

COSCO Calls for A Moratorium on Cuts to Health Care.

The council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC (COSCO), representing 42,000 seniors, has taken a stand on the numerous cuts and changes being made to our health care system in British Columbia. Delegates to the June 2002 meeting passed a strongly worded resolution calling on the government to give serious consideration to a moratorium on further changes to home care, long term care and assisted living until further consultation and discussion takes place with all stake holders. All stakeholders to include seniors as they are the ones who are being hurt and abused by the fast paced changes being made to health care in our Province by the Government.

A letter has been sent to the Premier, the Provincial Health Ministers and the Provincial Health Authorities requesting specific responses to concerns raised relating to the following :

- The rapid pace of change to long-term care and assisted living.
- The lack of long-term care spaces available to meet the needs of seniors.
- The change in criteria for obtaining placement in long-term care facilities and the effect it is having on elderly couples as reported in the media.

To date COSCO has received a reply from Premier Gordon Campbell acknowledging the letter and stating that he is passing it on to his health ministers. At the date of this article COSCO has not received any correspondence on this matter from the health ministers or the health authorities.

COSCO considers this matter to be urgent and believe strongly that further discussion and consultation is essential at this time, to lessen public concern and better meet the needs of patients and their families, and will continue to press the government for a moratorium on the cuts and changes in all areas of our health care system. Visit our website at www.coscobc.ca for more information on current issues being addressed by COSCO.