

COSCO Delegates Minutes
Hastings Community Centre
October 19, 2018

1. Gudrun Langolf called the meeting to order at 10:00 am
2. **Guest Speakers:** Kari Michaels and Rodrigo Samayoa from BCGEU on the topic of affordable housing
3. **M/S/C that the agenda be adopted**
4. Guests/New Members
5. **M/S/C that the minutes of the November 9, 2018 meeting be adopted as circulated**
6. Business arising from the minutes - none
7. Other Reports:
 - a. President - Gudrun Langolf (**Attached**)
Gudrun reported that the Stay on the Road program completed 17 workshops with over 650 participants and that COSCO has applied for funding to continue the program and meet the current requests
 - b. 1st Vice President – Sheila Pither
 - c. 2nd Vice President – John Wynne
John reported on the BC Hydro plan to create a fund for assisting low-income customers that need help to pay their bill
 - d. Treasurer – Betty Bolton (**Attached**)
M/S/C adoption of the report
 - e. Membership – Linda Forsythe
Affiliates - 67
Associates – 117
An electronic copy of the revised policy book will be sent with the minutes and will be posted on the website
 - f. Communications – Betty Bolton (**Attached**)
Betty circulated a survey to the delegates asking for the number of COSCO News they need to distribute to their group(s), the survey will also be circulated at the November delegates meeting
 - g. Health - Kathleen Jamieson (**Attached**)
 - h. Housing – Barb Mikulec (**Attached**)

A thank you letter was sent to the BC Government for following through on reducing the rent increases from 4.5% to 2,5%

- i. Income Security – Linda Frosythe **(Attached)**
- j. Health & Wellness Institute – Barb Mikulec **(Attached)**
The Institute workshop program need a coordinator, contact Barb for more information
- k. Strategic Planning & Policy – Leslie Gaudette **(Attached)**
- l. Seniors’ Advocate Advisory Council **(Attached)**
- m. **BC Government Retired Employees’ Assn.** Wayne Dermody
Their AGM was held last Wednesday, there were no changes, there was good support for COSCO and Wayne thanked Jean for bring the COSCO News to the meeting
- n. **BC Old Age Pensioners’ Org.** Jerry Gosling **(Attached)**
The resolutions from their June AGM have been sent to the appropriate federal and provincial ministers and critics
- o. **BC Retired Teachers’ Assn.** Barb Mikulec **(Attached)**
Barb thanked Linda and Gudrun for attending the AGM
- p. **BC Forum** Diane Wood **(Attached)**
Participants in the NPF rally carried CLC flags on pharmacare
CLC convention will be the last week in November
- q. National Pensioners Federation – Pat Brady, Kathleen Jamieson **(Attached)**
- r. Other reports
 - IDOP repost **(Attached)**
Please report all related activities to Agnes and the seniors voice website
 - During the mail strike postal workers have committed to getting social assistance cheques OAS and CPP out
 - Gudrun reported that she spoke with the new federal minister for seniors and will follow up with COSCO’s priorities

8. New Business: There was a discussion on the upcoming mail vote on electoral reform. You will be receiving your voting package in the mail between October

22 and November 2 from elections BC and elections BC must receive your ballot by 4:40 pm on November 30

You can register to vote and/or update your address at www.elections.bc.ca

Look for the voters guide coming in the mail for more information, many organizations also have information on their website

9. Correspondence – The file circulated during the meeting
10. Announcements: Gudrun announced that I would no longer be involved in the coordination of the Stay on the Road Program. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the COSCO members who attended the workshops. Many members and affiliates helped with the publicity and logistics in their area, this assistance was invaluable. I would especially like to thank Betty Bolton who took on the task of keeping the accounts for the project.
Annette
11. Good and Welfare
12. Adjournment at 11:55 am

Next Meeting: Friday November 9, 2018 at 10:00am at Hastings Community Centre

Excerpts from our guest speaker's material:

Building an Affordable B.C.

Taxing speculation and investing in our neighborhoods to solve the housing affordability crisis.

The Problem

B.C. is one of the most expensive places in the world to live, particularly in the Metro Vancouver area. Fewer working families and individuals are able to purchase a home than ever before. Homelessness is growing more widespread and increasingly severe. Even those with good jobs and stable incomes are now finding it difficult to rent, many are forced to leave the area making it difficult for employers to fill vacancies.

Seniors on a fixed income are more vulnerable to price increases; many are already spending more than 30% of their income on housing.

