



BC Association of Social Workers
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For immediate release

BC SOCIAL WORKERS SUPPORT THE SENIORS ADVOCATE RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE HOME SUPPORT

BC's professional association for social workers calls on the provincial government to improve home support services to seniors by fully implementing the recommendations of the report released by the Office of the Seniors Advocate.

"Seniors need more appropriate and affordable home support so that they can stay in their home as long as possible," said Michael Crawford, President of the BC Association of Social Workers. "BC should remove the financial barrier for all seniors needing support, increase the range of services including respite care and implement tools to measure how well the home support system is working."

The Office of the Seniors Advocate notes that the current home support program is not meeting the demand or needs of seniors. There has been a decrease in the support clients receive, yet an increase in the complexity of clients' needs. BC also lags behind other provinces having a higher number of people with low care needs that could be met in the community, who are instead moving to long-term care.

"Unlike most other provinces, BC charges seniors for home support services, except those who receive government assistance. This presents a significant hardship and means many seniors go without the care that they need," said Crawford. "Our association is calling on the government to heed the advice given in the report by BC Seniors Advocate Isobel Mackenzie and ensure that seniors and their families receive all required services."

We Must Do Better: Home Support Services for B.C. Seniors
<https://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca/osa-reports/we-must-do-better-home-support-services-for-b-c-seniors/>

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BC Association of Social Workers

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BCASW is a voluntary, not-for-profit membership association that supports and promotes the profession of social work and advocates for social justice. BCASW is one of the provincial/territorial social work associations in partnership with the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW). Through CASW we support the work of the International Federation of Social Workers. BCASW was incorporated in 1956 and has branches and members (including students) throughout BC.

BCASW acknowledges that our office is in the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and that our members live and work in unceded territories across British Columbia. We also express appreciation to Métis and Inuit peoples across British Columbia.