



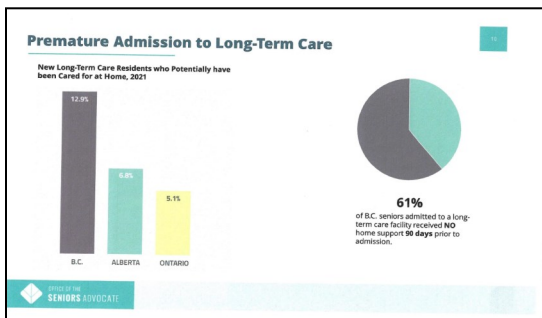
BC 04
Branch Update (#5)
May 2023

Seniors Advocate: **Make Home Support Services “Free” to save \$\$, reduce pressures on ERs, Long -Term Care and Family Caregivers**

At the end of February, the Seniors Advocate for BC issued a report calling for a restructuring of home support services for seniors. Ms. Mackenzie noted, “The majority of provinces do not charge for home support services. B.C. does charge and is the most expensive.” For example, a single senior with an annual income of \$29,000, must pay \$9,000 a year for a one-hour daily visit of home support. As a result, people who could manage at home with a relatively minor level of support either do not access the support they need, adding to the stress of family caregivers, or they go into long-term care sooner than they otherwise would have had to. The report says, “B.C.’s rate of newly admitted long-term care residents with low care needs is twice as high as Alberta and Ontario who do not charge for home support and is 34% higher than the national average.”



A long-term care bed for a senior with a \$29,000 annual income costs the government \$60,000 per year; providing one hour of home care per day would cost \$14,000. “We must recognize the cost barrier to home support is causing pressures in other parts of the system as we see increased wait times for long-term care and crowding in emergency rooms,” Ms. Mackenzie said. In addition to eliminating the financial barrier to home support services, she noted a need to ‘modernize care plans’, pointing out that “almost one third of home support clients need additional services such as housekeeping, meal preparation and laundry...” “There was a major shift in the 1990’s when housekeeping, laundry and meal preparation were formally removed as routine home support services. Over the last decade, there appears to be an informal drift to eliminating more and more services and an increased reliance on family members. The current approach fails to capture the daily changing needs of home support clients...”

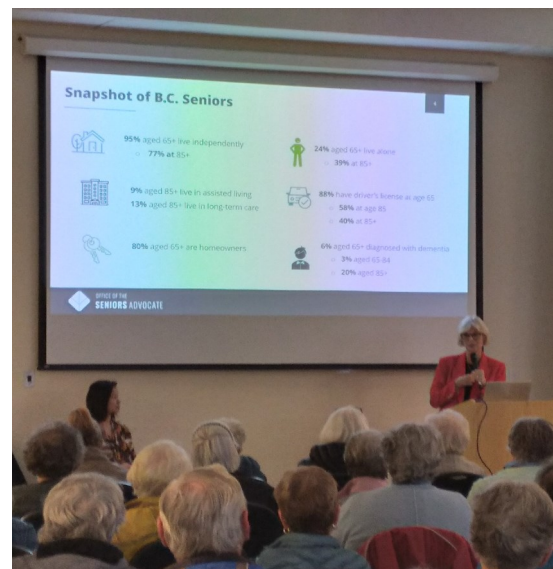


Branch volunteers are at work spreading the home care message. We took the opportunity to speak with Shirley Bond, Shadow Cabinet minister for Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care at a coffee

meeting hosted by Surrey-White Rock MLA Trevor Halford on April 21st met and we have scheduled meetings with Fraser Health leaders.

Take the time to read the Advocate’s report:

[We Must Do Better: Home Support Services for B.C. Seniors – Seniors Advocate](#)



Just the facts, ma’am:

Isobel Mackenzie presenting her research at a Lunch and Learn event sponsored by the Semiahmoo Seniors Planning Table.