The Cause

The principal reasons for persistent and longstanding growth of real estate prices in B.C. (and in Metro Vancouver especially) are various.

They include:

- Desirability of B.C. and Metro Vancouver as locations
- Population growth
- Increased speculation
- Sustained low interest rates
- Larger real estate loans by financial institutions

- Outdated zoning and land-use policies
- Foreign Investment
- Speculative Value Vs. Productive Value

The more troubling, underlying cause of our situation, however, is that housing and property is being treated primarily as a financial asset rather than a place to live.

The Plan

Our vision rests on the assumption that being able to rent or own appropriate housing is a basic condition of the social contract for working people in a democracy. In the absence of a stable and fair-paying job, or faced with other adverse circumstances, we also hold that ours is a society where those who need help finding a safe and supportive place to live will be provided that publicly.

With these simple guiding principles in mind, we think that a meaningful plan for addressing B.C.'s housing affordability crisis requires the following:

1. Reducing speculation and harmful profit seeking.
2. Stabilizing prices and reaching a new market equilibrium.
3. Restoring fairness and equity.
4. Enhancing revenue and resources for public investment in affordable housing and infrastructure.
5. Broadening access to quality public and non-market housing.
6. Reducing economic risk posed by excessive lending, household debt and inflated prices.

While many of B.C.'s housing affordability problems are the result of poor policy choices, there are concrete actions local government can take right now to make things better.

1. The 30% formula to define affordable housing.
2. Rental zoning to increase and protect the supply of affordable rental housing.
3. Fast-track affordable construction.
4. The 50/50 model where all future private density increases should be matched with an equal increase in public density.
5. Development cost waivers that target incentives for affordable rental construction.
6. 10-year tax waivers for public and non-market affordable rental housing construction.
7. Build on public land
8. Land value capture using TransLink's existing powers to tax a portion of the significant land value increases in properties close to mass transit lines and other publicly funded infrastructure.

For more information and details of their plan contact:

Kari Michaels – kari.michaels@bcgeu.ca or 1 800 663 1674

To: COSCO Executive [Delegates]
From: Gudrun Langolf
Re: President's Activity Report September 7, 2018 to October 19

*Please note – These are selective items only. A **date in bold** indicates a COSCO undertaking – Simply underlined date may be significant for seniors but is not strictly a COSCO issue...*

- Sept 7** – regular COSCO Exec mtg plus Strategic Planning & Policy
- Sept 11** – '**Staying on the Road**' workshop with Betty Bolton in Bby 50
- Sept 12** – visit with **Art Kube** [Sheila Pither & Annette O'Connor]
- Sept 13** – With Sheila Pither and John Wynne fundraising in Abbotsford
- Sept 14** – COSCO regular Delegates 'mtg
- Sept 20** – **BC Retired Teachers' AGM** meet & greet – Linda Forsythe staffed the info table
- I was guest at the BCRTA dinner
- Sept 21 – am COV SAC regular cttee mtg
- Sept 21**- pm – (at the Children's Hospital complex) **MLA Mitzi Dean, Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity, with Minister Dix**, announced that B.C. is first in Canada to report dense breast tissue results directly to all women and their health-care providers with their screening mammogram results
- Link to image: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/bcgovphotos/44782577292/>
- Sept 22** – With Navin Goburdhun attended **media event** at the Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminster – Ministers Dix and Darcy announced opening of new facility and plans for renovating the existing hospital
- Sept 25 to 27** – attended the **National Pensioners' Federation** Convention in Regina
- Oct 2 – Municipal Pension Retirees (**MPRA**) regular meeting of District 36 – Vancouver
- Oct 3** – Vancouver Municipal and Regional Retirees Association (**VMRRA**) regular membership mtg
- Oct 4** – COSCO Health & Wellness Institute board mtg at Hastings CC
- Oct 4** – telephone conference with Minister for Seniors, Filomena Tassi (in Ottawa)
- Oct 5** – regular COSCO Exec mtg followed by Strategic Planning & Policy cttee mtg

Upcoming

Oct 10 – regular VMRRA exec mtg

Oct 11 – Attend Jewish Seniors Alliance AGM: honouring Sheila Pither – recognizing her tireless efforts on behalf of seniors

Oct 12 – COSCO Communications Cttee mtg at GEU bldg in Bby 10am Nootka Rm 2nd floor

