

Office of the Seniors Advocate Monthly Update - June 2022

Activities of the Office of the Seniors Advocate

Celebrate BC Seniors' Week! June 4 to 10, 2023

Please join us in celebrating the many contributions seniors make every day in this province. Take some time to connect with your parents, grandparents, older friends and neighbours - you will be glad you did

[Learn More](#)

Seniors' Week Town Halls

Seniors Advocate Isobel Mackenzie will be connecting in person with seniors and their loved ones, seniors' organizations and local government throughout B.C. Join her at public town halls in Kelowna, Vernon, Kamloops or Williams Lake to share ideas about improving the lives of seniors in your community.

[Learn More](#)

Seniors Advocate Announces Retirement

BC Seniors Advocate Isobel Mackenzie has advised government she will retire on March 31, 2024, and to begin the process of finding her successor.

[Learn More](#)

Spring Meeting of the OSA Council of Advisors

The OSA Council of Advisors met in Richmond last month to discuss transportation challenges for B.C. seniors and innovations in long-term care. Thank you to Health Minister Adrian Dix and Parliamentary Secretary Harwinder Sandhu for attending the event and recognizing three retiring members of our council: Bernice Magee, Joe Forsyth and Alfred Woo. We wish them all the best and will miss their contributions.

[Learn More](#)

OSA Long-Term Care Survey: Giving a Voice to the Vulnerable

Over the past nine months, volunteer surveyors, many of whom are seniors themselves, have collectively approached nearly 23,000 residents living in long-term care to listen to their experiences of living in a care home. We thank our surveyors for their effort, dedication, and for giving their time so freely to connect with seniors across the province.

[Learn More](#)

Current Issues and Resources

Struggling Senior Homeowners Encouraged to Defer Property Taxes

BC Seniors Advocate Isobel Mackenzie is urging senior homeowners struggling with the rising costs of living and aging to consider deferring their 2023 property taxes.

[Learn More](#)

Federal Government Grocery Rebate

The one-time grocery rebate announced in the 2023 federal budget will land in bank accounts of eligible Canadians starting on July 5, 2023. Eligible seniors will receive \$225 on average. The rebate will be delivered or deposited automatically with the July GST credit payment and there is no need to apply.

[Learn More](#)

Celebrating Intergenerational Connections

Intergenerational Day, celebrated on June 1, reminds us of the benefits that come with building relationships and connections across the generations. We all have something we can learn from and teach to people from other generations. Click below to find out about intergenerational activities and ongoing programs in your area.

[Learn More](#)

National Webinar for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Join this free online event that brings together a panel of experts, political figures and advocates to discuss how Canada can end elder abuse and protect the rights of older people.

[Learn More](#)

COVID-19

COVID-19 Boosters and Flu Shots

The Province is continuing to roll out its COVID-19 vaccination booster campaign. Boosters are currently 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

- May 1, 2023 [Changes to Strata Property Regulation expand exemptions to 55+ bylaws](#)
- May 1, 2023 [New affordable rental homes open for families, seniors in Victoria](#)
- May 5, 2023 [Statement on the World Health Organization declaring end of COVID-19 as global emergency](#)
- May 8, 2023 [Minister's statement on National Nursing Week](#)
- May 9, 2023 [Expanded supports help seniors to continue living independently](#)
- May 11, 2023 [Minister's statement on seniors advocate retirement](#)
- May 11, 2023 [Expanded drug coverage will help thousands of people in B.C. and save money](#)
- May 12, 2023 [Respite centre, 89 new affordable homes coming to North Vancouver](#)
- May 16, 2023 [Financial assistance available for people affected by flooding](#)
- May 23, 2023 [Minister's statement on Paramedic Services Week](#)
- May 23, 2023 [Age-friendly grants benefit B.C. seniors](#)
- May 26, 2023 [More help coming for seniors facing mental-health, addiction challenges](#)
- May 26, 2023 [New affordable rental homes open in Coquitlam](#)
- May 29, 2023 [Enhanced safety, quality for care-home residents](#)
- May 29, 2023 [New funding supports rural regional transportation](#)
- May 29, 2023 [Services, supports expand for people with disabilities](#)
- June 1, 2023 [Joint statement on Intergenerational Day](#)
- June 5, 2023 [Parliamentary secretary's statement on B.C. Seniors' Week](#)

National News

Recent Announcements from the Federal Government Impacting Seniors

- May 8, 2023 [Message from the Minister of Health, the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health, and the Minister of Seniors – National Nursing Week](#)
- May 10, 2023 [Message from the Minister of Health, the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health, and the Minister of Seniors on National Hospice Palliative Care Week](#)
- May 23, 2023 [Government of Canada funds more than 3,000 projects across Canada to empower seniors in their communities](#)

Recent Research

Aging with Dignity: 2SLGBTQI+ Seniors in British Columbia

(Dignity Seniors Society)

An unprecedented number of out 2SLGBTQI+ seniors in Canada are reaching a stage in their lives where they will need increased access to health and social services, access to culturally competent home care to age in place, and access to welcoming or dedicated assisted living, senior care, dementia care, or hospice facilities. This population is affected by concerns about safety and discrimination, particularly in age cohorts who were disproportionately affected by systemic discrimination.

[Learn More](#)

The Canadian approach to elder financial abuse from a legal and clinical perspective: A narrative review

(Medico-Legal Journal)

Elder financial abuse is a growing problem, with significant consequences for society. It is unclear if differences exist in the clinical and legal approach to financial abuse across Canada, thus the purpose of this review.

[Learn More](#)

Violence against seniors and their perceptions of safety in Canada

(Statistics Canada)

Overall, older Canadians are aging better, are more active and are engaging in fuller lifestyles than previous generations. At the same time, however, they remain at risk of experiencing violence at the hands of family members, intimate partners, friends, caregivers and others.

[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.

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.

You are receiving this email because you are on our mailing list to receive updates and other occasional correspondence from our office. You can [subscribe](#) or [unsubscribe](#) to this mailing list.

Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) or visit the [OSA website](#).