



# Monitoring Seniors Services 2025

11<sup>th</sup> Edition

March 26, 2026

# Demographics

**2024**  
Total Population –B.C.  
**5,698,430**

	SENIORS POPULATION	% OF TOTAL POPULATION
<b>65+</b>	1,127,346	20%
<b>85+</b>	131,675	2%

- Baby boomers now 62 to 80 years old
- Life expectancy for people age 65+ is 87.8 years old
  - ↑ from 86.7 years in 2015



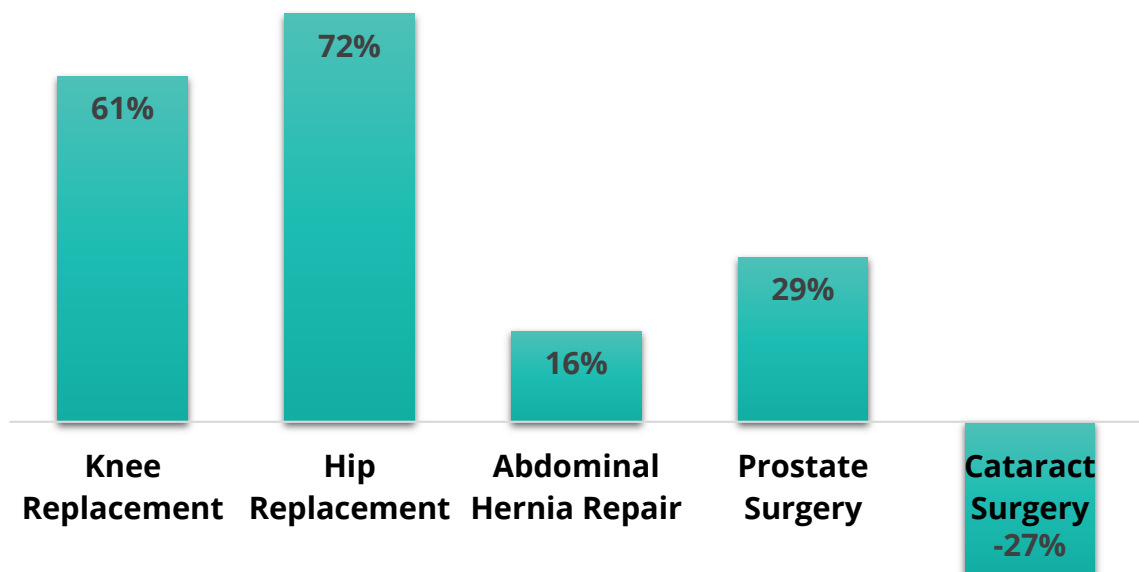
## Service Improvements

- Rental supports increased for seniors on low incomes through Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters program (SAFER)
  - Average subsidy increased to **\$330 per month** - up 59% from \$207 six years ago
- The Better at Home program served nearly 70% more clients and services provided grew 90% over six years
  - Delivered over 363,000 services to 20,000+ clients in 2024/25



# Surgical Wait List Increasing

Seniors 65+ (over 6 years)



## Less Access to Home Support

Over the last 6 years:

- **16%↑** in people receiving home support
- **7%↓** in client rate per 1,000 pop. 75+
- Senior with an annual income of **\$30,000**, pays **\$9,000** per year for one hour of home support per day (nearly 30% of income)
- Most provinces **do not charge for home support**, incl. Ontario and Alberta



# Caregivers Overwhelmed

## Over the last 6 years:

- Adult day programs recovered from pandemic
- **18%↑** in waitlists
- **7↓** beds for overnight respite
- **241** overnight respite beds throughout B.C.



## Long-Term Care Waits Increasing

- Over **7,000** people waiting for long-term care (LTC) (**200%↑** over 6 years)
- The average wait time for LTC has grown from an average of **144 days** to **287 days** (over 6 years)
- 10,245 people were admitted into LTC in 2024/25
  - 5,219 from community and 5,026 from hospital

### LONG-TERM CARE ADMISSION AVERAGE WAIT TIME

	Days	1 Year	4 Years
<b>From Community:</b>	182	25%	66%
Urgent	99	34%	101%
Non-urgent	337	38%	112%
<b>From Hospital:</b>	70	19%	84%



## Hospitals Under Pressure

- 20,449 alternate level of care (ALC) patients 65+ last year
  - **14%↑** over six years
- **5,900** ALC patients (65+) waited in hospital for a long-term care bed (2024/25)
  - average hospital stay **38 days**
  - **5 days longer** than six years ago



## Cost of Keeping Seniors in Hospital

Based on the same 5,900 seniors waiting for long-term care:



### Hospital (ALC)

- \$1,200/day
- 5 extra days
- \$35 million total

### Long-Term Care



- \$294/day
- same 5 days
- \$9 million total

**\$27 million net difference**  
4 X more expensive

# Affordable Housing Unavailable

## Seniors Subsidized Housing (SSH)

- **13,216** approved applications
  - **52%↑** over 6 years
- **7%** of applicants received a unit
- 12,322 applicants still waiting (at March 31)
  - **50%** applicants waiting 2+ years
  - **20%** applicants waiting 5+ years
- **5%↑** in units over 6 years
- **5%↓** in number of units per 1,000 seniors (55+) over 6 years



