



Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of B.C.

The Voice of BC Seniors since 1950

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**Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC urges provincial parties
to commit to prioritizing seniors**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Vancouver, BC—As provincial voting day approaches, the Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC (COSCO BC) is urging all provincial parties to commit to prioritizing seniors.

COSCO BC President Leslie Gaudette states, "Seniors have paid their dues. We've worked hard, raised our children, paid our taxes, and voted. And in retirement, we volunteer for the non-profits that ensure services are provided to all."

COSCO BC believes older people have every right to demand our government prioritize their needs, including community health care, accessible housing, and transportation options, so they can live with dignity and respect in the community of their choice.

"Improvements for seniors can make life better for everyone" Gaudette says. "For instance, publicly funded home care will help adult children cope with elder care and work. Affordable, accessible housing and transit will be a boon for low-waged workers. And keeping rents under control will prevent all renters from becoming homeless due to renoviction."

COSCO BC challenges all provincial political parties to enhance their platforms by committing to:

- Developing a seniors' strategy and plan with accountability targets and timelines
- Creating a seniors' ministry so all services and programs are accessed in one place
- Ensuring age-friendly communities through housing, mobility, and local planning
- Funding seniors' centres as a core community-based service
- Funding home support as a public service that relieves the pressure on long-term care
- Funding and enabling municipalities to build deeply affordable non-market housing
- Preventing extreme rent increases by implementing vacancy control
- Increasing SAFER rent supplements so no senior ends up homeless
- Reversing changes to the property tax deferment program from the 2026 BC Budget
- Increasing and indexing the Senior's Supplement and increasing the income threshold

Here's the reality for older adults in BC:

The number of adults age 65 and over is rising in BC, and they now account for almost 20% of residents or about 1.2 million persons. Improvements in health care have given seniors longer and healthier lives than their parents and grandparents, but many seniors live on very low incomes in their later years. About 600,000 older adults live on \$3,000 or less per month, including about 300,000 living on less than \$2,000 per month. And although some say all seniors are rich homeowners, about 30% of seniors are renters.

More information is available in the special election edition of the COSCO BC News:
<https://coscobc.org/cosco-newsletter-special-election-edition/>

About COSCO BC

Established in 1950, the Council of Senior Citizens' Organization (COSCO BC) is a charitable non-profit umbrella organization made up of 78 affiliated seniors' organizations and individual associate members. COSCO BC represents more than 85,000 seniors across British Columbia. COSCO BC is run by volunteers including an elected Board of Directors. As the voice of BC seniors, our mandate is to promote the well-being of seniors and their families, advocating for policies that allow seniors to remain active, independent, and fully engaged in the life of our province. The organization is non-partisan, but politically active, advocating for seniors' needs no matter who is in power.

For more information, please visit www.coscobc.org.

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