

BC 04
Branch Update (#5)
May 2021



National Association
of Federal Retirees Association nationale
des retraités fédéraux

FRASER VALLEY WEST

Have a great
weekend!



Hello, fellow BC 04 Branch members.

Looking for real change in the budget....

Now that the Liberal government's priorities have been revealed in the 739-page budget tabled in the House on April 19th, Branch advocacy volunteers will begin setting up another round of meetings with MPs to review how well the government's priorities align with those put forward by FEDERAL RETIREES.

The budget contained no commitment on Pharmacare other than a promise to *"continue to engage with willing partners on national universal pharmacare, alongside other important health priorities."*

FEDERAL RETIREES' has also pressed for national standards on Long-Term Care. In the budget, the government earmarked \$3-billion over five years, starting in 2022-23, "to support provinces and territories in ensuring standards for long-term care are applied and permanent changes are made."

FEDERAL RETIREES National President, Jean-Guy Souliere, has congratulated Seniors Minister Deb Schulte for making long-term care a priority, although he noted that the budget does not specify how national standards will be achieved.

Some critics (e.g André Picard of The Globe and Mail) find that commitment underwhelming and out of step with the Finance Minister's apology for the failed response to the pandemic in long-term care facilities.

The budget also contained provisions for money for *"Health Canada to advance the palliative care strategy for long-term and supportive care needs"* and for *"improved*

data infrastructure for Statistics Canada to monitor supportive care, primary care and pharmaceuticals."

There is also money for Social Development Canada to launch an "Age Well at Home" initiative, which would assist community-based organizations that provide practical support to help low-income and otherwise vulnerable seniors age in place, such as meal prep, home maintenance and transportation.

(Check the national web-site for more details—FEDERAL RETIREES Weighs In on "Recovery" Budget.)

"Our elders have been this virus's principal victims. The pandemic has preyed on them mercilessly, ending thousands of lives and forcing all seniors into fearful isolation. We have failed so many of those living in long-term care facilities. To them, and to their families, let me say this: I am so sorry. We owe you so much better than this."

Chrystia Freeland
Minister of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister

So far this year, Branch volunteers have met with six of the seven MPs* whose ridings fall within Branch boundaries, most recently with Tako van Popta, MP for Langley-Aldergrove on April 7th

and the Hon. Kerry-Lynne Findlay, MP for South Surrey White Rock on April 8th. These meetings give us an opportunity to stress the need for a comprehensive strategy to create "age-friendly" communities for everyone's benefit. We were impressed that Ms. Findlay took the initiative to suggest that we schedule a follow-up meeting after the budget, and we look forward to continuing the conversation.

If you would like to join us when we meet with your Member of Parliament, please contact Ian at president@nafrfraservalleywest.ca

(*To date we have yet to connect with Tamara Jansen, MP Cloverdale-Langley City.)

“Quotable”

Supportive Housing Key

We can also look to Denmark, Picard said, for a society that keeps people living at home, through a strong supportive housing system.

"I think the most important thing they do is they have a philosophy. Their philosophy is we want to keep people in the community among us until their dying days. So we want people to age in place," he said. "You don't see these prison-like facilities that we have in Canada with 200, 300 beds.

You walk down the street in Copenhagen, it's a family home, family home, nursing home, family home. And you can't tell the difference.

"So it's all about wanting people to live in dignity regardless of their age, regardless of their disability."

André Picard, discussing his new book

“Neglected No More”

with Pamela Fieber, CBC News,
Calgary, March 11, 2021.

Virtual ‘Meet and Chat’

Personal Planning sessions

April 15 – Representation Agreements:

The April 15th session on Representation Agreements was an eye-opener for a number of members who Zoomed in. Everyone understands the importance of having an up-to-date Will. A Representation Agreement is equally, or perhaps even more important: it allows you to appoint someone to make decisions on your behalf **to give, refuse or withdraw consent for all kinds of health care** and personal care. The presentation included references to a number of great resources: www.nidus.ca is particularly useful and user-friendly.



Upcoming!

May 13 - **Power of Attorney:** There are four types of Power of Attorney in BC, most people are familiar with only one. In this workshop, we discuss all four types. We also consider when you need a Power of Attorney, the steps you should take to consider who to appoint as your Attorney, the duties of your Attorney, problems with having a Power of Attorney and how to change your Attorney if needed.

May 20 - **Advance Directive:** Many seniors in BC are not familiar with what this legal document is and is not. In this workshop, we discuss what a person should do to prepare to create an Advance Directive when a person should have an Advance Directive, what it is and what it is not, when it can be used and when it may be ignored.

All sessions are at 1 p.m. **To get an invitation to these Zoom sessions, contact Ilene Fika, at (604) 372-1109 or imfika@shaw.ca**

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