



e-Newsletter

SeniorsBC.ca

Farewell message from Parliamentary Secretary Linda Larson



A year ago last June I was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health for Seniors. I have very much enjoyed this past year and have learned a great deal from B.C.'s seniors about what matters most to them.

As I move on to a new role as Parliamentary Secretary for Accessibility to the Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation, I wanted to take a moment to reflect before introducing your new Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors, Michelle Stilwell.

Over the course of the year, I have travelled throughout the province listening to seniors and their families and have brought back that valuable feedback to Health Minister Terry Lake and to other Ministry of Health officials.

Attending various events such as an appreciation tea and funding announcement for the James Bay New Horizons Seniors Centre,

the launch of the Retirement Concepts Healthy Aging Innovation Centre, the BC Care Providers Annual Conference and the Tapestry Foundation Donor Recognition Event, has reinforced for me that seniors all have unique and individualized needs and that the services available must be accessible to all seniors.

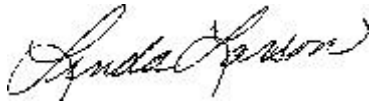
It has been an honour to serve B.C.'s seniors population over the past year and I am proud that B.C. was the first province in Canada to employ a seniors advocate with the appointment of Isobel MacKenzie.

As we continue to improve the way older British Columbians receive and access care and vital services, I am leaving feeling confident that this government is committed to meeting the needs of B.C. seniors and that it will continue to work with seniors, their families, care providers, community groups, health authorities, the Office of the Seniors Advocate and all levels of government to ensure that seniors receive the best possible care.

I know that accessibility is important to seniors and in my new capacity as Parliamentary Secretary for Accessibility, I will be sure to remain connected to B.C.'s seniors population asking for their valuable input around this topic.

Parliamentary Secretary Michelle Stilwell has proven herself to be a dedicated and passionate leader in her role as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health for Healthy Living. I am certain that as Michelle adds the position of Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors to her portfolio, she will approach this new responsibility with the same dedication and passion.

For more information about seniors services and supports please visit www.seniorsbc.ca



Linda Larson

Parliamentary Secretary for Accessibility to the Minister of Social Development and Innovation

Message from Parliamentary Secretary Michelle Stilwell



It is a great pleasure to be appointed the new Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health for Seniors.

I represent a constituency that has one of the highest percentages of older residents in the country and I recognize their unique needs and the contributions that B.C.'s seniors' population has made over their lives and that they continue to make in our communities.

I believe that British Columbians of all ages have a lot to offer their communities and that we have a responsibility to the seniors who helped to build this great province to ensure that they are receiving the best possible care and services to meet their individual needs.

In addition to taking on this new role as Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors, I also serve as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health for Healthy Living.

I think it is important to think of healthy living from birth until old age.

Seniors value their independence and want to live comfortably in their homes for as long as possible. Maintaining good health, strength and wellness, is an important way to help preserve that independence.

I am proud of the fact that British Columbians are living longer and that the seniors' population is growing.

Most of B.C.'s seniors are active, healthy and live independently in their own communities. In fact, more than 90 per cent of seniors live at home.

I am committed to working with and supporting the needs of B.C.'s seniors and I look forward to serving as B.C.'s Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Stilwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Stilwell

Parliamentary Secretary for Healthy Living and Seniors to the Minister of Health