Estimated annual cost to Health Authority Of 1 hr home support vs Long-Term Care (single senior, annual income \$29,000)		Key Recommendations:	
	Home support	LTC	
Estimated cost	\$14,100	\$82,100	- Eliminate financial barrier
Client contributes	eliminated	\$22,200	- Increase respite care
Cost to Health Authority	\$14,100	\$59,100	- Standardize and set targets for all aspects of service delivery
			- Modernize care plans
			- Measure, monitor and report on performance

As the century turned....

One of the great pleasures associated with the 60th anniversary celebrations has been connecting with some of our long-standing members, George Davies being one. George served as Branch president from 1999-2002 and as Regional Director for BC 2003-2006. He had a 33-year career with the Department of



Communications as a research scientist, exploring the potential of satellite communications. He served all 33 years in Ottawa, having been hired directly after graduating from UBC in 1954 at age 21(!). He and his family returned to BC in 1993, settling in South Surrey. George, still in his '50's, continued to commute frequently to

Ottawa to work on aspects of Telesat.

Around the turn of the century (remember Y2K...?), the Branch was holding quarterly meetings at the Crescent Beach Legion, and active board members included Jack Grant and Judy Scott. Jack followed George as Branch president in 2003, and Judy followed Jack in 2005. During the time George was Regional Director, Dennis Jackson was the National President and Jean-Guy Soulière was the Association's Executive Director. (Dennis has remained active in the Association, serving as Vancouver Branch president until last year and is currently a candidate for District Director; Jean-Guy, of course, went on to serve two terms as National President 2015-2021). George recalls that one big challenge gripping the national board in those days was the project of digitizing membership records; like (it seems) every IT project, it became controversial as costs blew past initial estimates.

George continues to follow Federal Retirees news and regrets that his health didn't allow him to join the conga line at the Branch's 60th anniversary celebration. George and Catherine were married for 59 years, until her death in 2015. He has three children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and looks forward to their visits on the weekends.

Keep in touch!

Call Ian (604) 753-7845 or email nafrbc04@gmail.com :

- To update your address or contact info
- To arrange a listing in the "in Memoriam" section in Sage magazine.

Mark your calendars...

Meet and Chat' (informal coffee meeting)

with hosts **Karin and Sten Christiansen** ' on Thursday, May 11th, 1—3 p.m.
At the Centre for Active Living,
1475 Anderson Street, White Rock
Next to the Centennial Arena).
(Note: **Pay Parking in effect: this is White Rock**)

Coffee, tea and cookies (!!!) will be provided. The Branch has many members in South Surrey / White Rock, so we hope for a good turnout. But all members—and potential members - are welcome, of course.

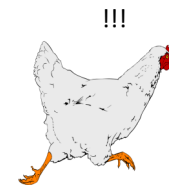
RSVP by May 9th, to Karin at kscortes@telus.net
604-531-0582 so we know how many cookies to bake.

If you have a friend who is eligible to be a member - whether they're still in service, recently-retired, or long-retired but just 'forgot' to join—bring that lucky person along!**

****Who is eligible? Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP Veterans, Federal Public Servants and their spouses, partners or survivors - anyone who receives or contributes to a federal superannuation pension. You do not have to be retired to be a member of Federal Retirees!**

Don't forget the barbecue! and Branch General Meeting

Wednesday, July 19th
Peace Arch Park
Doors open at 11, meeting at 11:30,
followed by excellent Chicken barbecue
by Henry's Outdoor Barbecue.
\$20 Members \$20 Non-Members Bring a new member!
(Yes, Virginia, there is a veggie burger option!)
And, no doubt, there will be Special Anniversary Cake!



Register by July 12th, via Eventbrite at
[Summer General Meeting and BBQ Lunch Tickets, Wed, 19 Jul 2023 at 11:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
or call Katherine at (778) 995-6136

Semiahmoo Seniors Lunch and Learn events (free lunch!!!)

- May 24th—Fraser Health Home Health Services: Who-What-Why & When
- June 15th—Urban Gardening 101 with A Rocha
- June 29th—Misinformation and Disinformation—Preventing an "Infodemic" - RCMP

Registration required. Call (604) 541-8653 or email admin@comfortkeepersvancouver.ca