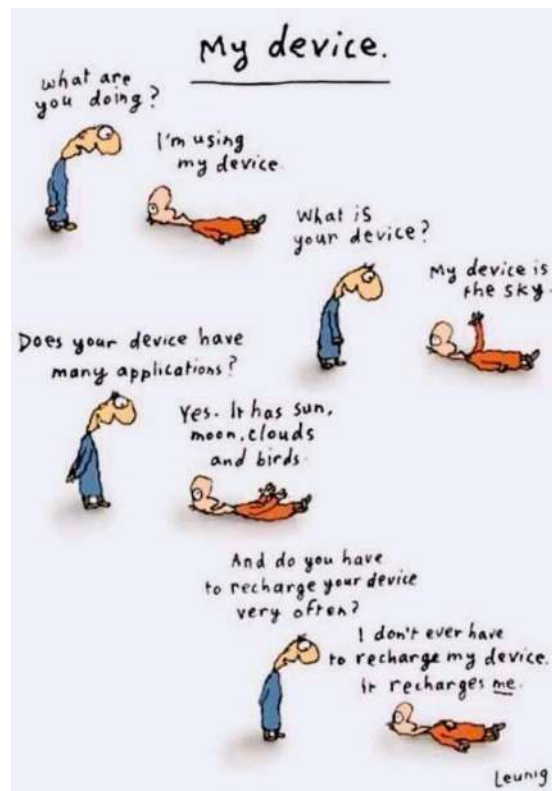
Oct 18 – Evening Langara College Retirees - attending a session with/by Alan Cassels of the Therapeutics Initiative

Oct 19 – **regular COSCO Delegates' mtg** [changed from the 12th]!!

Oct 26- COSCO Board retreat 10am to 2:30 at BCGEU [Bby]

Oct 30 – 11am to 2pm Halloween Lunch hosted by VMRRA

REMINDER until Oct 15 - BC Budget Consultations in Vancouver



September 2018 Report – First Vice-President Sheila Pither

For me much of September was devoted to travel, conferences and workshops. Our Stay on the Road workshop has continued to attract people who want to know what to expect as they near the age of 80 and face driver assessment.

We have continued to be accompanied by ICBC driver examiners and occupational therapists who help people to understand the benefits of adapting their vehicles to gain maximum safety and comfort. Now all we need is funding to allow us to continue to present the workshop in the many communities where we have been invited to continue the program. We have applied for a federal New Horizons grant and asked the provincial government to contribute. If money comes in we will continue the program. If it doesn't we can't. Just that simple.

On a personal note, I have decided to surrender my driver's license. Not an easy decision but for health reasons I am not willing to get behind the wheel. I will admit that driving conditions in Vancouver have influenced this decision. Friends and family members have asked me how I feel about giving up the freedom and convenience that driving provides. Truth is, I feel a great sense of relief. I know that I will never injure or kill anyone because I drove when I was fragile health-wise.

On an entirely different subject, the National Pensioners' Federation convention in Regina was well organized, with very knowledgeable guest speakers and interesting reports and resolutions. I am proud of all the work that COSCO does to keep this particular group afloat. I believe that one of the main goals should be to make the NPF truly national, with representatives from every province and territory. Strength in numbers is a trite but true adage.

2018 marks my 20th year of retirement. Older and wiser?? I'm afraid I can only claim the first of these attributes but one out of two isn't bad.

Respectfully submitted

Sheila Pither

COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS' ORGANIZATIONS OF B.C.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - SEPTEMBER, 2018

COSCO Accounts

Bank Balance - August 31, 2018 \$ 29,657.65

Income - September, 2018

Affiliates \$ 70.00

Associates \$ 100.00

Donation - Directed \$ -

Donation - Undirected \$ 250.00

Interest \$ 6.57

Total Income for September, 2018 \$ 426.57

Expenses - September, 2018:

Delegate Mtgs. \$ 33.76

Committee Mtg. \$ 25.59

Office \$ -

Website \$ -

Equipment/Locker Rental \$ 244.83

Newsletter \$ -

Representation/Campaigns \$ -

Conferences/NPF AGM \$ 404.93

Memberhips \$ -

Cttee. Travel/Mileage \$ 40.00

In Kind Comp. \$ 900.00

Donations/Gifts/Cards \$ -

Societies Act \$ -

Insurance \$ -

Charge to Reserve Fund \$ -

Misc. \$ -

Total Expenses for September, 2018 \$ 1,649.11

Balance at September 30, 2018 \$ 28,435.11 \$ 28,435.11

New Horizons Driving Workshop (starting income \$30,000)

