

Services to Seniors Coalition – North Shore

Co-Chairs

- Trish Alsop, *North Shore Neighbourhood House, and John Braithwaite Community Centre*
- Margaret Coates, *Lionsview Seniors' Planning Society*

About the Coalition

The *Lionsview Seniors' Planning Society* is the host agency for the Services to Seniors Coalition – North Shore. The Coalition has been operating since 1992 and is the planning table for issues facing seniors and services to seniors on the North Shore. The 50+ participating organizations and individuals represent a wide spectrum of service providers. We come together as the Coalition to network, plan services and supports strategically, and set priorities and target resources for collaborative action.

Contact the Coalition

C/o Lionsview Seniors' Planning Society
1733 Lions Gate Lane
North Vancouver
Tel: 604 988-7115 ex 4001
Email: lions_view@telus.net
www.lionsviewseniorsplanning.com

Notes

Tuesday, November 21, 2023
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm
Silver Harbour Seniors Activity Centre
Auditorium

1. Welcome: Annwen Loverin
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Presentation – Seniors Advocate – Isobel MacKenzie

This excellent presentation started with an overview of the status of Seniors in British Columbia

BC Snapshot – The Facts

- 95% - Seniors 65+ Live independently
- 77% - Seniors 85+ Live independently
- 9% - Seniors 85+ Live in assisted living
- 13% - Seniors 85% Live-in long-term care

- 80 % - Seniors 65+ are homeowners. More importantly 20% are not.
- 6% - Seniors have a diagnosis of cognitive impairment. This indicates that dementia is not a natural part of aging.

- 14% - Seniors 65 + are employed.
- 41+ - 65 + are volunteers.

- 88% - Seniors who have a drivers licence at 65yrs
- 58% - Seniors who have a drivers licence at 85yrs
- 40% - Seniors who have a drivers licence over 85 yrs.

Data from 2022 income tax information
Medium income: \$32,990
Average income: \$47,660

This information translates in the following trends.
Most seniors will live in their own home until their end.
Most seniors will have to give up their driver's license.
The major reason for hanging up the car keys is because of diminished vision.

Seniors that do not own their own home are usually renters. These seniors are vulnerable these days.

Government funding support (CPP and OAS) is not keeping pace with the increased cost of living.

The age to receive these supports will have to increase in the future. Denmark is currently providing support at 67 with plans to increase to 71 soon. France tried to change their age for receiving government support but there was a major community uproar.

Divorce for adults 50+ is increasing. Women in these circumstances end up being the most disadvantaged.

The cost of living is increasing and seniors without homes will be left behind.

The right to live with risk. As we age, we would like to be able to choose our housing situation. Our community would like to see people move into supportive housing when they feel they are at risk living in their own home. Well intentioned family members and community health professionals are making decisions on behalf of seniors and must allow the senior to have a choice in this decision and to be more tolerant.

Care Facilities currently are not able to meet the minimum health requirements to support individuals living there. There is a 3.6 hr. personal care daily requirement. The recommendation is to increase this to 4 hr. personal care daily. A lack of staff to meet this need is the reason for this challenge.

Seniors in care facilities in Canada are grouped together by age and capacity. We are putting large groups of people together and expecting them to enjoy each other, and have a great quality of life when they have very little in common with the community of seniors they find themselves with. Denmark's model allows seniors to be grouped together by looking at their interests. This is a very expensive model that requires a max. 6 people living together. It is successful.

It is ageism to suggest that all seniors will get along with each other because of their age.

Reflections:

- The country cares very much about seniors
- There has been a great deal of focus and attention on seniors.
- The Government is spending more money on supporting seniors 65+
- There will be difficult decisions ahead.

Immigration is essential as we move forward because many of the health care professionals come from other countries. We are currently dealing with a shortage in all facets of health care. The challenge will be to find affordable housing for them when they arrive.

1) Next meeting: January 16, 2024

Lionsview Seniors' Planning Society acknowledges and honours that we live and work on the unceded territories of the Coastal Salish people, including the St'at'imc, S? wxwú7mesh (Squamish), x?m??k??y??m (Musqueam) and s?!?ilw?ta?? (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.