

## STATEMENT

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2025

#### **Government fails to develop action plan for long-term care** International Day of Older Persons deadline passes without commitment

VICTORIA – On the United Nations International Day of Older Persons, BC Seniors Advocate Dan Levitt says the provincial government has failed to develop an action plan to address the long-term care crisis.

“Today, we celebrate seniors and their many contributions, as well as reaffirm their right to live with dignity. This year’s theme is ‘Older Persons Driving Local and Global Action: Our Aspirations, Our Well-Being, Our Rights’ which recognizes the role seniors play in driving change both locally and globally.

“Seniors in B.C. are incredibly active and give tirelessly to their communities through leadership, volunteerism and paid work. Yet as their need for care grows, they are met with ballooning waitlists and an escalating crisis in seniors’ care.

“In July, my office released a report outlining the current and rapidly growing need for more publicly-subsidized long-term care beds.

“We found the long-term care system has gone from 77 beds per 1,000 people a decade ago, to 58 beds today; this will drop to 41 beds by 2035/36 if beds are built and replaced at the current rate. Today, there is a 2,000-bed shortfall and that gap will increase significantly to 16,000 beds needed by 2035/36 to meet the demands of a growing population.

“I had asked for assurance that government was acting on my recommendations by requesting an action plan be developed by October 1. However, I have received no confirmation that an action plan is being developed, or if there is even a plan to create a plan. The lack of long-term care in B.C. is a crisis in the making, and government must act now.

“British Columbians greatly value seniors and expect the supports and services they paid into to be available as they age. On the UN International Day of Older Persons, let’s make sure seniors throughout the province can live well in a manner of their choosing and the services we all rely on are ready and available when and where they’re needed.”

Quick Link: <https://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca/osa-reports/from-shortfall-to-crisis-growing-demand-for-long-term-care-beds-in-b-c/>

The Office of the Seniors Advocate is an independent office of the provincial government with a mandate of monitoring seniors' services and reporting on systemic issues affecting seniors. The office also provides information and referral to seniors and their caregivers by calling toll-free 1 877 952-3181, BC211, via email at [info@seniorsadvocatebc.ca](mailto:info@seniorsadvocatebc.ca), Canada Post and the OSA web site <https://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca/>.

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