Bank Balance - August 31, 2018 \$ 4,905.04

Income - September, 2018 \$ -

Expenses - September, 2018 \$ 2,621.37

Balance at September 30, 2018 \$ 2,283.67 \$ 2,283.67

Total Bank Balance at September 30, 2018 \$ 30,718.78

Reserve Fund (Term Deposit) \$ 20,000.00

Total Funds on hand at September 30, 2018 \$ 50,718.78

COSCO Health Committee Report--- October, 2018

National Pensioners Federation Convention:

Several COSCO members attended the NPF Convention September 25-27 at the Hilton hotel in Regina. COSCO submitted a number of resolutions that passed with the exception of one --- a health committee resolution concerning seniors' health and safety in subsidized seniors' housing. This resolution triggered a lively debate among the attendees. Attendees also participated in 3 workshops: pensions, national pharmacare, and seniors housing. I facilitated the pharmacare workshop and also gave an annual report on the work of the NPF Health Committee. Jerry Gosling presented on the Deprescribing Network. Trish McAuliffe was elected President of NPF. Pat Brady of COSCO was elected 3rd Vice president and I was elected member at large.

B.C. Health Coalition:

The bargaining for a new contract with BCHC staff continues but It looks like the agreement will be signed very soon. A new staff member, Nadine Nakagawa, has been recruited (to replace Nat) and will start work at BCHC on October 12. She is one of 4 exceptionally well-qualified candidates interviewed for the position. She worked as a constituency assistant for Minister Darcy.

Bilateral agreements on Home Care and Mental Health:

COSCO received a letter mid September in response to a letter to Minister Dix asking whether B.C. has signed a bilateral agreement on the targeted home care and mental health funding. The letter said that B.C. has signed and that an announcement would be made shortly.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Jamieson

Chair, COSCO Health Committee

COSCO Housing Committee report- October

Many thanks to Committee Members: Linda, Roz, Agnes, Charan, Barb

Actions during the last year: the committee worked together on five resolutions which were presented to COSCO in the spring, debated, updated, and passed.

These resolutions will go to the National Pensioners Federation in Regina in the fall.

Issues include:

1. Implement 'Annual portable renters' rebate program', under the National Housing Strategy.
2. Address homelessness including 'Temporary Housing Programs', using structures which are not currently needed for housing.
3. Encourage 'land trust and lease extensions' to help co-ops which have their leases expiring.
4. Create 'Homeowners Expense Deferral Account' for a catastrophic cost, such as a roof or furnace repair.
5. Arrange 'rent banks' for tenants in crisis, to secure a tenancy and pay damage deposit, etc.

Roz spoke about 'Manufactured Homes issues' and her views had press coverage.

Improved policies are now implemented to give better compensation for Parks threatened with sale.

Roz and Leslie Gaudette spoke at the 'Rental Housing Task Force' and submitted a brief on behalf of the Langley Seniors Community Action Table about housing initiatives on 'mixed use' of housing.

Barb attended Health Minister Adrian Dix's announcements on health services and met Seniors Minister Anne Kang. MLA Kang invited COSCO representatives to her office to discuss issues, Barb attended.

Barb and Gudrun attended an open house invitation at 'Kaslo Modular Housing for Homeless persons'.

Housing Minister Selina Robinson announces 'Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER)' funding increases, as well as the rent ceiling is raised for getting subsidy for rental costs beginning September, 2018.

Barb prepared the National Pensioners Federation report on national homelessness for their newsletter and AGM, as NPF Housing Chair. The powerpoint federal 'Housing Issues' presented to delegates there.

Current issues:

-Issue of over 4% increase in rental costs stretches the budgets of people on fixed incomes.

-Increases in Home Adaptations for Independence HAFI, allowing secondary units in apartments.

-Relaxed zoning for additional density for housing.

-Affordability questions, repurposing housing stock, underused housing, building more modular housing.

-Consult First Nations about housing needs and timely responses on urgent issues.

Housing

Last month the Delegates meeting had a suggestion of a letter from COSCO showing concern about the rent increase pending but this 4.5% increase is now under review by the Residential Tenancy Branch of the government of BC and their recommendation maximum rent increase is now the cost of inflation (2.5%) for 2019. Landlords are concerned that this rate will not give them enough for expenses of their properties, but some tenants find affordability is a serious concern. Housing will remain a hot topic coming into the elections of October 20th.

