

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

To the volunteers at Silver Harbour, who put this newsletter together, and to the staff who arrange for the printing. We couldn't do this without your help and support.

If you are interested in joining COSCO as an individual, or you belong to a group whom you feel might benefit from membership, please contact Ernie Bayer the membership secretary at 6079 184th Street, Surrey, BC. V3S 7P7 or phone him at 604 576 9734 and ask for a membership package to be sent out to you.

COSCO NEWS is published five times a year by the Council of Senior Citizens Organizations of BC. COSCO has been representing seniors for more than fifty years. Please share your copy and pass it on to others who may be interested in reading it.

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Fillers.

Health care premiums.

Right now only Alberta and BC have this regressive tax. So-called Health care premiums are not premiums because everyone is obliged to pay, and they are not based on risk. Instead, this tax targets the poor disproportionately and is an additional tax on businesses that cover premiums for their employees. A family with a taxable income of only \$12,000 will soon be paying about \$1,000 in 'premiums'.

User Fees.

Expressly forbidden under the Canada Health Act, they violate the Accessibility provision of the Act and are a barrier to low-income Canadian's access to care. Conditions that are easily treated if detected early require expensive intervention later, increasing overall costs. Already tried in Saskatchewan from 1968-1971 and found not to control costs, user fees led to an overall 18% drop in health care access by the poor and elderly, while high-income groups increased their use of services.

Public-Private Partnerships

Public-private partnerships are being used by provincial governments to download cost off their books while giving guaranteed profits to their business friends. Leasing back privately built hospitals is the latest craze

and will result in long-term costs being inflated so businesses can make a guaranteed profit.