



ACR NEWS BULLETIN

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This issue provides information on upcoming opportunities to attend or become involved with matters relevant to seniors and residential care British Columbia:

- 1. Seniors' Advocate Office/position - Ministry of Health province-wide consultation***
- 2. Vancouver Coastal Health Authority invitation to participate in a Regional Community Reference Committee for End-of-Life Care services. (for those within the VCHA – information below)***
- 3. Update on dates and locations of public speaking engagements for Kim Carter, Ombudsperson on her Report on Systemic Investigation into Seniors' care in BC. (Locations in Northern Health Authority, Interior Health Authority and Fraser Health Authority)***

Seniors' Advocate Office/position province-wide consultation

Background:

A recommendation for the establishment of a Seniors' Advocate position has been supported by various senior's groups as well as formally, in the Legislature by Katrine Conroy, MLA for Kootenay West.

We are pleased that there is provincial government receptiveness to such an office/position and that the Ministry of Health has embarked on a province-wide consultation process on what a Seniors' Advocate Office/position might entail.

ACR has made a written submission in support of a Seniors' Advocate Office/position; the key points of our recommendation are that such an office/position be:

- *independent and report directly to the legislature*
- *have the authority to access information, influence and effect necessary change*
- *have resources (monies and staff) sufficient to undertake a substantive pro-active advisory, investigative and advocacy role for the senior's of BC.*
- *have formal and informal direct community links to ensure and facilitate timely and ongoing communication with the seniors of the province and their diverse support systems. This would include: seniors' community groups, advocates and care providers as well as academic groups associated with geriatrics and gerontology and professional health care provider associations*

We encourage all individuals and groups interested in seniors' services and care in BC to consider participation in this province-wide consultation that is now underway.

Information on the process is provided below, including a link to the discussion paper and dates and locations of community discussions around the province.

The Ministry of Health's consultation process for establishing the new Office of the Seniors' Advocate

The Ministry of Health's consultation process will be held from now until the end of July. The Seniors' Action Plan team (the body who is heading this consultation process) has released the public consultation plan, as well as a [discussion paper](#) about the scope and mandate for the Advocate Office. Information on the consultation plan can be found here: http://www.seniorsbc.ca/action_plan/seniors_advocate.html.

The consultation is happening in three different ways:

- a) "Bi-lateral" meetings with stakeholder organizations by invitation.
- b) Consultation days around B.C.

There will be 10 consultation days in 9 communities between May 29 and June 27. The consultation days will consist of meetings with invited organizations in the morning, followed by public meetings in the afternoon. (A list of the dates and locations of the consultation days is included below.)

- c) Written submissions.

The Action Team is also accepting written submissions on the mandate for the Office of Seniors' Advocate. Submissions can be detailed or short, and you are welcome to draw on the points outlined in the joint letter below. Deadline for submissions is July 31, 2012. Details can be found here: http://www.seniorsbc.ca/action_plan/seniors_advocate.html

**General Public Consultation Schedule re: Seniors' Advocacy
Position/Office
(Ministry of Health)**

Date & Time	City	Location
Monday, June 4, 2012 1:30 – 4:30 pm	Vancouver	Creekside Community Recreation Centre 1 Athlete's Way Vancouver
Tuesday June 5, 2012 1:30 - 4:30pm	Vancouver	Creekside Community Recreation Centre 1 Athlete's Way Vancouver
Friday, June 8, 2012 1:00 – 4:00 pm	Abbotsford	Sandman Inn 327 Simon Ave, Abbotsford BC V2T 0B8
Monday, June 11, 2012 1:30 -4:30 pm	Parksville	Parksville Community & Conference Centre, 132 E. Jensen Ave. Parksville
Wed, June 20,2012 1:30-4:30 pm	Kelowna	Coast Capri Hotel, 1171 Harvey Ave. Kelowna
Friday, June 22, 2012 1:30 - 4:30 pm	Cranbrook	Prestige Rocky Mountain Resort 209 Van Horne Street South Cranbrook
Monday, June 25,2012 1:30 - 4:30 pm	Prince George	Prince George Civic Centre 808 Civic Plaza, Prince George
Wed, 27 June 2012 1:30 - 4:30pm	Dawson Creek	George Dawson Inn, 11705 – 8 th Street Dawson Creek

