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## BC SOCIAL WORKERS SUPPORT SENIORS ADVOCATE'S CALL TO DEVELOP CROSS-MINISTRY PLAN

(Vancouver) BC's professional association of social workers supports the call by BC Seniors Advocate Dan Levitt for the province to develop an action-oriented, measurable cross-ministry seniors' plan to address the mashup of services to seniors.

"Currently, services to seniors are delivered by several different ministries and that results in fractured and uncoordinated services that can lead to confusion on the part of seniors seeking assistance," said Michael Crawford, President of the BC Association of Social Workers. "To ensure that older British Columbians have appropriate and high-quality services that meet their needs, the government needs to develop a coordinated system of services with all ministries working in collaboration."

As the seniors' population continues to grow, BC must address current and future gaps in seniors' services as outlined in the Advocate's Monitoring Seniors Services 2024 Report. The report noted that despite some government investment in seniors' services, BC continues to fall behind in meeting many basic needs.

"Seniors are living longer and healthier lives, and we must ensure that all older British Columbians have access to the services and supports they need in order to live their lives to the fullest," said Crawford. "Instead of a piecemeal approach, we need to take a holistic and integrated approach to providing these seniors services."

The Advocate's report examines and compares a wide range of these elements including health care, community supports, housing, transportation, income supports, safety, and protection. Older British Columbians are an integral part of our communities and have contributed and shaped a better quality of life for us all. Not only are older adults directly impacted by the gaps in seniors' services, but so are their care partners, families and our communities.

“Seniors deserve better, and changes are needed to not only keep pace with growing demand, but to ensure all older people feel valued and socially included,” said Crawford. A cross-ministry plan holds the promise of adequately meeting the needs of seniors.”

BC Seniors Advocate - Monitoring Seniors Services 2024

<https://www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca/monitoring-seniors-services/>

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BC Association of Social Workers

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.*