

Office of the Seniors Advocate Monthly Update - December 2023

Activities of the Office of the Seniors Advocate

BC Seniors Advocate Releases ‘Every Voice Counts’ - 2nd Survey Results of all Long-Term Care Residents and Frequent Visitors

The survey covered 297 publicly subsidized care facilities in B.C. and received responses from over 10,000 residents and almost 8,000 frequent visitors. The results show there has been little improvement in areas such as frequency of bathing, help at mealtimes, meaningful activities, and the overall ratings of quality remain relatively unchanged. Despite these shortcomings, residents continue to give high marks to long-term care home staff for their skill, compassion and ability to treat residents with respect.

[Learn More](#)

Volunteer Surveyors Reflect on Experiences in Long-Term Care

To complete the Long-Term Care survey, OSA called upon the extraordinary compassion and generosity of over 500 British Columbians who volunteered nearly 20,000 hours of their time to interview care home residents to find out what life is like in long-term care on a day-to-day basis. Several of these exceptional individuals have shared their reflections in a short video. Watch the video to learn about their unique experiences and perspectives.

[Learn More](#)

Update to Long-Term Care and Assisted Living Directory Coming Soon

The Office of the Seniors Advocate maintains a searchable online database of publicly-subsidized long-term care and assisted living homes in B.C. It includes basic information such as room configuration, languages spoken by staff, and food preparation for each care home, and offers an opportunity to see how the residence is doing in terms of care quality indicators. The 2023/24 update of the Directory will be released in mid-December.

[Learn More](#)

Current Issues and Resources

Progress Report on the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing

The United Nations (UN) Decade of Healthy Ageing sets an ambitious vision of a world in which all people can live long and healthy lives. A new UN report shows more countries have policies and programs on healthy ageing compared to 2020. Read the report to find out what progress has been made to transform the world to be a better place to grow older.

[Learn More](#)

Seniors' Advocate of Newfoundland Releases 'What Golden Years?'

Susan Walsh, Seniors' Advocate for Newfoundland and Labrador has released a report entitled 'What Golden Years?'. The report is a first step in attempting to address the cost of living challenges identified by seniors through an extensive consultation process that heard from approximately 1,400 seniors.

[Learn More](#)

Beware Holiday Scams

Scams and fraud attempts are particularly common over the holiday season as fraudsters take advantage of increased activity, stress, distraction and generosity. Take extra care when shopping online, making travel arrangements and donating to charities. Find a comprehensive list of the most common holiday scams compiled by Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre [here](#). Click the link below to find tips on how to stay cyber-safe this holiday season.

[Learn More](#)

Webinar: Dementia Inclusive Spaces for Community Access

Join an interactive session with researcher Cari Randa-Beaulieu to learn about a recent DemSCAPE study that aims to identify spatial and temporal patterns in activities outside the home by people with dementia. The study also explores ways that neighbourhood built environment affects their mobility and social participation. This free webinar takes place Wednesday, December 6 at 12:00 p.m. PST.

[Learn More](#)

Provincial News

Recent Announcements from the B.C. Government Impacting Seniors

- November 8, 2023 [Parliamentary secretary's statement on Seniors' Fall Prevention Awareness Week](#)
- November 10, 2023 [Respiratory illness immunization campaign off to a good start](#)
- November 10, 2023 [More than 150 affordable rentals underway in West Vancouver](#)

- November 14, 2023 [New long-term care home coming to Prince George](#)
- November 17, 2023 [Seniors will benefit from age-friendly grants](#)
- November 22, 2023 [Speculation tax expanding to new communities to deliver more homes for people](#)
- November 23, 2023 [Province supports people in B.C. during winter conditions](#)

National News

Recent Announcements from the Federal Government Impacting Seniors

- November 2, 2023 [New alliance to advance dementia research in Canada](#)
- November 6, 2023 [Minister of Citizens' Services Discusses Modernizing Government Services in the Digital Age at FWD50 Conference](#)
- November 15, 2023 [Canadians invited to help design the new Canada Disability Benefit](#)
- November 20, 2023 [Shoppers, beware of cyber scams this Black Friday and Cyber Monday, federal partners warn](#)

Recent Research

Aging in Uncertainty: The Growing Housing Crisis for BC Seniors

(United Way of British Columbia)

In British Columbia, low- and moderate-income people of all ages and from all walks of life are being affected by the housing affordability crisis. This report highlights the impact of the housing affordability crisis on one specific demographic: seniors. Over the past year and a half, community-based seniors' services have been sounding the alarm that the risk of homelessness among low-income seniors is reaching crisis proportions.

[Learn More](#)

A Report on Abuse of Older Adults: The Issue, the System, and Recommendations

(Agewell)

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines the abuse of older adults as "a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action occurring within any relationship, where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person." This definition includes physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, and financial abuse, and abandonment and neglect. The abuse of older adults, while underreported, is common in Canada. According to recent estimates, one in ten older adults in Canada experience some form of abuse each year.

[Learn More](#)

The ‘Double Risk’ of Aging: Examining Vulnerability and (Un)supportive Built Environments in Canadian Cities

(Cambridge University Press)

The confluence of rapid population aging and the overwhelming desire of older adults to age in place begs the question: Do our cities support the health and well-being of aging populations? Using a neighbourhood-by-neighbourhood approach, this macro-scale investigation explores the “double risk” that many older adults live with – the potential of being disadvantaged by socio-demographic risk factors (being older, living alone, low income) and by living in an unsupportive built environment.

[Learn More](#)

Outreach by the OSA

BC 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 that Isobel Mackenzie has announced that 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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