



Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC

Representing seniors in British Columbia since 1950

www.coscobic.org

December 22, 2023

The Hon. Mark Holland, Minister of Health

MP Don Davies, NDP Health Critic

Dear Mark and Don

Announcement of Dental Plan for Seniors

Huge congratulations are due to you both for working out a plan to provide dental care for low and moderate income seniors. We appreciate the detailed advance information on the roll out of this program and will work with our members to do our best to ensure a smooth implementation, despite the bumps that may occur along the way.

You both know well that dental care is a critical part of overall health care – so important that COSCO has been advocating for oral care for over twenty years. Many seniors on limited incomes simply do not have access to funds to pay out of their own pocket. We further know that poor oral health contributes to social isolation, poor nutrition and gum disease which may result in chronic disease. Treating these diseases in turn creates demands on other parts of our health system. We are hopeful taking the step to implement dental care will be a turning point in the health of Canadians, and we are very grateful for the roles you have each played to reach this milestone.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff in 2024 and beyond to ensure the success of this program. We have already started to share information with our members – see page 3 of the COSCO News at <https://coscobic.org/wp-content/uploads/formidable/4/COSCO-NEWS-DEC-2023-digital.pdf>. In the meantime, please accept our best wishes for a happy and relaxing holiday season.

Thanks again for a job well done!

All the best

Leslie Gaudette

cc. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
Seniors Minister, Seamus O'Regan
NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh
Opposition Shadow Minister for Health, Stephen Ellis
Green Party Leader, Elizabeth May

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