

WHY WOULD I NEED THE SERVICES OF AN ADVOCATE?

As vital members of our society, seniors are entitled to various services and programs so they can be supported to live with respect and dignity in their community.

The needs and supports services for each senior can vary from individual to individual. Some seniors find themselves in unpredictable and complex situations that require the support of an experienced person called an 'Advocate' who can provide the extra information and supports needed to assist seniors to deal with the issues at hand.

If you need an Advocate,
please contact:

The 411 Seniors Centre
604-684-8171, ext. 239
Attention: Gregg Schiller
E-mail:
gschiller@411seniors.bc.ca

HOW CAN AN ADVOCATE SUPPORT ME?

The 'Advocate' in the BC SAN Network will go that "extra mile" and follow up on your concerns. For example, the advocate may go with you to meetings to resolve the issues at hand.

The Advocate may support you with appeals to various government agencies or public bodies, as well as attend Tribunals, Appeal Boards, and meetings with professionals and coordinators of various programs and services to make sure all your needs are met.

The Advocate is committed to seeing your case through so it is resolved to your satisfaction.

BC SAN welcomes people from all over BC to come forward with their issues so that we can track the various systemic issues facing seniors in order to deal with them head on. This information is used by the BC SAN Coordinator to ensure that there is a united effort to make systemic changes so that no other seniors will have to go through the same situations. Advocates will be trained to make the systemic changes needed by educating policy and law makers so that seniors are included as full members of society.

WHAT ISSUES CAN AN ADVOCATE HELP ME WITH?

Below is a list of some of the issues that you or someone you know may be facing:

- ♦ Poor quality and low standards of care in residential facilities including: Long-Term Care, Assisted Living, nursing homes, family homes, etc.
- ♦ Access to affordable health care and housing.
- ♦ Support to apply for income assistance and benefits to overcome issues of poverty.
- ♦ Assistance to deal with a lack of options for community residential living arrangements.
- ♦ Access to supports if living with an abusive partner or family member and help to go to a shelter or otherwise resolve the situation.
- ♦ Access to assistance in arranging social supports and legal advice in the event of a spouse dying.
- ♦ Assistance with Representation Agreements, applying for various benefits, taxes, and simple wills.



HOW CAN I BECOME AN ADVOCATE FOR SENIORS?

The BC Seniors Advocacy Network continually recruits volunteers to assist seniors across the province on a wide variety of issues.

Benefits to becoming an Advocate:

- ◆ Basic Advocacy Training: Examines how Advocates can assist other seniors by using active listening skills, learning about the laws, rights and entitlements of seniors, and enhancing skills for supporting vulnerable individuals.
- ◆ Systemic Advocacy Training: Teaches the Advocates how to negotiate on behalf of the people they support, to effectively resolve situations, to understand the process to appeal decisions, and to prepare for challenging situations.
- ◆ Ongoing workshops (Certificates).
- ◆ Legal supports from actual lawyers.
- ◆ Personalized BC SAN photo ID.

For more information on becoming a trained advocate in your community with the BC SAN, please contact:

Gregg Schiller, Project Coordinator
The 411 Seniors Centre
604-684-8171, extension 239
gschiller@411seniors.bc.ca

WHAT IS BC SAN?

The BC Seniors Advocacy Network (BC SAN) is made up of 11 community organizations, 5 Regional Reps and 57 volunteer Advocates across BC. The Advocates are seniors that have been trained on the rights of seniors and the various entitlements and programs that could benefit them. Multilingual Advocates are also available upon request.



*Joyce Jones,
Chairperson
of the BC SAN
Steering
Committee*

Our community partners include: 411 Seniors Centre, BC Forum, BC Government and Services Employees' Union, BC Hospital Employees' Union, BC Nurses' Union, Jewish Seniors Alliance, PovNet, South Granville Seniors' Centre, United Steel Workers, Vancouver Cross Cultural Seniors Network, Women Elders in Action, plus the 5 Regional Representatives for the: Kootenays, Okanagan Valley, Vancouver Island, Northern BC, and the Lower Mainland.

BC SAN

BRITISH COLUMBIA SENIORS ADVOCACY NETWORK

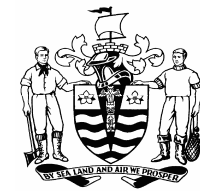


**New Horizons
for seniors**

Vancouver Coastal Health
Promoting wellness. Ensuring care.



**VANCOUVER
FOUNDATION**



City of Vancouver



United Way
of the Lower Mainland