

Office of the Seniors Advocate Monthly Update - July 2026

Activities of the Office of the Seniors Advocate

Ministers', BC Seniors Advocate's Statements on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Josie Osborne, Minister of Health; Niki Sharma, Attorney General; and Dan Levitt, BC Seniors Advocate, released the following statements in recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on Monday, June 15, 2026.

[Learn More](#)

Data Show Incidents of Elder Abuse are Increasing in B.C.

Read the OSA news release on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, an opportunity to raise awareness of increasing reports of abuse and neglect of older adults in B.C.

[Learn More](#)

July Message from the BC Seniors Advocate

The Seniors Advocate reflects on BC Seniors' Week, recent community visits and shares what's ahead for the office this summer.

[Learn More](#)

Current Issues and Resources

Join the Campaign to Remove Home Support Payments - Contact Your MLA

A coalition of seniors' organizations, caregivers, health providers and system advocates is calling on the B.C. government to eliminate co-payments for publicly-subsidized home support for seniors. Visit the campaign website to send a letter of support to your MLA.

[Learn More](#)

Over-the-Counter Hearing Aids Now Approved

Many seniors in B.C. delay seeking help for hearing loss because of the high cost of hearing aids. The provincial government has now approved the sale of over-the-counter hearing aids for adults with mild to moderate hearing loss. Eligible devices can be purchased directly from retail outlets and online, without a prescription. The change is intended to improve access and reduce cost barriers for people needing basic hearing support.

[Learn More](#)

Property Tax Deferral Helps Seniors Stay in Their Homes

Changes to B.C.'s Property Tax Deferment Program mean higher interest costs for new applications, but the program is still a valuable option for seniors who own their home and need more flexibility to pay monthly expenses. For many older adults living on a fixed income, deferring property taxes can help free up money for essentials like home support, medical travel, or unexpected bills, while allowing them to stay in their homes.

[Learn More](#)

Beat the Heat: Tips for Seniors

Hot weather can be especially hard on older adults and people with chronic health conditions. As temperatures rise, remember to drink plenty of water, keep your home as cool as possible and check in with friends, family and neighbours who may need support. If your home becomes too hot, consider spending time in a cool public space such as a community centre, or shopping mall. The Province of B.C.'s Extreme Heat Preparedness Guide offers practical tips on planning before extreme heat events occur.

[Learn More](#)

Share Your Experience: Men 65+ Caregiving Study

Are you a man aged 65 or older who provides care for a spouse or partner? Researchers at UBC are seeking participants to share their experiences and help shape future supports for caregivers. Participants will take part in a photovoice study, sharing photos that reflect their caregiving experiences and participating in an interview. An honorarium will be provided.

[Learn More](#)

Provincial News

Recent Announcements from the B.C. Government Impacting Seniors

June 29, 2026 [Strengthening the Kootenays' local food system](#)

June 29, 2026 [Energy-efficiency upgrades will help lower costs for households with lower incomes](#)

June 29, 2026 [Building more affordable seniors' housing in Coquitlam](#)

June 25, 2026 [Statement about fifth anniversary of 2021 heat dome](#)

- June 22, 2026 [Strengthening ambulance services in Prince George](#)
- June 17, 2026 [New floodplain maps support flood preparedness](#)
- June 16, 2026 [Urging preparedness as wildfire, drought risks increase](#)
- June 15, 2026 [Improving access to primary care for people in the North](#)
- June 9, 2026 [Protecting people, communities in the Okanagan](#)
- June 8, 2026 [Minister's statement about June 2026 rental report](#)
- June 8, 2026 [Strengthening wildfire prevention, creating local jobs](#)
- June 5, 2026 [Renewed agreement between Province and Doctors of BC ratified](#)
- June 4, 2026 [Summer safety reminders from the BC Coroners Service](#)
- June 4, 2026 [Promoting physical activity in B.C.](#)
- June 3, 2026 [Supporting seniors, Elders through age-friendly communities grants](#)

National News

Recent Announcements from the Federal Government Impacting Seniors

- June 17, 2026 [Government of Canada appoints new members to National Seniors Council](#)
- June 17, 2026 [National Seniors Council - New Appointments](#)
- June 15, 2026 [Minister Hajdu, Minister Michel and Secretary of State McLean mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day](#)
- June 2, 2026 [Government of Canada launches call for proposals for community projects to support seniors](#)

Recent Research

Emergency department wait times in Canada: Insights from a health system perspective

(Canadian Institute for Health Information)

Emergency departments (EDs) are vital parts of Canada's health systems, providing urgent care when needed and serving as a key entry point to health care services. ED wait times are impacted by access to primary care and home care, and by capacity in acute inpatient care and long-term care, reflecting pressures on EDs from these other parts of the health system.

[Learn More](#)

Queering age-friendliness: addressing safety, indicating equity

(Ageing Equitably with Care)

Do age-friendly and age-equity movements, policies and practices promote conditions of respect and dignity for queer older adults? The relationship between movements to advance age friendliness and other equity struggles – in this case, for two-spirit, gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, trans, queer and intersex, or 2SLGBTQI 1 recognition, rights and redistributions – is both important and complex. To imagine and improve the conditions for good queer ageing, this relationship is critical.

[Learn More](#)

Older, Online and Open to Virtual Care: Insights from the 2024 NIA Ageing in Canada Survey

(National Institute on Ageing)

Findings of the 2024 NIA Ageing in Canada Survey show that more than half (51%) of Canadians aged 50 and older have used virtual care at least once, challenging long-standing assumptions about older adults and technology. Usage also increases with age, with people 80 and older among the most likely to report using it. While this points to strong uptake among older Canadians, the report notes that the survey was conducted online, which may have captured a group more comfortable with digital tools.

[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).

You are receiving this email because you are on our mailing list to receive updates and other occasional correspondence from our office. You can [subscribe](#) or [unsubscribe](#) to this mailing list.

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [X](#) and [Facebook](#) or visit the [OSA website](#).