



Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC

Representing seniors in British Columbia since 1950

www.coscobc.org

January 23, 2025

The Honourable Joanne Thompson
Minister of Seniors
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Email: joanne.thompson@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Thompson:

Re: COSCO BC urges Canada to support the resolution on the human rights of older persons at the 58th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC)

The Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC (COSCO BC) wishes to draw your attention to the [Human Rights Council \(HRC\)](#) of the United Nations (UN), which will hold its 58th session from 24th February to 4th April 2025 in Geneva. Ahead of the 58th session, we understand that the core group of Member States leading the work on the human rights of older persons at the HRC will present a draft procedural resolution for negotiation and possible adoption at the 58th session.

We understand this draft resolution will respond to the [General Assembly resolution 78/324](#) that, among other things, urges relevant UN bodies, respecting the relevant mandate, to further consider the recommendations as adopted by the UN [Open-ended Working Group on Ageing](#) (OEWGA) in its [decision 14/1](#) (from para 28). We are expecting that the draft resolution will propose the creation of a new process to advance the dedicated discussions on the human rights of older persons by working on the content of a new international legally binding instrument.

COSCO BC supports the Canadian Coalition Against Ageism (CCAA) in that we want a strong resolution to be adopted by consensus which will be an essential next step forward in building on the rich evidence base compiled by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the OEWGA that States, civil society organizations, National Human Rights Institutions and other stakeholders have actively contributed to over 14 years. We should also build on the strong evidence gathered by OHCHR following the HRC resolutions [48/3](#) and [54/13](#). It is vital that all the resources invested in this work are not wasted.

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The adoption of this resolution will enable the Human Rights Council to comply with General Assembly resolution 78/324 and fulfill the Council mandate to make concrete progress in strengthening the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons around the world.

COSCO BC is British Columbia's largest independent seniors organization representing 70 affiliated groups with a combined membership of over 80,000 people. As a non-partisan voice for BC Seniors, we presented to the May 2024 meeting of the OEWGA in New York to highlight important gaps in the human rights of older persons which in our view can only be filled through developing the content of the instrument mentioned above.

We request that you support and participate in these negotiations. We would also welcome your vocal support for the full, meaningful and effective participation of older people and civil society in any new process that is created.

Yours sincerely

Leslie Gaudette

President

COSCO BC is an Active member of the Canadian Coalition Against Ageism a project of International Longevity Centre Canada



COSCO BC is an active member of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People, a coalition of 400 civil society organisations worldwide working together to strengthen older people's rights globally.

cc:

The Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs melanie.joly@parl.gc.ca
The Honourable Arif Virani Minister of Justice Arif.virani@parl.gc.ca
Parliamentary Secretary (BC) for Seniors Services and Long-Term Care, Susie Chant

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