



**BC NURSES'  
UNION**

*Standing up for health care*

**Retired Member  
eNews**

[www.bcnu.org](http://www.bcnu.org)

**February 22, 2024**

*You are receiving this newsletter to update you on issues and BCNU initiatives you may find important in retirement.*

### **BC Appoints New Seniors Advocate**

Ahead of the April retirement of BC seniors advocate Isobel Mackenzie, the provincial government has announced the appointment of Dan Levitt as the new seniors advocate. The BC Office of the Seniors Advocate (OSA) is an independent office of the provincial government and acts in the interest of seniors and their caregivers by monitoring seniors' services and making recommendations about health care, housing, income support, community support and transportation.

BCNU elected leadership and staff worked with the OSA to help conduct a provincial survey of long-term care residents and their family members to learn more about the quality of life in long-term care homes. [Survey results](#) were released in late 2023. Learn more about the [Office of the Seniors Advocate](#).

### **Take Action: Long-Term Care – They Deserve Better**

The Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions (CFNU) is calling on the federal government to take action to address the state of Canada's long-term care. Vulnerable nursing home residents, and the workers struggling to care for them, are suffering from appalling conditions, rampant profiteering, and devastating loss of life. They deserve better.

Retired BCNU members can help make a difference by sending a message to the federal government telling them it's time to invest in seniors' care and find solutions for the long-term care system in Canada. [Learn more and act now](#).

BCNU is a member organization of CFNU.

### **Black History Month: BCNU Celebrates the Contributions of Black Nurses**

February is Black History Month, a time when BCNU celebrates the many contributions Black nurses and other health-care workers have made to our province and country. The first nursing school in Canada was established in 1874, but Black students were not permitted to attend until the 1940s. This month, we honour the work of Black nurses and recommit to advocating for an anti-racist and culturally safe health-care system for all.

Read more about the history, contributions and achievements of Black nurses in Canada in our latest [bulletin](#).

### **BCNU Leadership Awards**

Spread the word - it's time to celebrate and recognize outstanding nurses. Know a nurse deserving of recognition for their work in their community or worksites? Nominations open in March for the union's NU Leader Award and the Excellence in Leadership and Advocacy Award. Learn more and find out how you can submit a nomination at [BCNU.org/Awards](http://BCNU.org/Awards).

### **Expand Your Tax Knowledge with CRA Webinars**

The deadline to file 2023 income tax returns for most Canadians is April 30, 2024. Every year, the importance of filing your tax return grows because eligibility for government supports, such as the [new Canadian Dental Care Plan](#) and [Guaranteed Income Supplement](#), are based on your annual income.

The Government of Canada offers a series of webinars and recordings for Canadians to learn about tax benefits and credits. Retired members are encouraged to watch a webinar specifically tailored for people 65 and older that provides information on GST/HST credit, pension income splitting, ways to do your taxes, and other Canada Revenue Agency services available. The webinar, *Benefits and credits for adults 65 years and older*, will be posted shortly on the [Government of Canada web page](#).

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*If you know another retired member who did not yet receive this email, please forward this to let them know they can update their information with BCNU and be added to this mailing list by contacting [Membership@bcnu.org](mailto:Membership@bcnu.org).*

*Questions or suggestions? Reply to this email with your feedback for future eNewsletters.*

*For more information, please visit the [retired nurses](#) page on the BCNU website.*

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