

Office of the Seniors Advocate Monthly Update - February 2025

Activities of the Office of the Seniors Advocate

Council of Advisors Meets in Richmond

The office's 20-member Council of Advisors met in Richmond at the end of January. Council members had the opportunity to meet the new Minister of Health and Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors' Services and Long-Term Care. They engaged on transportation challenges for seniors and issues related to supply and demand of long-term care.

[Learn More](#)

February Message from the Seniors Advocate

Seniors Advocate Dan Levitt shares updates about ongoing projects and upcoming initiatives of the Office of the Seniors Advocate.

[Learn More](#)

Caregiver Survey on Access to Long-Term Care

The Seniors Advocate wants to hear from family caregivers about their experiences helping a loved one access publicly-funded long-term care in B.C. OSA will be opening a survey this month for caregivers with a family member currently waitlisted for publicly-subsidized long-term care, or admitted to a publicly-subsidized long-term care home within the past year. This valuable feedback will inform an upcoming systemic review on long-term care supply and demand. Stay tuned to our social media channels for more details.

[Learn More](#)

Current Issues and Resources

Free Tax Webinar for People 65+

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) is hosting an interactive webinar to share information on federal government tax credits, benefits and CRA services available to seniors. The webinar will cover GST/HST credits, pension splitting, ways to do your taxes, where to find free tax support, and other CRA services. Take advantage of this opportunity to ask questions and receive answers from CRA specialists.

Feb. 12, 2025

Time: 11 a.m. PST

[Learn More](#)

Self-Management BC Chronic Conditions Program

Self-Management BC offers free health programs for adults of all ages with one or more ongoing health conditions. The programs teach health management strategies to help people live well with chronic conditions such as diabetes, cancer, chronic pain, hypertension, frailty, as well as many other ongoing health issues. Programs are offered in a variety of languages in person, virtually, online, by telephone, or by mail.

[Learn More](#)

Campaign in Support of UN Resolution on Rights of Older Persons

The International Longevity Centre of Canada is asking people to participate in a letter-writing campaign to support an upcoming United Nations Resolution critical to advancing the human rights of older persons. The Resolution would establish a Working Group to focus on the content of a new Convention on the Rights of Older Persons. Letters in support of the Resolution are being sent to the federal Minister for Seniors and other members of parliament.

[Learn More](#)

Provincial News

Recent Announcements from the B.C. Government Impacting Seniors

- January 20, 2025 [Short-term rental registry will deliver more homes, ensure hosts follow rules](#)
- January 16, 2025 [B.C. provides economic assessment of Trump's tariff threat](#)
- January 13, 2025 [New Fort St. James hospital to open for patients](#)
- January 13, 2025 [Oncology, renal expansion at East Kootenay Regional Hospital moves ahead](#)
- January 2, 2025 [Renter's tax credit, homeowner grant help people get ahead](#)

National News

Recent Announcements from the Federal Government Impacting Seniors

- January 8, 2025 [Changes to the Canada Pension Plan](#)

Recent Research

Frailism: a scoping review exploring discrimination against people living with frailty

(The Lancet Healthy Longevity)

People living with frailty can experience discrimination, but unlike the characteristics of age and disability, frailty is not protected by law. Frailty is a clinical syndrome associated with ageing in which health deficits increase a person's vulnerability to illness, disability and death. This scoping review, conducted by a team of methodologists, clinicians, lawyers, and patients, aimed to investigate the extent of discrimination against people living with frailty described in health-care literature.

[Learn More](#)

Troubling Diagnosis: Comparing Canada's Healthcare with International Peers

(C.D. Howe Institute)

In international comparisons with its peers, Canada ranks ninth out of 10 countries, performing below the international average in access to care, administrative efficiency and equity – and ranking last in timeliness. For those who can access care, the quality of care is relatively high. Canada performs above the average in the care-process category, reflecting strengths in preventative care and safe care across most provinces.

[Learn More](#)

There's No Place Like Home: Why Canada Must Prioritize Small Care Home Models in its Provision of Long-Term Care

(National Institute on Aging)

This report emphasizes the need for a transformative shift away from delivering care in large institutional care settings to smaller, more personalized, home-like environments that align with public preferences and improve care outcomes for residents and working conditions for staff.

[Learn More](#)

Outreach by the OSA

If you would like to invite BC Seniors Advocate Dan Levitt to speak to your organization or attend an event, please email 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.

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