Nationally, Barb gave a powerpoint presentation on federal Housing Strategy updates for the National Pensioners Federation (NPF) at their convention in Regina in September. She continues as their Housing Chair.

Income Security Report to COSCO Executive October 2018

We met on September 14th.

We decided to do a submission to the budget. However, we have less than 2 weeks to do it. Anyone who has a pressing issue, please send it to me.

We lightly touch on the Disability Tax Credit, hoping to make it a refundable one.

We want to go forward with a meeting with the Finance Minister. The best times before Christmas are in the first 2 weeks of December. We need to discuss the topics and people who would make up the delegation as the Executive committee meeting.

Our motion to NPF to raise the OAS to \$2,000 monthly passed.

Linda Forsythe, for the Income Security committee

Submission by COSCO to the Provincial Budget

The Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC (COSCO/BC) represents thousands of seniors throughout the province. We are a volunteer, non-profit organization and work to secure fair and equal treatment for all seniors in the province. Specifically we work in the areas of health care (including home support and Pharmacare), housing, transportation and income security. We are happy for the opportunity to express our position on Budget 2019 for British Columbia.

Seniors account for more than 20% of the population in BC, the majority being women.

Women are twice as likely as men to live alone. Poverty is a serious problem for many seniors, both men and women, and as the BC Seniors Advocate points out many are faced with untenable choices: pay rent or buy food; buy food or buy medications; buy food or pay heat and hydro.

We would like to propose the following to be included in Budget 2019.

1. Increase the Seniors Supplement that is currently \$49.30 a month and has not increased since 1989.

2. Adjust provincial social program criteria upward to take into account indexes to federal pensions. Presently seniors have these increased amounts clawed back from provincial programs.
3. Provide more subsidized housing where renters pay no more than 30% of their gross income as rent.
4. Attach rent increases to the unit, not the renter.
5. Match SAFER grants to the amount of rent increases (2.5% in the coming year).
6. Create a plan for home owners facing catastrophic repairs (furnaces, roofs, windows). The plan could be modeled after the Property tax deferral plan, whereby low-income seniors could borrow money for their home repairs and pay it back upon sale of the house. Fund this plan.
7. Ensure that people being evicted from Manufactured homes receive fair and equitable compensation for their units.
8. Roll the cost of the medical examination of drivers in their 80s into the MSP. To be forced to pay for these checkups is discriminatory.
9. Expand the low-income bus pass to include any senior earning less than \$25,000 per year.
10. Expand the Pharmacare program to include eyewear, hearing aids, mobility devices and dental care.
11. Make home support and home care free of charge to seniors earning less than \$25,000.
12. Enhance nutritional support programs for seniors.
13. Support 'rent banks' for those who need to borrow to pay their rent. Include the speed of access in this request as many seniors have immediate needs.
14. Regulate and fund adequate staff to implement and enforce new (and old) regulations around housing.
15. Provide core funding for independent community-based senior centres that offer multicultural programs. And provide subsidies for a regular meal program at these centres.
16. Provide seniors centres with the infrastructure and resources for Information and Referral programs so that seniors get help navigating the requirements for access to programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our proposal.

Gudrun Langolf,
President, COSCO/BC

Report from SP&P Committee to COSCO Board of Directors – Oct 2018

1. Recommendations to COSCO Board :

- 1.1 That the COSCO Board appoint a small ad hoc Federal Election Committee. This committee will need to look at responsibilities and requirements for third party involvement.
- 1.2 That the COSCO Board put a committee in place to plan a conference for 2020.

2. Planning for Board Retreat:

Date: Friday October 26 – room booked at BCGEU Bldg
Survey delegates to obtain input into priorities – *see at end*
Goal of retreat: to set 3 to five priorities for the coming year

3. Regular reporting on progress on three key priorities to Board and Delegates *Sheila agreed to take this on*

4. Responding to Federal and Provincial Initiatives

- **Poverty Reduction Strategy** – done, awaiting announcement from govt.
- **2019 BC Budget Consultation** – Income Security Committee to consider
- **National Pharmacare Consultation:** Written submission sent on Friday September 28
- **Rental Housing Task Force** - report from province to come out in the Fall.

5. Public Forum: Kathleen proposed a forum be planned for 2019

Various options were discussed including one in the Spring on Pharmacare, which would lead up to the Federal Election campaign expected in October 2019 – Further discussion required pending results of retreat.

