



Register Now!



Human Rights and Ageing: *Advocating for an Equitable Future*

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

 October 3 - 5, 2025
 Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel
 **Contact** conference@coscobc.org

Coscobc.org

REGISTRATION OPENS:

Friday, October 3, 2025 at 6:00pm with Wine and Cheese Reception
Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel - 7511 Westminster Highway, Richmond BC

DAY 1: Saturday, October 4, 2025

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| 7:30am <i>Registration continues</i> | AFTERNOON THEME: Health Care for Older Adults |
| WELCOME AND GREETINGS: | |
| 8:30am Leslie Gaudette - President, Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC (COSCO BC) Province of BC City of Richmond First Nations Trish McAuliffe - President, National Pensioners Federation | 1:30pm Entertainment |
| 8:50am Terri Van Steinburg - Conference Facilitator: <i>Overview of conference, and what we hope to achieve</i> | 1:45pm KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Ministry of Health - Province of British Columbia - <i>TBC</i> |
| MORNING THEME: Ageism and Human Rights | 2:15pm KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Kasari Govender BC Human Rights Commissioner |
| 9:00am KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Bob Rae Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations, <i>invited</i> | 2:45pm PANEL DISCUSSION: HEALTH CARE IN COMMUNITY Moderator: Louise Holland Speaker <i>TBC</i> - Team-based primary care and Community Health Centres Scott deLong - Role of Home Support , BC General Employees Union Barb Nederpal - Care Can't Wait Campaign , Health Employees Union Penny McCourt - Quality of Life for Seniors in LTC , Action for Reform of Residential Care |
| 9:30am KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Margaret Gillis President, International Longevity Centre (ILC) Canada and co-founder of the Canadian Coalition Against Ageism | 3:30pm <i>BRIEF STRETCH BREAK</i> |
| 10:00am PANEL DISCUSSION: Ageism and Human Rights. Moderator: Margot Greenwood - BC Senator, Government of Canada Olive Bryanton - Advocate for rights of older people and Social Researcher, U of PEI. Jacky Leung - Program manager, S.U.C.C.E.S.S Margaret Young - Global Alliance on the Rights of Older Persons (GAROP) Zena Simces - Board member, International Longevity Centre, Canada. | 3:45pm Workshops (moderated and led by keynote and panelists) |
| 11:00am <i>COFFEE BREAK</i> | <hr/> 5. Team-based Primary Care and Community Health Centres |
| 11:30am Workshops (moderated and led by keynote and panelists) | 6. Role of Home Support |
| <hr/> 1. UN Convention and Rights of Older Persons | 7. Care Can't Wait Campaign in Long-term Care |
| 2. Understanding Ageism: An Age-Friendly Lens | 8. Quality of life for seniors in LTC |
| 3. Cultural Perspectives on Ageism and Human Rights | <hr/> 4:45pm <i>RECESS</i> |
| 4. Indigenous Perspectives on Ageism and Human Rights | EVENING EVENTS: |
| 12:30pm <i>LUNCH</i> | 5:30pm <i>NO HOST BAR, MUSICAL INTERLUDE.</i> |
| | 6:30pm 75th Anniversary Gala Dinner - MC Andy Ross - Entertainer Charles Demers - Special 75th Anniversary Video |

