

## TRIBUTES TO SHEILA PITHER

Dear Executive, Delegates, Affiliates Associates:

We are all deeply saddened to learn that our beloved Past President, Sheila Pither passed away on Monday September 19. Sheila was a great support and mentor to me since I joined the COSCO Board in 2014, and especially since I was elected COSCO President earlier this year. She was a wellspring of interesting and imaginative ideas and, like Queen Elizabeth II, continued to work right up until the day she died. I will miss her dearly.

We will forward details of the funeral arrangements as they become available.

On behalf of the COSCO Board and membership we extend our condolences to her family and friends during this time of bereavement.

***Some tributes to her are included below.***

**From COSCO 1st VP Barb Mikulec:**

Sheila was an amazing leader, and mentor to many. She was instrumental in the Passing the Torch leadership workshops which encouraged many to build their leadership skills. Sheila and I taught at the same school in Vancouver and have been involved together in the Vancouver Retired Teachers, BCRTA and the R R Smith Memorial Foundation where we both sat on the Board. Her strong advocacy for seniors will be long remembered, Barb

**From Past-past President Gudrun Langolf:**

Sheila was the brains behind the COSCO workshops and so much more. I cannot remember a COSCO executive without her... Her wise counsel and irrepressible humour will be sorely missed.

**From Trish McAuliffe, President of the National Pensioners Federation**

My day was shattered to get the sad news of Sheila's passing. I can only imagine she gracefully held the hand of her son and whispered to the good Lord she was ready. She was loved. Her legacy laid for all to hold dear. Now, we mourn.

Sheila was always on the mark to sign up to help or lead in whatever way needed. Not a meeting went by that her brilliant contributions didn't plant seeds. Her forthright attitude and determination will always remain with me as the mark of great leadership and style. I truly loved her in all Femtor ways possible. Rest well Sheila, you did us all proud and promise to continue our social justice fight with you in our hearts.

On behalf of the entire membership of the National Pensioners Federation we thank you Sheila for your unwavering service. RIP

NPF sends our heartfelt sympathies to her family, colleagues and friends at this difficult time.

**Trish McAuliffe** (she/her)  
**President,**  
**National Pensioners Federation**

Take care

Leslie Gaudette  
President, COSCO

On Wed, Sep 21, 2022 at 12:10 PM Sam Wiese (President of BC FORUM) wrote:  
Sheila was a force within many forces fighting for the rights and recognition of seniors and her fellow citizens. Much like The Queen, she was one I thought of as never actually dying. She will be missed. I know you knew her well, my condolences.

Sam

ATU 1724 representing over 600 HandyDART workers sends its deepest condolences.

*In Solidarity,*

*Mark Beeching*

President/ Business Agent

ATU local 1724

**From:** Navin Goburdhun

**Subject: Condolences write up**

Dear members of the Cosco Executive and Delegates

It is with the deepest of sorrow that we, the members of B.C.G.R.E.A -Branch 800 learnt of the passing of Sheila Pither, our colleague & Past President of COSCO Organization.

On behalf of Branch 800 members I would like to convey our most sincere sympathy & condolences to the COSCO organization and her family. Sheila's unforeseen departure will be sorely missed & the BIG void she has left behind will be very difficult to fill.

She was a PILLAR at COSCO.

May her soul Rest In Peace.

Navin Goburdhun

First V.P Branch 800 -BCGRE

**From Grace Kramer**

This is such sad news, Sheila gave so much of herself to all of us. I found her to be such a gracious, knowledgeable, and caring leader. I will miss her presence and input, she had such clever ways with getting us to see major roadblocks and problems. She gave herself to the end. I deeply respect her and will miss her.

Warm regards.

Grace.

I was so shocked and devastated to hear about Sheila's passing. I had lunch with her last Thursday at the White Spot on Broadway. Her son drove her and wheeled her in on her walker. She had had a fall but felt that she would be up and about in the next couple of weeks. She had also sent a very powerful testimonial on Wednesday to use in the CREA funding application.

We had a lovely visit – and now she is gone. It is going to take a while to take this in.

**Sherry Baker, M.A.**  
**Executive Director**  
BC Association of Community Response Networks (BC CRN)

So sorry to hear of Sheila Pither's passing.  
She was a dynamic lady. A force to be reckoned with.  
Loved her pyramids.

**Ramona Kaptyn, BA Journalism, B.Ed, OCT, CHA**

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- President: C.A.R.P. White Rock/Surrey
- Director: C.A.R.P. National - A New Vision of Aging for Canada
- Director & Committee Member: Various Community Organizations

Sheila was a driving force at the BCTF and was always there to help those of us who attended. Her radiant smile and calming ways. While on the BCTF Executive, Sheila was ready and willing to provide information and support.

In later years, I loved to read her messages in the Postscript as they were very entertaining as well as informative.

Sheila's advocacy for Seniors will be missed. She has left big big shoes to fill. We will continue to share Sheila's passion for making our world a better place for all.

Margaret Little  
Fort St. John, BC  
[mackeno@xplornet.ca](mailto:mackeno@xplornet.ca)

**From Agnes Jackman (COSCO Executive Member)**

Thank you for sharing this info with me. I am so sorry to hear of your family's loss. Sheila was considered to be an extra special person by so many people, including me. She will be very much missed!!! There will be so many times that people will catch themselves thinking, "I'll just ask Sheila. She'll know!" and then realize sadly that that won't be possible.

On behalf of the Voices of Burnaby Seniors Society (VOBSS), we extend our deepest condolences to COSCO and to the family and friends of Sheila Pither.

Sincerely,

Tazul Ali.

President | Voices of Burnaby Seniors Society.

I am sending you my condolences as she was a tenacious and remarkable woman.

Marion Pollack, COSCO Delegate & President, Centre 411.

Sad that such a powerful voice will be missed. Amazing woman to be honored and applauded for her work.

Alice Edge

**From the BC Legislature and Parliamentary Secretary Mable Elmore:**

We'd like to pass along the video link below to PS Elmore's statement on remembering Sheila Pither. You will need to click 'download anyway' in order to save the mp4 video on your desktop for viewing.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K7sFRP7Gr9LoMnkbaojWdMyMw0YMI8ez/view?usp=sharing>



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Via email: [pres@coscobe.org](mailto:pres@coscobe.org)

Board Members  
Council of Senior Citizens' Organization  
PO Box 26036  
RPO Langley Mall  
Langley BC V3A 8J2

Dear COSCO Board Members:

Sadly, I have been advised of the passing of Sheila Pither. On behalf of Parliamentary Secretary Mable Elmore and myself, I would like to express my sincerest condolences to the members of the COSCO Board, and Sheila's family and friends.

Ministry of Health staff worked with Sheila for many years on seniors' issues and, particularly, on addressing elder abuse. She was a strong, compassionate advocate for change. I am sure that the Ministry staff who worked with her join me in expressing my great appreciation for the collaboration and contributions she provided in so many venues over the years.

My thoughts are with all the COSCO Board members, as well as Sheila's family during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian Dix", written over a horizontal line.

Adrian Dix  
Minister

pc: Mable Elmore, Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors' Services and Long-Term Care  
Gudrun Langolf