

Office of the Seniors Advocate Monthly Update - August 2023

Activities of the Office of the Seniors Advocate

Office of the Seniors Advocate Annual Report 2022-2023

Read the OSA 2022-2023 Annual Report for highlights of our activities in the past year and details about projects that are currently underway.

[Learn More](#)

Long-Term Care Survey: Cantonese Speaking Volunteers Needed

We are in sight of the finish line to complete the Office of the Seniors Advocate Long-Term Care Survey. All 297 care homes in the province have now been engaged and we are targeting the end of the month to finish resident interviews. We are currently recruiting volunteers in Victoria and the Lower Mainland who speak Cantonese and English and are interested in surveying residents of long-term care homes.

[Learn More](#)

OSA Information and Referral Line

Did you know the Office of the Seniors Advocate has an information and referral line? Our seniors service specialists will work with you during our office hours to provide resources and help navigate services. Staff at BC211 will assist after hours. Call toll free: 1-877-952-3181 or in Victoria: 250-952-3181. You can also reach our team by email at info@seniorsadvocatebc.ca.

[Learn More](#)

Current Issues and Resources

Safe Long-Term Care Act Consultation

The federal government has launched an online consultation to help develop a Safe Long-Term Care Act. The public is invited to share their perspectives and expertise on how to improve the quality and safety of long-term care, implement long-term care standards and overcome challenges. The deadline to participate is Sept. 21, 2023.

[Learn More](#)

Heat Wave Preparedness and Response

Heat wave warnings have been in effect across the province and rising temperatures may put vulnerable seniors at risk. With higher temperatures expected, seniors are reminded to take additional precautions and family, friends and neighbours are encouraged to check in on older people to ensure they are keeping cool and well hydrated. The dual focus during high temperatures is to keep both the room and the body cool.

[Learn More](#)

Book an Appointment to See a Pharmacist

B.C. residents can now use an online booking system to schedule an appointment to see a pharmacist for minor ailments or contraceptives. Pharmacists are able to provide treatment for [21 minor ailments](#), including sprains and strains, shingles, and indigestion. Appointments can be made through a central online booking system. For questions or assistance with booking, call 1-833-882-0022.

[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 remain lifted.

[Learn More](#)

Provincial News

Recent Announcements from the B.C. Government Impacting Seniors

- July 4, 2023 [More homes for families, individuals coming to Qualicum Beach](#)
- July 4, 2023 [Construction starts on Cariboo Memorial Hospital project](#)
- July 5, 2023 [Minister's statement on National Injury Prevention Day](#)
- July 5, 2023 [New affordable homes coming to Hazelton](#)
- July 5, 2023 [Province helps better connect patients to primary-care providers](#)
- July 6, 2023 [Prepare for elevated temperatures, heat warnings](#)
- July 11, 2023 [B.C. strengthens community preparedness for climate-related disasters](#)
- July 13, 2023 [More homes on the way for Gibsons seniors](#)
- July 13, 2023 [Province assisting communities; people, businesses urged to conserve water](#)
- July 20, 2023 [New affordable homes coming to Castlegar](#)
- July 27, 2023 [B.C. helps remove barriers for people with disabilities](#)

National News

Recent Announcements from the Federal Government Impacting Seniors

- August 1, 2023 [Government of Canada launches call for proposals for community projects to support seniors](#)
- July 21, 2023 [Government of Canada launches online consultation for the Safe Long-Term Care Act](#)
- July 26, 2023 [Prime Minister announces changes to the Ministry](#)

Recent Research

Transforming primary care for older Canadians living with frailty: mixed methods study protocol for a complex primary care intervention (BMJ Open)

Older Canadians living with frailty are high users of healthcare services; however, the healthcare system is not well designed to meet the complex needs of many older adults. Older persons look to their primary care practitioners to assess their needs and coordinate their care. They may need care from a variety of providers and services, but often this care is not well coordinated. Older adults and their family

caregivers are the experts in their own needs and preferences, but often do not have a chance to participate fully in treatment decisions or care planning. We will be implementing enhanced primary healthcare approaches for older patients, including risk screening, patient engagement and shared decision making and care coordination. These interventions will be tailored to the needs and circumstances of the primary care study sites. In this article, we describe our study protocol for implementing and testing these approaches.

[Learn More](#)

“We could be good partners if we work together”: the perspectives of health and social service providers on the barriers to forming collaborative partnerships with social housing providers for older adults

(BMC Health Serv Res.)

Many older adults are aging-at-home in social housing. However, the lack of integration between housing and health services makes it difficult for older tenants to access needed supports. We examined barriers and facilitators health and social service providers face providing on-site services to older tenants.

[Learn More](#)

Strengthening implementation research on social prescribing in mental healthcare for older adults in Western Pacific Region

(Source)

The aging population grows faster and has greater demand for mental healthcare in the Western Pacific Region. Within the continuum of holistic care framework, mental healthcare for older adults is conceptualized to promote people’s mental wellbeing, the “positive” states of mental health. As social determinants account much for mental health outcomes, addressing these factors may benefit older adults' mental wellbeing in natural settings. Social prescribing, emerged as an innovative approach linking medical and social care, has been observed to potentially benefit mental wellbeing of older adults. However, it remained uncertain how to successfully implement social prescribing schemes in realistic world, such as community. In this viewpoint, we discuss three key elements, i.e., stakeholders, contextual factors, and outcome measures, that might facilitate identification of appropriate implementation strategies.

[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.

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