



**BC NURSES'  
UNION**

*Standing up for health care*

**Retired Member  
eNews**

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

**June 6, 2024**

### **LPNs Join Retiree Benefit Program**

Funding to include licensed practical nurses (LPNs) in the Nurses' Bargaining Association (NBA) Retiree Benefit Program (RBP) began April 1. This is a welcome expansion of the program after BCNU secured LPN inclusion in the RBP during NBA 2022–2025 contract negotiations. This inclusion was a long-standing goal since health authority-employed LPNs joined the NBA in 2012.

The RPB Committee is undertaking a governance review to determine how to include LPN representation on the RBP Committee, and how LPNs will apply to enroll in the program. Retired LPNs are encouraged to [read the bulletin for full details](#) and visit [BCNU.org/RBP](http://BCNU.org/RBP) to learn more about the RBP and view eligibility criteria.

### **Retired Members Could Participate in LPN Grievance Settlement Agreement**

Certain retired LPN members may be eligible to receive a 40 percent sick leave payout under the terms of a settlement agreement reached between the Nurses' Bargaining Association (NBA) and the Health Employers Association of BC on March 14.

The agreement clarifies contract entitlements enjoyed by LPNs who were previously members of other bargaining associations, and it resolves outstanding disputes that arose after LPNs transitioned into the NBA provincial collective agreement on May 20, 2016. Those disputes were related to vacation, sick leave, and severance entitlements. The settlement agreement will be applied to grievances that were already filed.

LPNs who have retired since May 20, 2016 and have not filed a grievance can apply to their former employer to receive the payout. Applications must be filed no later than 5 p.m. PST on Dec. 1, 2024.

[Read the bulletin for full details.](#)

### **BCNU's 2024 Convention - Award Recipients and Charity of Choice**

BCNU's annual convention took place May 28 – 30 in Vancouver, on the on the traditional, ancestral and unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples. Review [convention highlights](#).

Each year, BCNU recognizes two outstanding members for their positive contributions to the health and well-being of their community and their professions. This year we proudly announce Juanita Little as the recipient of the Excellence in Leadership and Advocacy Award, and Laura Starck as recipient of the NU Leader Award. [Learn more](#) about each recipient.

This year's convention host region, Shaughnessy Heights, has selected the BC Epilepsy Society (BCES) as the charity of choice. All members are invited to [contribute online](#) until June 7 through the BC Nurses' Union Fund held at Vancouver Foundation, with all funds going to the BCES. Online donations of \$25 or more will receive an electronic

tax receipt.

## BC Seniors' Week – June 2-8

The first Sunday in June each year marks BC Seniors' Week. On June 3, Harwinder Sandhu, Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors' Services and Long-Term Care, said: "BC Seniors' Week is a time to recognize the vital role that seniors play in our communities and honour their wisdom. Through cultural teachings and traditions, volunteer initiatives, caregiving and dedication to their families, seniors shape our society every day."

Retired members can learn more about healthy aging by reading the BC Seniors' Guide featuring resources and information on wellness and growing older. [The guide](#) is available in several languages.

## BC Seniors Advocate Report

The ninth edition of the Monitoring Seniors Services Report was released last month. It focuses on data gathered in 2022-23 and is prepared by the Office of the Seniors Advocate for BC. The report looks at the state of seniors' services around BC in important areas like health care, safety and housing. Highlights from the current report include a more than 50 percent increase in cases of financial abuse against seniors in the past five years, and a similar increase in the average wait time for a long-term care bed compared to just five years ago. The report also reveals there are five percent less visits by seniors to the emergency department than in 2019. Read the [Monitoring Seniors Services 2023 Report](#) and learn more about the work of the [Office of the Seniors Advocate](#).

## Add Your Voice: Helping 2SLGBTQI+ Older Adults Age in Place

The federal government is consulting with people 55 and over who identify as Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and those who use other terms to describe sexual and gender identity. The consultation is to better understand views and preferences about services and resources that could help community members age in place.

Retired members can share and take part in this public consultation opportunity. The questionnaire is available online or by paper copy and is part of Canada's federal 2SLGBTQI+ action plan which seeks to strengthen 2SLGBTQI+ data and evidence-based policymaking.

Complete the [online consultation here](#) by June 26. Learn more about [Canada's 2SLGBTQI+ action plan](#).

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

Know another retired member who did not receive this email? Please forward it 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 emails.

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

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