

## Office of the Seniors Advocate Monthly Update - May 2023

### Activities of the Office of the Seniors Advocate

#### **Connecting with Seniors in North West B.C.**

The Seniors Advocate is visiting communities in north western B.C. from May 1-5, 2023. Join her to discuss seniors' issues at town halls in Burns Lake, Smithers, Terrace, Kitimat and Prince Rupert. A townhall was also held in Vanderhoof May 1.

[Learn More](#)

#### **Seniors Advocate Presents at West Coast Conference on Aging**

The Seniors Advocate was a featured speaker at Providence Health Care's West Coast Conference on Aging again this year. In her presentation 'Aligning Public Policy to Meet the Goals of Better Care for BC Seniors', she focused on identifying initiatives to improve long-term care and discussed the linkages between income and long-term care placement.

[Learn More](#)

#### **Seniors Living Long, Healthy Lives, but Need More Support**

BC Seniors Advocate Isobel Mackenzie heard concerns about the cost of aging from residents at the Ladysmith Seniors Centre last week. She spoke with Ladysmith residents about an array of issues that face seniors in the province, from health care to housing.

[Learn More](#)

#### **Seeking Volunteers for the OSA Long-Term Care Survey**

We're surveying every long-term care resident in B.C. and we need your help. Join our team of volunteer surveyors to interview seniors about their quality of life in long-term care. Apply now online.

[Learn More](#)

### Current Issues and Resources

## **Accessing Health Services Not Covered by MSP**

The Jewish Seniors Alliance of Greater Vancouver has put together a resource guide to increase awareness of seniors supports for services that are not covered by MSP, such as vision care and dental coverage.

[Learn More](#)

## **Intergenerational Programs Webinar**

Intergenerational connections benefit both older and younger people as well as the communities they live in. This webinar profiles three Canadian intergenerational initiatives: LINKages Society of Alberta, Grandpals and InterGenNS, and introduces the Intergenerational Evaluation Toolkit to help organizations that wish to develop similar projects. Date: May 30, 2023 – Time: 10 a.m.

[Learn More](#)

## **Survey on Population Experiences, Action and Knowledge (SPEAK)**

The third round of the BCCDC SPEAK survey is now open. The SPEAK survey asks people living in B.C. questions about their physical and mental health, and social and economic wellness. Take this opportunity to share what is important to help improve the health of your community.

[Learn More](#)

## **COVID-19**

### **COVID-19 Boosters and Flu Shots**

The Province is continuing to roll out a spring COVID-19 vaccination booster campaign. The spring booster is being offered to people in long-term care, seniors 80 years and older, Indigenous seniors 70 years and older, and people who are immunocompromised. Eligible individuals who received their last dose six months ago will receive invitation via the Get Vaccinated System.

[Learn More](#)

### **COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests**

Free COVID-19 rapid antigen tests are available to people of all ages at B.C. pharmacies. No ID is required. If you are concerned about exposure to COVID-19, please consider asking people you will be in close contact with to take a rapid test before your visit.

[Learn More](#)

### **Long-Term Care Update**

Visitor restrictions at long-term care and assisted living sites have been lifted, including proof of vaccination, rapid antigen testing and universal mask wearing.

[Learn More](#)

## **Provincial News**

## Recent Announcements from the B.C. Government Impacting Seniors

- April 4, 2023 [Minister's statement on Public Health Week](#)
- April 4, 2023 [New transformative staffing model will better support nurses, patients](#)
- April 5, 2023 [Third BC Affordability Credit arrives to help with costs](#)
- April 6, 2023 [People on the coast encouraged to prepare for tsunamis](#)
- April 6, 2023 [Provincial health officer's, minister's statement on end of respiratory season, spring COVID-19 boosters](#)
- April 13, 2023 [British Columbians encouraged to prepare for climate-related hazards](#)
- April 17, 2023 [Northern Health patients to benefit from sustained surgical capacity](#)
- April 19, 2023 [Wheeling in more meals for seniors in Surrey](#)
- April 19, 2023 [Twenty-five new affordable homes open in Vernon](#)
- April 24, 2023 [New affordable homes for seniors, families open in Cranbrook](#)
- April 29, 2023 [Affordable rental homes open in Nanaimo](#)

## National News

### Recent Announcements from the Federal Government Impacting Seniors

- April 4, 2023 [The Government of Canada highlights National Caregiver Day](#)
- April 5, 2023 [Minister Khera wraps up her participation in the 13th Session of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing](#)
- April 6, 2023 [Minister Khera and Minister Duclos announce the reappointment of three members to the National Seniors Council](#)
- April 28, 2023 [Government of Canada Supports Research to Improve Brain Health](#)

## Recent Research

### Trends in Health Service Use for Canadian Adults With Dementia and Parkinson Disease During the First Wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic

(JAMA Health Forum)

The pandemic was associated with meaningful health service disruptions for persons with dementia and Parkinson disease, highlighting that continued support for virtual care is needed to ensure optimal health outcomes.

[Learn More](#)

## **Impact of Poor Oral Health on Community-Dwelling Seniors: A Scoping Review** (Health Services Insights)

The aim of this scoping review was to determine health-related impacts of poor oral health among community-dwelling seniors. Using MeSH terms and keywords such as elderly, general health, geriatrics, three electronic databases were searched.

[Learn More](#)

## **Views of Advance Care Planning in Older Hospitalized Patients Following an Emergency Admission: A qualitative study**

(PLoS One)

There is increasing evidence of the need to consider advance care planning (ACP) for older adults who have been recently admitted to hospital as an emergency. However, there is a gap in knowledge regarding how to facilitate ACP following acute illness in later life. This article explores the perceived impact of ACP on the lives of older persons aged 70+ who have been acutely admitted to hospital.

[Learn More](#)

## **Outreach by the OSA**

Seniors Advocate Isobel Mackenzie continues to meet with seniors across the province, attend events and deliver presentations both in person and virtually. If you would like to invite her to present at your event, please contact our office at [info@seniorsadvocatebc.ca](mailto:info@seniorsadvocatebc.ca).

The Office of the Seniors Advocate has an information and referral line that is available 24 hours a day, every day. Our senior service specialists will work with you during our office hours to provide resources and help resolve issues. Staff at BC211 will assist after hours.

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