



Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC

Representing seniors in British Columbia since 1950

www.coscobc.org

April 22, 2026

To: UN Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) on Older Persons Human Rights

Re: Response to Invitation for Older Adults to submit input by April 22, 2026

Dear Working Group

We are pleased to learn that the IGWG Committee is seeking input by April 22 from older adults into the drafting of the legally binding instrument on the human rights of older persons. For a non-profit, all-volunteer organization of older persons in BC such as ours, there was simply not sufficient notice for us to organize and to make a considered response.

The Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of B.C. (COSCO BC), the largest federation of seniors-led organizations in British Columbia, strongly supports the work towards a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons. Established in 1950, COSCO BC now represents the interests of 70 affiliated organizations with a combined membership of over 85,000 older adults and retirees located throughout the province of British Columbia, Canada. COSCO BC is a non-profit, non-partisan, independent, volunteer driven society that aims to advance the social and physical welfare of British Columbia's seniors through advocacy, campaigns and education.

We completely agree that older adults must contribute to the drafting of this UN Convention so that it builds on older persons experiences and views. We older people are those who are experiencing ageism and deeply entrenched discrimination because of age in our everyday lives. We firmly reinforce the tenet that older persons are rights holders.

We believe that the views and the value of including older adults' organizations in the process of preparing this new legally binding document must be strongly supported so that the hoped for Convention will have the strength and credibility that it needs to be effective.

We will continue to collaborate with the Global Alliance on the Rights of Older Persons (GAROP), the International Longevity Centre (ILC) Canada and the Canadian Coalition Against Ageism (CCAA) to provide input to future calls. We look forward to hearing further from you about how we can contribute to the process.

Leslie Gaudette

President

Kathleen Jamieson

Chair, COSCO Working Group,
Human Rights of Older Peoples