6. Funding strategies were reviewed.

7. Activities of Committee Chair

Sept 11: conference call, BC Health Coalition Primary Health Care Working Group

Sept 12: conference call, Deprescribing Network Public Awareness Committee

Sept 14: Income Security Committee to provide input to Budget Consultation

Sept 20: LSCAT meeting – update on Mixed Tenancy Housing report

Sept 20: celebration of 40th Anniversary of Fraser Valley West Branch of NAFR.

Sept 21-22: meeting of Seniors Advocate Advisory Council

Sept 25: attended meeting as seniors rep on the Langley Division of Family Practice joint committee on putting together a Primary Care Network

Sept 28: submitted brief on Pharmcare in collaboration with Kathleen and Gudrun

Oct 1: IDOP Flag Raising at City of Langley in morning and Township of Langley in the afternoon.

Oct 3: oral presentation to Fraser Health Authority Board on Mixed Tenancy Housing and release of the report. Response was good. Note: Jim Sinclair is Board Chair, Dr. Victoria Lee

is new President and CEO. Board represents the diversity of the population and includes COSCO Delegate Inderjeet Singh Hundal.

8. Key results of survey:

A. Top Three priorities for COSCO

There is lots of good detail in each of the main categories that will be of interest to the Committee Chairs, here are the high level results.

1. Increase supply of affordable (social, rent-geared-to-income) housing
2. National Pharmacare
3. Standards for Long-term Care

B. Federal Election Issues:

1. Pension Issues
2. National Pharmacare
3. Affordable Housing Strategy

C. Input for Next COSCO Conference

Considerable support for a Charter of Rights and Responsibilities, followed closely by applying a human rights perspective to senior issues, then ageism. Some good comments for review.

Institute

Barb

The COSCO Seniors Health and Housing Institute will hold their regular quarterly meeting on November 2nd. The month of October has 35 confirmed workshops being presented in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island region. Doug Edgar continues to be our representative taking bookings for the Okanagan, Kootenay and northern BC regions. New facilitators have been trained on Vancouver Island in the Parksville area. Our workshop coordinator will have surgery soon, and will need to transition her position. She will continue with updating and presenting the workshops.

Seniors Advocate Mtg

Sept 21/22, 2018.

Isobel McKenzie opened the mtg at 3 pm on the 21st. for a new member orientation and introductions around the room. We had a break from 4-5:30 where we checked into our rooms at the Sheraton.

- CMHC gave a presentation after dinner and we adjourned at 8 p.m.

The 22nd commenced at 8 a.m. with a breakfast served in an adjacent room.

- Isobel did an Advocates update and further intros as more Advocates arrived from the Province.

- Reports from the 5 regions were given.(Northern, Island, Interior, Fraser & Vancouver Coastal)
- The public Trustee gave a report and informative talk with discussion.
- Official photo prior to lunch.
- 5 committees were formed and I am on the disability committee. We will focus on hearing/vision disabilities.
- We met and discussed strategy and reported to the group
- We will have a telecon in Jan, & Feb. just for our committee.
- Adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Next mtg Apr 26 & 27 at the Marriott in Richmond.

Jerry Gosling
Council of Advisers Seniors Advocate

Report from Council of Advisors to the Seniors Advocate – Oct 2018

Sept 20: release of report on *Seniors at Home and in Long-Term Care* was released. Visit <https://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca/osa-reports/report-seniors-at-home-and-in-long-term-care-2017-18-snapshot/>

Sept 21& 22: Council of Advisors Meeting. Evening Speakers on the National Housing Strategy were informative, as well as a speaker from the Office of the Public Guardian. Committees are being formed in five areas, Leslie Gaudette will Co-Chair the committee on Federal Issues. We have Barb Mikulec, Jerry Gosling and Serge Harber joining the Council.

Submitted by Leslie Gaudette

Cosco Report Old Age Pensioners Organization, Oct. 5, 2018.

I had the pleasure of attending my first Seniors Advocate meeting on September 21/22nd as a new member of the Council of Advisers.

I was impressed of the amount of data that goes into the reports from the Advocates Office. I can see where the Old Age Pensioners will fit into the discussions and further data that will be continually updated.

I am looking forward to serving and I am on the committee for Disabilities. I have submitted a report on the meeting.

The 74th annual NPF Convention was held September 25/27 in Regina and was attended by 70 delegates from across Canada. BC had 19 attending.

I have submitted a report on this.

