

## **SENIORS HEALTH AND HOUSING UPDATE?**

**January 2003** Some progress ? A government press release on January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2003 indicates that under publicly-funded ?assisted living? seniors will have to pay no more than 70% of their after tax income for accommodation which should include two meals per day, laundry, housekeeping and personal care ? help with eating, grooming, mobility and medications. Seniors may also use an advocate or representative to speak on their behalf to the caregiver institution.

... but not enough yet.

We are still trying to ensure ?consumer protection? for seniors in assisted living facilities, and that there are criteria laid down for both private-profit and non-profit facilities.

**The Seniors? Health and Housing Coalition Steering Committee** meeting agreed that the following four points need emphasis: 1. Full disclosure.? 2. A limit to rates with any increases capped at the CPP increases.? 3. No forced exit from a facility without a full explanation and a satisfactory and appropriate place to go to and 4. A fair and satisfactory adjudication process for reviewing (for example) an individual?s health status.

In short we need to have monitoring, enforcement and adjudication processes for consumer protection, perhaps with an Ombudsman available. These provisions should at least be to the level of the Residential Tenancy Act.

?Consultation Hearings? ? Workshop sessions were conducted in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland on January 22/23<sup>rd</sup>. COSCO was represented at these hearing by Sylvia MacLeay, Irma Matheson, Lynn Tomko and Patrick Thomas. Whether the many messages demanding that the concerned public be consulted will be heeded or ignored, remains to be seen.

***(submitted by Patrick Thomas,***

*Chair of? COSCO?s SHH Committee)*