

AGEING MATTERS:

What We Heard
from B.C. Seniors

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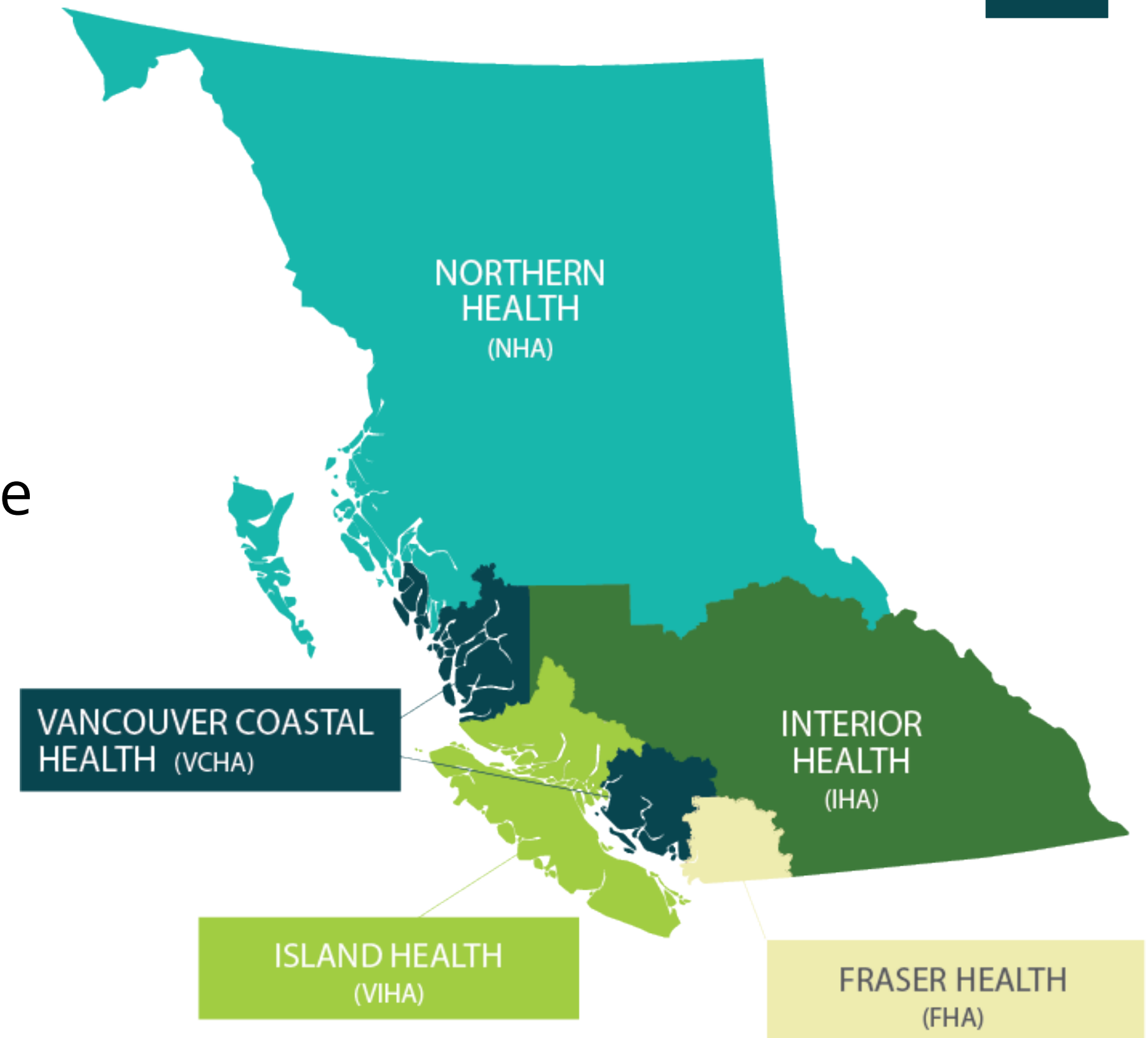


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PROVINCIAL TOUR

- **24** communities
- **60** community-based seniors' service providers (mainly non-profit organizations and volunteers)
- All **5** regional health authorities



LISTENING TO SENIORS

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- Seniors helping seniors
 - meals, socializing, transportation, help at home
- Many stories about caregiver burnout, couples separated, needing help at home, travel costs to access medical care, losing drivers licence



WHAT WE HEARD

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#1 – Affordability

- The BC Seniors Supplement does not help low-income seniors with the cost of living
- The SAFER rent subsidy changes will make little difference for low-income seniors
 - Changes fall short
 - Not keeping pace with rising rents
- 1 in 4 seniors live on incomes **less than \$23,000**


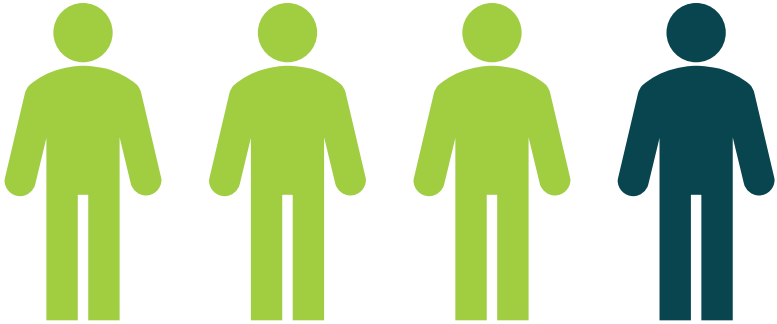


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SAFER Changes Insufficient

- **\$1,737** is the average monthly income of SAFER recipient
 - **\$1,116** average rent of SAFER recipient
 - **\$115** subsidy increase (Aug 2024)
 - will pay **43%** of income on rent
- If a low-income senior has to move or enter the market, a one-bedroom apartment in Vancouver is just under **\$1,700** (CMHC – 2023)
 - they will pay **76%** on rent with SAFER subsidy
 - at risk of homelessness
- SAFER simply isn't adequate, not meeting **30%** income on rent target



	TODAY	BY 2036
Total Population 65+	<div> 1,083,695</div>	<div> 1,523,800</div>
Oldest Baby Boomer	AGE 78	AGE 90
% Seniors 85+	11% OF ALL SENIORS	17% OF ALL SENIORS

#2 – Seniors Population Growth

- We are not doing enough to meet the needs of seniors today or in the future
- Construction of affordable housing, subsidized long-term care and assisted living not keeping pace with growth
- Waitlists continue to grow
- OSA will be undertaking a review of supply and demand for long-term care
- We need a plan to better coordinate seniors' services



#3 – Ageing in Place

- Home support and help at home (cleaning, cooking, laundry) is expensive, insufficient and not available in many communities or long waitlists
- Not enough long-term care, assisted living or affordable housing for seniors to downsize and remain in the community
- Community resources are often not coordinated or there are gaps/duplication
- No coverage for shingles vaccine



- 1 Provide immediate financial relief for low-income senior renters

- 2 Increase the amount of BC Senior's Supplement (BCSS) and index the supplement to inflation

- 3 Eliminate the daily charge for home support

- 4 Implement a publicly funded shingles vaccine program

- 5 Develop and implement a cross-ministry strategy and action plan for seniors








Contact

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