

AGING MATTERS

By Laila Pera, CSA

SENIORS ORGANIZATIONS - COSCO

As I continue to work with seniors, I am constantly amazed by the presence of so many dedicated people in such a variety of organizations, associations, clubs and groups. The one common denominator seems to be the commitment to ensuring all seniors are living a life with quality, dignity and equality. In this article, I will tell you about one such organization and the reason I chose this one is because it encompasses many of the others providing a one stop directory and resource.

The Council of Senior Citizens Organizations – www.coscobc.ca

COSCO IN 60 SECONDS:

- Represents seniors for over 50 years
- Registered under the Societies Act in 1981 as “The Council of Senior Citizens Organizations of British Columbia”
- COSCO is an umbrella organization made up of 75+ seniors’ organizations as well as a significant number of individual associate members
- The organization advocates for seniors at all government levels.
- We work to protect and enhance the many social programs that over the years we fought and paid for, and that are now being eroded by both the Provincial and Federal Government
- COSCO relies on information and support from a number of organizations: It is a member of the BC Centre for Policy Alternatives, the BC Health Coalition and The British Columbia Public Interest Advocacy Centre
- COSCO receives strong support from the BC Federation of Labour and a number of unions.
- COSCO is a member of the National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Federation
- The organization continues to grow and is the largest federation of seniors' organizations in the Province.

COSCO's PURPOSE (excerpt from the constitution)

- To assemble, co-ordinate and advance proposals and resolutions concerned with the welfare of elder citizens, and submit them to the appropriate government bodies; and
- To advance the social and physical welfare of all elder citizens in the province of British Columbia"

The COSCO Executive List is an impressive collection of people from a wide variety of other associations bringing an eclectic group of minds together. They have many newsletters and articles archived on their website and appeal for donations and/or new members. Please check out their website –

www.coscobc.ca . If you do not have access to a computer – here is their letterhead information taken from the newsletter. 16646-84 A. Avenue, Surrey, BC , V4N 4Z4 Telephone: 604.576-8000

If you know of a group dedicated to seniors and/or the disabled, please feel free to email me at laila@northgatesupportservices or phone 250.743-8288 and I may feature them in a future article.