

September 2, 2020

Dear Mayor and Council,

Re: Observation of the UN International Day of Older Persons -October 1st

Established in 1950, the Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations (COSCO) of BC is an umbrella, volunteer run organization made up of many seniors' organizations and individual associate members. Registered under the Societies Act since 1981, COSCO has grown and now represents approximately 80,000 seniors in BC.

Our mandate is to promote the well-being of seniors and their families, advocating for policies that allow seniors to remain active, independent, and fully engaged in the life of our province. The organization is non-partisan, but politically active, advocating for seniors' needs no matter who is in power. Our motto is "Plan with seniors not for them".

COSCO invites you, the civic leaders to help celebrate the

UN International Day of Older Persons (UNIDOP) 2020

Theme: "Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Aging?"

"The year 2020 marks the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations and the 30th Anniversary of the International Day of Older Persons (UNIDOP). This year has also seen an emergence of COVID-19, that has caused an upheaval across the world. Considering the higher risks confronted by older persons during the outbreak of pandemics such as COVID-19, policy and programmatic interventions must be targeted towards awareness of their special needs. Recognizing older persons contributions to their own health and the multiple roles they play in the preparedness and response phases of current and future pandemics is also important." (United Nations For Ageing)

"The UNIDOP 2020 event will also promote the *Decade of Healthy Ageing* (2020-2030) and help to bring together UN experts, civil society, government and the health professions to discuss the five strategic objectives of the *Global Strategy and Action plan on Aging and Health* while noting the progress and challenges in their realization." (United Nations For Ageing)

"The objectives of UNIDOP 2020 are to:

- 1) Inform participants about the strategic objectives for the Decade of Healthy Ageing
- 2) Raise awareness of the special health needs of older persons and of their contributions to their own health and to the functioning of the societies in which they live
- 3) Increase awareness and appreciation of the role of the health care workforce in maintain-

ing and improving the health of older persons, with special attention to the nursing profession

- 4) Present proposals for reducing the health disparities between older persons in the developed and developing countries, so as to “Leave no one behind”
- 5) Increase understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on older persons and its impact on health care policy, planning, and attitudes.” (United Nations For Ageing)

Two ways that we ask you to consider to celebrate the IDOP are:

- 1) Publicly proclaim/declare your support of the IDOP 2020 (Please refer to attached sample proclamation.)
- 2) Prominently display the UNIDOP flag for October 1st 2020 if you have one

We are pleased that for the past two years, the Province of British Columbia proclaimed that October 1st would be known as “International Day of Older Persons”. They have been asked by COSCO to do so again this year. We would like the BC city, township, village and district councils to follow suit. For those councils that are able, declarations are preferred over proclamations as they are ongoing. Please let us know if your council has already made a declaration in the past and if you will be making either an IDOP proclamation or declaration for IDOP 2020 and if you will be flying the UNIDOP flag this year.

If there is any question about this request, please contact Agnes Jackman at cell# 604-376-5188; 821 20th Street, New Westminster, BC, V3M 4W7; or agnes.jackman@gmail.com.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Agnes Jackman, Board Member, COSCO