or service provider with a focus on seniors.
- Background, interest and community involvement in seniors issues and services in B.C.



### **Role and Responsibilities**

- Review, discuss and provide input on a variety of items, which may include:
  - OSA research and reports
  - Provincial submissions
  - Communications materials (web content, print material)
- Act as a focus group on specific issues
- Articulate concerns, issues and opinions
- Provide advice to the Seniors Advocate
- Participate in selecting new COA members

### **Remuneration**

Serving on the COA is voluntary; however, travel expenses will be covered by the Office of the Seniors Advocate. A schedule of eligible expenses will be provided.

### **Time Commitment**

The Council is expected to meet with the Seniors Advocate in person three times per year at a central location, likely in the Lower Mainland or Victoria. Including travel time, it is expected that two days will be required for each meeting. Teleconferences may also be required. Between meetings there may be email communications and requests to read materials and offer feedback. On average, the time commitment is expected to be 10 hours per month.

### **Staff Support to the Council**

The OSA will provide staff support to the COA for administrative functions such as facilitating meetings and arranging travel when required.

### **Confidentiality**

COA members may receive information that is not available to the public and will therefore be required to sign a *Confidentiality Information Agreement*.

### **Term of Office**

Terms will be for three years, with the possibility of extension of two years to a maximum of five years in total.