

The Golden Gang Gazette

Vancouver Municipal & Regional Retiree's Association

545 West 10th Avenue

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Vancouver BC V5Z 1K9

November 2023

BCHC Campaign Call: End Profit in Long-term Care

Date & Time

Selected Sessions:

Oct 31, 2023, 02:00 PM

For-profit long-term care operators are making record profits while under-delivering care hours at alarming rates, and British Columbians – whether residents, family members of residents, or workers in long-term care homes - are paying for it.

The current model incentivizes operators to spend less money on care hours, food, and maintenance because they get to turn anything they don't spend into profit. In *Billions More Reasons to Care*, the BC Seniors Advocate found that over the last five years, for-profit operators made more than seven times the amount of surplus per bed compared to non-profit care operators receiving the same public funding.

One of the key recommendations in the report is to improve accountability for taxpayer dollars and ensure funding for direct care is spent on care.

Join this informative session on Tuesday, October 31 from 2:00-3:30pm on Zoom for our Campaign.

Call to hear directly from the BC Seniors Advocate, Isobel Mackenzie, on her latest report reviewing long-term care.

To log onto this session go to B.C. Health Coalition website @ <https://www.bchealthcoalition.ca>

Single Seniors Tax Issues

For those of you who were unable to attend or log into last month's meeting, you missed a very interesting presentation on the issue of the unfairness of the tax structure for single seniors. It is an issue of importance for couples as well, as unfortunately, one spouse will pass before the other and this tax situation will then impact them. The presenters provided graphs that demonstrated the disparity in how singles are treated as opposed to couples and it is a dramatic difference. If you would like more information on this issue, I would encourage you to log onto their website:

www.singleseniorsfortaxfairness.com

CONTEST WINNERS

Derby Draw Winner:

Donna Davies

Jackpot Winner:

No winner

Pot of Gold Winner

Pam McFayden



You must be in attendance or logged into the meeting in order to win and your dues must be up to date.

Membership Meeting

Bonsor Recreation

Complex and via Zoom

Nov. 1, 2023

11-12:30

Executive Meeting

Please forward any agenda items to Executive. Contact information on the back page.

The Peoples Law School has a number of Zoom sessions that may be of interest, and I've listed a few upcoming sessions.

Dealing with a Death

Date & Time

Nov 14, 2023, 12:00 PM in Vancouver

Do you need help dealing with the death of someone close to you? You may have questions about what you can do to prepare, how to navigate logistics like arranging for a funeral, and what other steps need to be attended to, all the while managing the complex emotions that surround death. We're pleased to welcome lawyers Amy Mortimore KC and Allison Sharkey and registered clinical counsellor Allie Huggins, who will answer common questions about dealing with the death of a loved one. If you or someone you know would benefit from this discussion, please join us on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at noon PT.

Probate: A Step-by-Step Guide

Date & Time

Selected Sessions:

Dec 5, 2023, 12:00 PM

Do you have questions about how to settle an estate in British Columbia? Whether you've been named as an executor and want to learn more about the process, or you're already in the process and need help moving forward, this step-by-step discussion about dealing with an estate will help you understand where you are in the process and what to do next. Please join us on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at noon PT. Lawyer Jessica Poon and Jasmine Ng of the probate registry will take you through the probate process from start to finish, and answers questions about common challenges you may experience along the way.

In addition to these two webinars there are numerous sessions available through this organization. To register for either of these two sessions or any of the others available log www.peopleslawschool.ca

Vaccines

Many of you have received text messages saying that you are now eligible to receive Influenza and COVID Vaccines.

Remember, that you will only be offered the free Trivalent Fluad Influenza vaccine--not the NACI recommended Fluzone High Dose Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine. Some physicians and pharmacists may even tell you that you don't need the Fluzone High Dose Quadrivalent vaccine--that the cost of \$90 or \$95 isn't worth it. There is very good reliable research that says differently, and that is why the Federal government funds the Fluzone vaccine for all those in Long Term care, Assisted Living, and First Nations communities. If you decide that you will pay for the more expensive vaccine, recommend that you reserve a Fluzone High Dose vaccine at whichever drug store you usually use. Not all drug stores carry the Fluzone vaccine.

Despite my efforts to gather more information on this issue I have nothing more to report. I will continue to contact those that may have an update to provide you. In the meantime, if you have not e-mailed Sean Fraser to indicate your disapproval of this type of taxation, his e-mail is:

Sean.Fraser@parl.gc.ca

Home Equity Tax issue.

PS: even a quick email is helpful.

President's Message

The Municipal Pension Plan held its Annual General Meeting in October and once again it was a very informative session. I had some challenges logging into the session and did contact the administration as I felt that there should be a simpler way for folks to log in. As has been the past practice, we will be informed in January what our COLA increase will be for 2024. As you may recall, the cap of 2.1%, which had been in place for several years, has been removed so our increase will be more reflective of the current inflation rate. The inflation rate in September was 3.8% and there are few indications that it will be lower in the coming months.

Libraries as a Resource for Seniors.

I know that many of you may feel that you are not as adept with computer programs as you would like to be, and I really recommend that you look to your local library as a resource. Many libraries offer valuable information in small user-friendly environments. As an example, I have added the information for the Burnaby Library, but these types of courses are offered across the Lower Mainland.

Burnaby Public Library Tech Café Fall 2023

Need help using your computer, tablet, smartphone, or e-reader? Do you have questions about using social media or the internet? Join friendly Burnaby Public Library staff to get personalized help. Bring your device with you to the drop-in sessions. No registration required.

McGill Branch 4595 Albert St.
1:00-4:00 Tuesday Oct. 31 and November 28

Bob Prittie Metrotown Branch 6100 Willingdon Ave.
1:00-4:00 Tuesday November 14

Tommy Douglas Branch 7311 Kingsway
1:00-4:00 Tuesday November 7

Cameron Branch 9523 Cameron Street
1:00-4:00 Tuesday October 24 and November 21



I'm pleased to announce that Chaoyang Duan, a pharmacist with London Drugs will be attending to provide us with information about the new regulations related to prescribing as well as other information of significance to seniors. Please bring your questions along to the meeting or via Zoom.

2019-2020

Executive Board

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Remembering

Jessie Pears

Passed away

peacefully in her 96th year.

Opinions, viewpoints, and accuracy of facts submitted by members is the responsibility of the writer and not of the Editor, Executive, or the Membership of the VMRRA.



Dues Remittance Form

I enclose my annual dues of \$10.00 per year for _____ years and _____ as a donation.

Total enclosed \$ _____.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

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Former Employer _____

Optional Next of Kin _____

Please mail to: Dianna Smith c/o #1012-6631 Minoru Blvd.

Richmond, B.C. V6Y 1Z1

Cheques should be made payable to VMRRA