**The meetings with organizational stakeholders that will be held during the morning on these consultation days are by invitation. If your organization did not participate in a "Bilateral" meeting already, you can request to meet with the Action Team during the consultation day in your community by contacting Paige MacMillan at Paige.MacWilliam@gov.bc.ca

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) – seeking public members for a Regional Community Reference Committee for End-of-Life Care Services

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) is looking for members of the public who are interested in participating on the Regional Community Reference Committee for End-of-life Care services. This committee will meet to review VCH strategies and services, bringing the community voice to our service planning.

This committee will meet once every three months, and is open to anyone who:

- Lives and/or works in the VCH health region (*video-conference capacity is available to committee members who live outside the Lower Mainland*)
- Is not a current or recently-former staff member of VCH
- Has personal or voluntary experience with end-of-life/palliative/hospice care issues

If you are interested in volunteering on the [VCH Regional End-of-Life Care Community Reference Committee](#), please contact Margreth Tolson for an application form. *Deadline for application is Friday June 15th, 2012.*

Contact Information: Margreth Tolson, Leader, Community Engagement, VCHA, 200-520 W. 8th Ave., Vancouver BC. V5Z 4H5 Phone: (604) 708-5320 Email: Margreth.Tolson@vch.ca

Update: Public Speaking Engagements (locations and dates) – Kim Carter Ombudsperson for BC

Background:

The Ombudsperson of BC initiated a systemic investigation into seniors' care issues in 2008. "The Best of Care: Getting it Right for seniors in British Columbia." Part 1 was issued in December 2009. The focus on Part I was residential care in BC. Part I and contained 10 recommendations for action by the Government of BC. It is the key basic document to read for a systemic overview of the state of residential care in BC.

Part 2 was released in February 2012 and addresses home and community care, home support, assisted living and residential care services for seniors in BC; it makes 143 findings and has 176 recommendations.

Both the Part 1 and Part 2 Reports are available from the BC Ombudsperson website: www.bcombudsperson.ca or by contacting them at 250-356-7740.

For those unfamiliar with the systemic investigation into seniors' care in BC, by the Office of the Ombudsperson of B.C. Additional information and attachments can be found in our April & May News Bulletins at: www.acrbc.ca

Below is an update on Kim Carter's public speaking engagements (as known).

To make arrangements for a speaker from the Office of the Ombudsperson or to check on additional upcoming public speaking engagements in your geographical area, contact them directly (www.bcombudsperson.ca) or by phone at 250-356-7740

<i>Schedule of Public Speaking Engagements for Kim Carter – Ombudsperson for BC</i>		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Information for further information and registration</i>
Monday, June 4, 2012	Prince George	www.pgc.ca
Tuesday, June 5, 2012	Quesnel	www.Bobsimpsonmla.ca
Tuesday, June 5, 2012	Williams Lake	www.Bobsimpsonmla.ca
Friday, June 8, 2012	Surrey	www.surrey.ca/seniors
Thursday, Sept 13, 2012	Castlegar	www.castlegarhealthwatch.com

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. ... when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.

Attributed to Marjorie Moore

Disclaimer This bulletin contains material that is meant to be informative, thought-provoking and promote dialogue. This material is for information only and should not be construed as an endorsement of the views expressed; products or services mentioned and should not replace consultation with the appropriate qualified professionals. Individuals who require medical, legal or other expert advice should consult with the appropriate qualified professional. ACR does not endorse any specific approach to care. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those held by the ACR Board of Directors and staff.

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