# Transportation

## Driving

- **88%** of seniors 65-74 have an active driver's licence (↑**13%** over 6 years)

## Public Transportation

- **65,000** low-income seniors have a BC Bus Pass (↓**1%** over 6 years)
- Number of HandyDart rides provided ↓**13%** for BC Transit and ↓**6%** for TransLink (over 6 years)



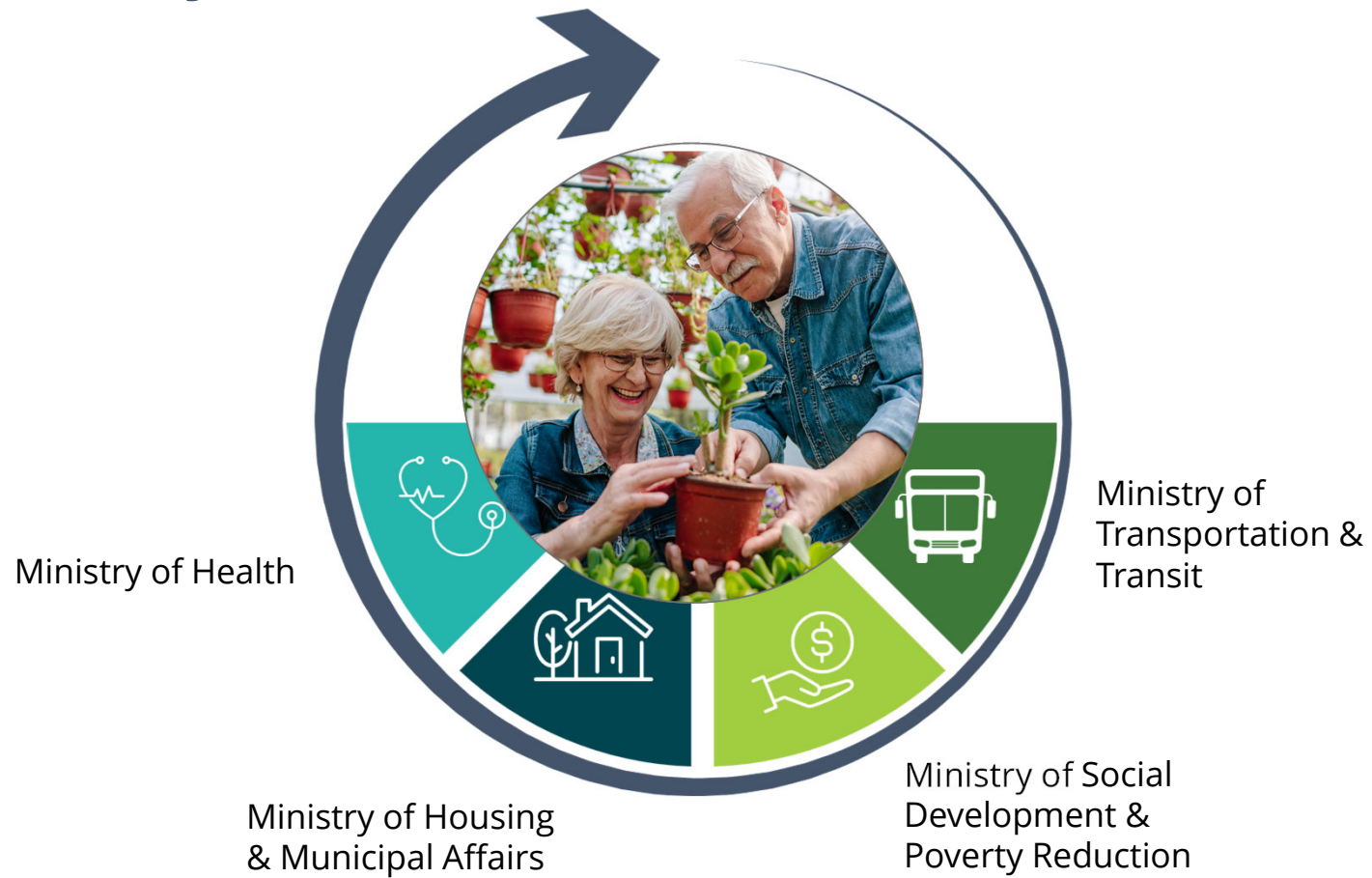
# Seniors Safety

## Over 6 years:

- **71%↑** in calls reporting abuse to SAIL
- **16%↑** in cases reporting abuse, neglect and self-neglect to Designated Agencies to investigate and respond
- **17%↑** in referrals of suspected cases of abuse, neglect and self-neglect to Public Guardian and Trustee
- **28%↑** in violent offenses against seniors reported to BC RCMP
- **65%↑** in cases of financial fraud against seniors reported to Vancouver Police Department



# Cross-Ministry Seniors Plan





## Contact

Toll-free: **1-877-952-3181**

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Mon - Fri: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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