



OFFICE OF THE
SENIORS ADVOCATE
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Ref: 317203

November 30, 2018

Dear Mayors, Chairs, Councillors and Directors,

As the Seniors Advocate for British Columbia, I am very pleased to extend my sincere congratulations to each of you on your recent election to local government.

Whether you are newly elected or returning to serve as a municipal leader, the impact of your contributions to the quality of life in communities across British Columbia will be immense and will directly affect your constituents on a daily basis. This is particularly the case regarding the most vulnerable of our citizens, which often includes seniors.

My office, the first of its kind in Canada, was established in 2014 to monitor and analyze seniors' services and issues in BC, and recommend solutions to systemic challenges to government and service providers. Our monitoring spans five key areas: health care, housing, income supports, personal supports and transportation. All of these areas are of direct concern and consequence to local government. Whether allocating municipal funds for walkability corridors, sidewalk repairs and curb cuts, and transportation to regional health care, or developing policy around accessibility, age-friendliness and social inclusivity, municipal governments play a significant role in improving the lives of seniors in British Columbia.

Seniors are a rapidly growing demographic in Canada. Here in British Columbia, seniors currently comprise 19% of our total population (920,000 of 4.8M) and we expect to see a continued rise in the population over 65 in the years ahead. Seniors are forecast to constitute 25% of British Columbians by 2031 (1.4M of 5.63M). Research consistently shows that being a partner in helping seniors age well and in place is a solid investment economically and socially.

Please feel free to contact my office at any time as we work together to improve the lives of British Columbian seniors. [Please also check out our website for additional information.](#)

Thank you again for your commitment to municipal leadership. I wish you my very best for the duration of your term.

Sincerely,

Isobel Mackenzie
Seniors Advocate
Province of British Columbia