



February 24, 2023

Office of the Premier  
PO BOX 9041 STN Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1  
Email: [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca)

**RE: CARP Position on BC Seniors Advocate**

Dear Premier Eby,

CARP chapters in B.C. applaud the foresight of past governments that saw the necessity and advantages of having a statutory appointment of a BC Seniors Advocate. This is a vital position for monitoring, investigating, and reporting on all issues regarding older adults/seniors.

CARP (The Canadian Association of Retired Persons) is a non-profit, non-partisan association committed to working with all parties in government to advocate for older Canadians. CARP's mission is to promote and protect the interests, rights and quality of life of Canadians as we age. To accomplish our mission, we advocate and educate for better healthcare, financial security and freedom from ageism. CARP has more than 330,000 members across Canada with more than 18,000 members in B.C.

The BC Seniors Advocate's Annual Monitoring Report is essential in providing vital information for planning and transparency. **However, the Annual Monitoring Report is only submitted to the Minister of Health, while the scope and the findings of the report exceed this jurisdiction.**

We feel that greater accountability and transparency would be achieved and the Seniors Advocate's Monitoring Report would have more prominence if it was submitted to the Select Standing Committee on Health, and subsequently to the full Legislature.

Furthermore, we feel that the role of the Seniors Advocate needs to be widened to allow for investigations of individual reports of inadequacies, abuses, and lack of responsiveness. It is frequently through investigation of individual incidents that systemic issues are uncovered.

We strongly urge you and the Government of B.C. to enhance the visibility and responsibilities of the Seniors Advocate by widening the scope of the office and making the Annual Monitoring Report widely accessible and transparent to the Legislature.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

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Doug Jones, President  
Vancouver Island Chapter 19

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SL Zeznik", is written over a horizontal line.

Sandy Zeznik, President  
Kootenay Chapter 23

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ramona Kaptyn", is written over a horizontal line.

Ramona Kaptyn, President  
White Rock-Surrey Chapter 11  
Western Communications & Advocacy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Billie Helps", is written over a horizontal line.

Billie Helps, President  
North Fraser Chapter 12