

Office of the Seniors Advocate Monthly Update - July 2023

Activities of the Office of the Seniors Advocate

New Report Release – It’s Time to Act: A Review of Assisted Living in B.C.

Following a comprehensive review of the province’s assisted living sector, the BC Seniors Advocate is calling on government to address the current confusing legislative landscape to protect seniors from significant rent and service fee increases, improve oversight and reporting, and address affordability challenges.

[Learn More](#)

B.C. Seniors Week 2023

BC Seniors Advocate Isobel Mackenzie and Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia Janet Austin launched Seniors’ Week 2023 with a garden party at Government House to honour local seniors who volunteer in their communities. The Seniors Advocate then traveled through the Okanagan and Interior regions to connect with seniors and their loved ones in person.

[Learn More](#)

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2023

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is marked on June 15 each year to raise awareness, prevent and respond to abuse and neglect of seniors.

[Learn More](#)

OSA Long-Term Care Survey Update

As we get closer to our goal of approaching every resident in long-term care in BC, we continue to reflect on the mosaic of experiences that we are accumulating. Read about the experiences of residents, surveyors, project team members and care home staff.

[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](#)

BC Farmers' Markets Coupons

Farmers' Market Coupons are available for B.C. seniors again this year. Each household enrolled will receive at least \$27/week in coupons to spend on fresh food at their local farmers' market. Markets do not give out coupons directly to participants. You must get in touch with a local community partner to enroll in the program.

[Learn More](#)

BC Demographics Survey

B.C. residents are invited to participate in the BC Demographics Survey to identify systemic racism and other forms of institutional discrimination. The survey aims to make government services more equitable and inclusive.

[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

June 1, 2023 [Joint statement on Intergenerational Day](#)

June 5, 2023 [Parliamentary secretary's statement on B.C. Seniors' Week](#)

- June 6, 202 [Mission apartment complex revitalized for residents' safety, comfort](#)
- June 7, 2023 [Residential Tenancy Branch offers service in more than 200 languages](#)
- June 7, 2023 [More than 250 rental homes underway in Vancouver](#)
- June 8, 2023 [New homes for seniors, families now open in Kaslo](#)
- June 17, 2023 [Farmers' market coupon program harvests healthy habits](#)
- June 21, 2023 [Premier's, minister's statement on National Indigenous Peoples Day](#)
- June 22, 2023 [New long-term care home coming to Richmond](#)
- June 23, 2023 [New long-term care home coming to Abbotsford](#)
- June 28, 2023 [Provincial booking system for appointments with pharmacists going live](#)

National News

Recent Announcements from the Federal Government Impacting Seniors

- June 15, 2023 [Minister of Seniors, Kamal Khara, marks World Elder Abuse Awareness Day](#)
- June 21, 2023 [Government of Canada takes next step in procurement process for long-term Canadian Dental Care Plan](#)

Recent Research

Prioritizing supports and services to help older adults age in place: A Delphi study comparing the perspectives of family/friend care partners and healthcare stakeholders

(PLoS One)

Aging in place (AIP) is a policy strategy designed to help older adults remain in their communities. While planners internationally have modified aspects of the older adult care continuum (e.g., home care, assisted living, nursing homes) to facilitate AIP, further improvements to community-based supports and services are also required. This study compared and contrasted the community-based factors (e.g., supports, services and personal strategies or characteristics) that family/friend care partners and healthcare stakeholders (i.e., planners/providers) view as most important to help older adults successfully AIP.

[Learn More](#)

Did We Expect Too Much Of Rural Age-friendly Initiatives? Studying the Sustainability and Scope of a Rural Canadian Age-friendly Program

(Journal of Rural and Community Development)

Understanding the sustainability of age-friendly initiatives is timely, given the interest of governments worldwide in age-friendly policy and programs. Focusing on expert perspectives from 11 rural communities in Newfoundland and Labrador, this study examines how limitations to the sustainability of rural age-friendly initiatives (at both the committee and program level) may affect systemic community change.

[Learn More](#)

Rates of health services use among residents of retirement homes in Ontario: a population-based cohort study

(Canadian Medical Association Journal)

Because there are no standardized reporting systems specific to residents of retirement homes in North America, little is known about the health of this distinct population of older adults. We evaluated rates of health services use by residents of retirement homes relative to those of residents of long-term care homes and other populations of older adults.

[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. Please note Isobel has announced she will retire after March 31, 2024, therefore our office is not accepting invitations for events after this date at this time.

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](#).