DAY 2: Sunday, October 5, 2025

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| <p>8:00am Opening remarks and Introductions: Terri Van Steinburg - Overview of Day 2</p> | <p>AFTERNOON THEME: Transportation</p> |
| <p>MORNING THEME: Inequality, Social Connections and Age-Friendly Communities</p> | <p>1:00pm Entertainment</p> |
| <p>8:15am KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dan Levitt - BC Seniors Advocate</p> | <p>1:15pm KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Eric Doherty - Human Rights, Ageing and Transportation</p> |
| <p>8:45am PANEL DISCUSSION: Understanding Inequality for Seniors in BC Iglika Ivanova - BC Society for Policy Solutions Laura Kadowaki - United Way Carole Christopher - Society Promoting Environmental Conservation Speaker TBC - Union of BC Municipalities Speaker TBC - First Nations Perspectives</p> | <p>1:45pm PANEL ON TRANSPORTATION: Moderator: Tim Larsen Speaker TBC - BC Transit Paul Adams - BC Rural Health Network Sarah Ross - Translink Farinaz Rikhtehgaran - B.E.S.T. Best Environmentally Sound Transportation.</p> |
| <p>9:30am PANEL DISCUSSION: Seniors' Centres in Age friendly Environments Moderator: Anthony Kupferschmidt Mei Fang - SFU Department of Gerontology, Seniors Centres in Age-Friendly Cities, Andrew Wister - SFU Department of Gerontology, Senior Centres and Social Isolation Speaker TBC - Prince George Council of Seniors, Challenges for Northern and Rural seniors centres/programs Connie Newman - Manitoba Association of Seniors Centres, Social Prescribing and Deprescribing</p> | <p>2:45pm Speaker TBC - Reflections on the role of COSCO BC as the Voice of BC Seniors since 1950 <i>Note: coffee available in lobby from 2:45 pm (no break)</i></p> |
| <p>10:30am COFFEE BREAK</p> | <p>3:15pm DISCUSSION: "Advocating for an Equitable Future; Strategies for Healthy Ageing" Moderator: Terri Van Steinburg <i>Time for participants to contribute to the discussion, and offer suggestions for equitable and healthy ageing, based on the last two days presentations and discussions.</i></p> |
| <p>11:00am Workshops: (Solutions oriented on age friendly environments: each workshop will be moderated and led by a panelist or invited individual)</p> | <p>3:45pm Leslie Gaudette and Terri Van Steinburg Thanks to our supporters and sponsors of the conference</p> |
| <p>9. Research projects and Seniors Centres</p> | <p>3:55pm Mei Fang Rapporteur Summary report of what we have achieved at this conference</p> |
| <p>10. COSCO Seniors' Health And Wellness Institute: Workshop Overview</p> | <p>4:25pm Wrap up with next steps for conference follow up</p> |
| <p>11. Challenges for Northern and Rural Seniors Centres;</p> | <p>4:30pm ADJOURNMENT</p> |
| <p>12. Social Prescribing and Seniors Centres</p> | |
| <p>12:00pm LUNCH</p> | |

Human Rights and Ageing: *Advocating for an Equitable Future*

This milestone event offers a important opportunity to address the pressing challenges facing our community of older adults. Together, we'll honour 75 years of shared accomplishments and shape a bold, forward-looking vision for COSCO BC; one that meets the needs of today and anticipates the possibilities of tomorrow.

By participating in this two-day conference, you will help form public policies that recognize the vital importance of human rights in promoting healthy ageing for all Canadians.

Insightful ideas. Evidence-based facts. Time to reflect. Cutting-edge research on issues that impact us all.

You'll experience all this and more from our outstanding lineup of speakers and presenters.

Just as vital, a series of interactive workshops will invite participants to share their experiences and wisdom.

We encourage you to join us to learn, contribute, and help shape an equitable future for all through inclusive, sustainable, and age-friendly communities.

Who should participate?

A broad range of individuals and organizations committed to the well-being of older adults, including:

- **Seniors and seniors' advocates**
- **Municipal leaders and planners**, including councillors, social planning staff, parks and recreation professionals, and health authority representatives
- **Elected officials**, including MLAs, Members of Parliament, and First Nations leaders
- **Representatives from federal and provincial departments focused on seniors' issues**
- **Non-governmental organizations**, including social planning councils, senior and community centre staff, agencies supporting older adults, unions, and advocacy groups

A SPECIAL REQUEST

- We encourage **municipal councils** to support the participation of representatives from seniors' advisory and age-friendly committees.
- We invite **provincial ministries** to sponsor delegates from seniors' coordinating bodies, and we urge unions to sponsor members who work directly with or advocate for older adults.

Register early!

Join Us for This Timely and Important National Conference. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 4, and Sunday, October 5, 2025**, at the **Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel, located at 7551 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC, V6X 1A3.**

Registration Fee:

- **General Admission: \$300**
- **Seniors and Students: \$250 (discounted rate)**
- **Virtual \$75.00**

Your registration includes:

- *All conference materials*
- *A welcome reception on Friday, October 3*
- *Two lunches*
- *Our 75th Anniversary Conference Gala Dinner*
- *Four coffee breaks throughout the event*

The recommendations and actions emerging from the conference will be compiled into a **comprehensive report**, shared with all participants, and used to inform and guide the future work of COSCO.

Conference Registration and Information

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

Please submit your registration by
September 12, 2025.

For more information, contact:

- **Terri Van Steinburg** at conference@coscobc.org
- **Leslie Gaudette** at pres@coscobc.org
- **Or visit our website:** www.coscobc.org

*This conference venue has a **maximum capacity of 400 participants.***

*As past COSCO conferences have reached full capacity, we strongly **encourage you to register early** to secure your spot.*

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Limited financial assistance may be available for seniors requiring support with attendance expenses.

To request an application form, please contact

Terri Van Steinburg at conference@coscobc.org