

Office of the Seniors Advocate Monthly Update - April 2026

Activities of the Office of the Seniors Advocate

New Report - Monitoring Seniors Services 2025

B.C.'s seniors' population is growing and people are living longer, while wait times for essential supports continue to increase. The recently released annual Monitoring Seniors Services report highlights mounting pressure on services including surgeries, long-term care and affordable housing.

[Learn More](#)

April 2026 Message from the Seniors Advocate

The BC Seniors Advocate provides an update on key issues affecting older adults across British Columbia and shares highlights from our latest report.

[Learn More](#)

Current Issues and Resources

File Your Taxes – It Matters!

Filing your taxes each year is important for all seniors, even if you have a small income. Completing your income tax helps you access benefits and credits you may be entitled to, like Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement and the Canadian Dental Care Plan. Don't miss out! Make sure your income taxes are filed by April 30, 2026. Learn more with our tax tips for B.C. seniors.

[Learn More](#)

Introduction to Advance Care Planning Workshop

If you couldn't communicate for yourself, even temporarily, who would make your health and personal care decisions? Starting these conversations early can ease stress for loved ones and help health care teams provide care that reflects what matters to you. Learn more about documenting your preferences with a free webinar on Introduction to Advance Care Planning hosted by Advance Care Planning Canada.

Date: April 16, 2026 - Time: 9 a.m. PDT

[Learn More](#)

Caregiver Resources

On National Caregivers Day on April 7, we recognize the essential role family caregivers play in supporting loved ones in B.C. As caregiving demands grow, many people experience increased stress and burnout. It's important for caregivers to know they are not alone. Visit the Family Caregivers of BC website for resources and support.

[Learn More](#)

Vaccines Matter at Any Age

This National Immunization Week, we encourage all seniors to stay up to date on vaccines that help prevent serious illnesses. Recommended vaccines for older adults include influenza, COVID-19, shingles, RSV and pneumococcal vaccines. Protect yourself and those around you. Learn which vaccines are right for you and where to get them.

[Learn More](#)

Provincial News

Recent Announcements from the B.C. Government Impacting Seniors

- March 31, 2026 [New health regulation puts patients' safety first](#)
- March 30, 2026 [Enhanced coverage in B.C. supports more people with diabetes](#)
- March 25, 2026 [Opening 22 new affordable rental homes in Bowser](#)
- March 25, 2026 [Minister's statement on March 2026 Metro Vancouver rent report](#)
- March 20, 2026 [Improving health-care services for people in northern Vancouver Island region](#)
- March 18, 2026 [Improving access to team-based health care for Tri-Cities residents](#)
- March 17, 2026 [One year update: Hundreds of U.S. health-care professionals are serving people in B.C.](#)
- March 12, 2026 [Opening doors to enhanced, modernized patient care in new facilities](#)
- March 9, 2026 [Minister's statement on March 2026 rental report](#)
- March 6, 2026 [Opening more affordable homes in Richmond](#)
- March 4, 2026 [Making more surgeries available closer to home](#)
- March 2, 2026 [Adopting permanent daylight saving time](#)

National News

Recent Announcements from the Federal Government Impacting Seniors

- March 30, 2026 [Government of Canada launches consultations on first ever National Anti-Fraud Strategy](#)
- March 25, 2026 [Welltower to further protect competition in retirement home industry](#)
- March 16, 2026 [Message from the Minister of Health, Secretary of State \(Sport\) and Secretary of State \(Seniors\) – Brain Health Awareness Month and Brain Awareness Week](#)

Recent Research

Policy Options to Complement the New Canadian Dental Program Enabling High Quality Care for People With Disabilities and Older Adults

(Gerodontology)

The newly announced Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) particularly aims to reduce financial barriers to dental care for individuals living below a family income threshold. The Canadian government has also launched an “Oral Health Access Fund” to support projects aiming to address financial barriers to dental care for older adults, those with disabilities and other groups. Evidence from programs implemented elsewhere in the world could inform policy decisions and address such non-financial barriers for older Canadians and those with disabilities.

[Learn More](#)

Older Adults and Tax Delegation in Canada: A Sociotechnical Analysis

(Canadian Journal on Aging)

Preparing and filing taxes has become an increasingly digital task. Older adults need to file taxes to qualify for benefits, but little is known about how older adults in Canada manage tax preparation, nor about how they get help. We investigated delegation mechanisms provided by the Canada Revenue Agency, documenting workflows needed to set up delegation and identifying privacy and security risks.

[Learn More](#)

On the prospect and precarity of rural older voluntarism

(Geoforum)

Volunteers are essential to supporting vulnerable older people in underserved communities. Evidence is emerging, however, of the growing precarity of volunteering in small towns and rural places where most volunteers are older residents themselves. To advance knowledge on this phenomenon of 'rural older voluntarism', particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, this article presents a case study of three volunteer-based programs in rural Ontario, Canada.

[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 operates a toll-free information and referral phone line staffed by seniors' services specialists who can help put seniors and family caregivers in touch with services and navigate issues and concerns. Call 1-877-952-3181 (toll free) or 250-952-3181 (Victoria).

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