

COSCO Highlights

<http://www.coscobc.org>

March 2020

Message from Sheila Pither, COSCO President:

I know that each of us has our own set of circumstances to consider as we cope with this totally strange experience. Many of us, perhaps most of us, are of an age group that is most threatened by this horrible little monster. Who would have thought that we would ever need to sing “We Shall Overcome” to a virus?

Best regards,
Sheila

Highlights:

The COSCO Communications Committee will be sending out a monthly **Highlights** document to associates, affiliates and delegates. If you have any suggestions for future content please send to cao.cosco@gmail.com

In the hope that the COVID 19 crisis will be over by October we are still proceeding with plans for COSCO Conference 2020.

All ‘COSCO Stay on the Road: A Practical Guide for Senior Drivers’ Workshops are on hold until further notice.

Meetings:

The COSCO **Executive** has passed a motion to meet by conference call. The **delegates** meetings will be postponed until we get the all clear by the Health Department and until we have a room available. **Committee** meetings will be held by electronic means

Summary of letter to Minister Deb Schulte:

We wrote a letter to the Minister of Seniors (Ottawa) about the following:

- 1) a request for a list of benefits for seniors to be enclosed in the T4 OAS and CPP letters;
- 2) a request that Caregiver and disability tax credits be refundable so as to aid low income seniors;
- 3) a request that the 10% increase in OAS be made available to everyone over age 65, not the 75 that is the current offering;
- 4) a request that the CPP Death benefit be increased from \$2500 to \$5000. We will let you know the response from government.

To see a copy of the letter, and to use it for your own group's purposes, go to [COSCOBC.org](https://coscobc.org)

If you have trouble opening the links, copy and paste them into your browser

Stay safe:

For the latest information on your health and safety check out:

- BC Centre for Disease Control: bccdc.ca
- Health link BC: healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-disease-covid-19
- BC Self Assessment Tool for covid-19: bc.thrive.health
- BC Seniors Advocate: seniorsadvocatebc.ca/COVID-19
- The **Public Health Agency of Canada** has set up a telephone information line about COVID-19. It can be reached by calling **1 833 784 4397**
- In BC, dial **811** for health advice in 130 languages.



**ADVANCE NOTICE #1
COSCO CONFERENCE 2020**

Dear friends and colleagues,

Over the last two decades, COSCO's dedicated volunteers have organized five conferences of national importance. These events have provided unique opportunities for young and old to work together – to examine the factors that contribute to and detract from the well-being of seniors and our communities.

Today, life in the 21st century faces heightened uncertainties, challenges and opportunities. It is time to take a look at the progress we have made and to develop a vision and solutions for the future.

Our 2020 conference will continue the tradition of informing and inspiring begun many years ago. Some of our concerns haven't changed a great deal, but others are part of a new world. We must identify choices and solutions to create inclusive, sustainable and age-friendly communities.

COSCO announces at the 2020 conference we will be spending 2 days looking at the situation of frauds, scams and elder abuse with the intent of coming up with solutions to the problems. We are drawing upon a wide range of guest speakers. Stay tuned for more information as our plans develop.

Sincerely,

Sheila Pither, President