BC-OAPO had their regular scheduled board meeting October 1st and 2nd in Chilliwack BC. North Fraser Regional has only three branches in it and a motion was passed to amalgamate both North & South Fraser. This passed and will be forwarded to Provincial Convention in June 2019.

The 2019 Convention will be held in Sardis with Cuiltus Lake helping and the dates will be June 11/13.

The minutes of the board meeting will be forthcoming from the secretary.

On behalf of the entire board and all members of the BC-OAPO, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Esther back.

Jerry Gosling
President
BC-OAPO
General Vice President
Cosco.

BCRTA report

Barb

The annual AGM was held in Richmond and elections produced a new slate of officers, including Gerry Tiede as president, Grace Wilson as 1st VP and Charan Gill and 2nd VP. New policies will be discussed at their strategic planning session in early October. I remain a director of the BC Retired Teachers Association.

BC FORUM REPORT TO OCTOBER 19/18 DELEGATES MEETING

BC FORUM's Autumn edition of the ADVOCATE has been published and copies are available for you to pick up at the meeting. Several articles on Universal Pharmacare and Proportional Representation.

Two BC FORUM delegates attended the National Pensioners Federation Convention held in Regina on Sept. 25 - 27. Also participated in the Affiliate Leadership meeting held at convention. All BC FORUM's resolutions were adopted. We participated in the NPF Rally held outside the Legislature in Regina on a very cold and windy day. Speakers on Universal Pharmacare and the United Nations International Day for Older Persons.

BC FORUM delegates attended the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) Convention held in Toronto on Sept. 19 - 21. A new President and several new Executive members were elected. I moderated the panel held at the convention on Housing, Healthcare and Pensions. Also was on the Resolutions Committee.

Two new members have been appointed to BC FORUM's Board of Directors. Gwenne Farrell from MoveUP and Gerry Tiede representing the BC Teachers Federation and President of the BC Retired Teachers' Association.

I met with Anne Kang, Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors on Oct. 12th and she will be meeting with BC FORUM's Board of Directors at our January Board meeting.

The BC Federation of Labour has held two Executive Council meetings, Sept. 21 and Oct. 11 in preparation for the BC Federation of Labour Convention being held the last week of November. We will have the CLC Pharmacare display at the convention. BC FORUM will also have a display booth and I will address the convention on the Thursday morning. On the Tuesday evening of convention which is the Women's evening, there will be a panel and one of the panelist will be speaking on elder abuse.

BC FORUM has delivered several courses on our Pre-retirement planning.

Myself and Miriam Olney attended the Jewish Seniors Alliance AGM & Awards event on Oct. 11 where Sheila Pither was one of the award recipients.

BC FORUM has mailed out the list of labour council endorsed candidates for the Municipal election covering eleven labour council areas to our members. The information has also been posted to our website www.bcforum.ca

Submitted by:

Diane Wood - President BC Federation of Retired Union Members (BC FORUM)
and General Vice-president COSCO

NPF Report
COSCO Delegates' Meeting
October 19, 2018

The NPF Convention was held in Regina, Saskatchewan September 26 and 27.

Delegates present:

NPF Executive	7
B.C.	19
Saskatchewan	22
Ontario	26
Nova Scotia	3

Election Results:

President	Trish McAuliffe (Ontario)
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1 st Vice President	Mike Kaminski (Saskatchewan)
2 nd Vice President	Bernie LaRusic (Nova Scotia)
3 rd Vice President	Pat Brady (B.C.)
Treasurer	Mary Forbes (Ontario)
Secretary	Carol Rogers (Nova Scotia)
Member-at-Large	Kathleen Jamieson (B.C.)
Past President	Herb John (Ontario)

NPF Executive members' liaison with NPF committees

Health -- Kathleen Jamieson

Housing -- Bernie LaRusic

Communications and Outreach – Mike Kaminski

Nominations – Herb John

Resolutions – Pat Brady

Finance – Mary Forbes

The Executive intends to add a Pensions Committee to our current structure and Terms of Reference for this committee are being reviewed.

The terms of reference for the established committees noted above can be found on the NPF website.

Note: Anyone within the COSCO membership who wishes to serve on one of the established committees is encouraged to contact the NPF liaison person directly.

COSCO Resolutions

One resolution was referred back to COSCO for review; one resolution was defeated; and the balance of the resolutions were passed. *See attachment to today's agenda for further info.*

The NPF has requested 1st Vice President Kaminski to contact seniors groups in the provinces and territories which do not have membership in NPF seeking wider representation within the NPF.

