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Message from Parliamentary Secretary Darryl Plecas



My name is Darryl Plecas, MLA for Abbotsford South and the newly appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health for Seniors. As Parliamentary Secretary, I will be traveling throughout the province to meet with seniors, stakeholders and other community members to hear their concerns and perspective on seniors' needs, which I will share with Health Minister Terry Lake and other Ministry of Health officials. I look forward to hearing your perspective and concerns through my office. In this new role, I will also have the opportunity to address seniors-related issues in conjunction with the work being conducted by Seniors Advocate Isobel Mackenzie and her office.

I would like to thank Minister Michelle Stilwell for the work she has done in this role and in making herself available to seniors to hear their needs and concerns. During her eight month tenure, she has represented British Columbia at the sixteenth meeting of Federal/ Provincial/ Territorial Ministers responsible for seniors, and has been part of significant announcements affecting seniors' health, such as the launch of a \$7.5 million fund to further British Columbia's research into Alzheimer's disease and funding to expand the First Link program provincewide.

I know that we both feel it is a great honour to serve British Columbia's seniors population. Through the successes we have achieved with the seniors action plan, such as establishing Canada's first seniors' advocate, expanding non-medical home support to help seniors stay at home longer, and strengthening protection for seniors from abuse and neglect, government has demonstrated a strong commitment to meeting the needs of B.C. seniors and their families and caregivers. But there is more work to be done and in partnership with seniors, care providers, health authorities, the Office of the Seniors Advocate,



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community groups and all levels of government, we will strive to create and promote even more opportunities for healthy, active, independent aging for British Columbians.

Seniors' needs are as varied as the population they represent, and I look forward to the opportunity to add my voice and commitment to improving the care of British Columbia's aging population.

Thank you.

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