Kathleen Jamieson was the Chair of the NPF Health Committee and will continue to be involved with that committee as NPF Executive liaison and Barb Mikulec continues to be the Chair of the NPF Housing Committee.

The NPF Executive will continue with its quarterly expanded conference calls with NPF Affiliate leaders inviting input and updates on national and provincial activities.

As part of the agenda for this year's Convention, the meeting delegates participated in a demonstration and heard speakers at the Saskatchewan legislature to raise awareness of "The UN's International Day of the Older Person" (October 1, annually).

Submitted by: Pat Brady & Kathleen Jamieson

2018 NPF Convention Report

Copies of these presentations from the convention are posted on the National Pensioners Federation website.

Pharmacare – A Prescription for Equity: A National Public Drug Plan

Pauline Worsfold, RN, – Chairperson
Canadian Health Coalition

Pension Protection

Michael Powell – President
Canadian Federation of Pensioners

Social Isolation, Social Engagement, and Cognitive Well-being

Rebecca Genoe, PhD
Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies University of Regina

NPF Housing Committee Report

Barb Mikulec – Chairperson
National Pensioners Federation

NPF Health Committee Report

Kathleen Jamieson – Chairperson
National Pensioners Federation

COSCO resolutions to the convention:

Carried as written:

RENT BANKS – That the National Pensioners Federation urge the Federal government to work with provincial and municipal governments to set up “Rent Banks” for renters in crisis.

ANNUAL RENTERS’ REBATE PROGRAM – That the National Pensioners Federation urge the Federal government to ensure the speedy implementation of the National Housing Strategy portable annual renters’ rebate program.

COOP HOUSING SUPPORT – That the National Pensioners Federation encourage the federal government to offer land trust or lease extensions to help co-ops invest in rehabilitation and maintenance of aging structures and construction of new ones.

BILL C-27 INCOME SECURITY – That the National Pensioners Federation call on the Government of Canada to withdraw Bill C-27, and Act to amend the Pension Benefit Standards Act, 1985.

OLD AGE SECURITY (OAS) – That the National Pensioners Federation call on the federal government to increase the Old Age Security to \$2,000 a month.

Carried as amended:

TEMPORARY HOUSING PROGRAMS – That the National Pensioners Federation urge the federal/provincial/*territorial* governments to conduct research and share findings on successful models for addressing homelessness among seniors, including Temporary Housing Programs in the transition back to permanent housing.

EXPENSE DEFERRAL ACCOUNT – That the National Pensioners Federation urge the federal government to set aside funds to create a Homeowners Expense Deferral Account program to allow senior homeowners with low costs such as repairs to a roof or furnace, and that the deferred amount becomes due upon the sale of the property, death, or voluntary repayment, and that total deferrals be allowed up to 75% of the equity of their home ~~and be charged simple interest.~~

Joined with BC Forum resolution:

BANKRUPTCY PROTECTION – That the National Pensioners Federation call on the Government of Canada to fix bankruptcy laws so our employee’s pension and health benefits are given the same priority as secured creditors to stop employers from putting shareholders, banks, and creditors ahead of their employees when they file for bankruptcy protection.

Referred back to COSCO:

IMPACT ON SENIORS OF MIXED TENANCY HOUSING – That the National Pensioners Federation urge the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Governments to provide rent-geared-to-income housing dedicated for seniors as part of affordable housing strategies and not allocate suites in the same building for tenants who may have serious behavioural issues.

Defeated:

NPF COMMITTEE CHAIR SUPPORT – That the National Pensioners Federation (NPF) Committee chairs that are giving committee reports attend the NPF Convention at NPF expense.

Submitted Annette O'Connor

IDOP 2018 Report for October 19, 2018 COSCO Delegates Meeting

My thanks to those of you who contributed in any way to the acknowledgement of the United Nations International Day of Older Persons (UN IDOP) 2018.

As I am still having confirmation of IDOP events trickling in, I will be submitting my summary report of the IDOP 2018 in BC for the November COSCO meetings.

If you know of any UN IDOP flag raising, proclamation/declaration, or other event honouring seniors that occurred in BC in recognition of the IDOP, I would appreciate you letting me know of it ASAP at <agnes.jackman@gmail.com>, so that I can include it in my summary report. Seniors' Voice is also asking that you go to its website <seniorsvoice.org> to record the details of any such event(s) including pictures if you have any.

Respectfully submitted by,
Agnes Jackman, COSCO Board Director