



Council of Senior Citizens'
Organizations of B.C.

Representing Seniors since 1950

www.coscobc.org

September 5, 2019

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 (IDOP) 2019

Theme: "The Journey to Age Equality"

The 2019 theme is aligned with the UN's Sustainable Developmental Goal (SDG) 10 and will focus on pathways of coping with existing and preventing future old age inequality through measures to eliminate discrimination, and to "empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status". "Between 2015 and 2030, the number of people aged 60 and over is expected to increase from 901 million to 1.4 billion- In this regard, trends of aging and economic inequality interact across generations and rapid population aging, demographic and societal or structural changes alone can exacerbate older age inequalities, thereby limiting economic growth and social cohesion."

The sub themes will focus on (i) the care sector- as a contributor of decent work (ii) life-long learning and proactive and adaptive labour policies (iii) universal health coverage and (iv) social protective measures." (UN IDOP -Homepage <<https://www.un.org/development/desa/aging/international-day-of-older-persons-homepage.html>>)

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

- 1) Publicly proclaim/declare your support of the IDOP 2019
- 2) Prominently display the UN IDOP flag for October 1st 2019

We are pleased that last year, for the first time, the Province of British Columbia pro-

claimed that October 1st 2018 would be known as “International Day of Older Persons” (See attachment.). They have been asked by COSCO to do so again this year. We would like the BC city, township 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 2019.

The UN IDOP flag can be purchased through the Seniors’ Voice website <<https://seniorsvoice.org>> for a cost of \$85 and then can be displayed annually for October 1st. Again, please let us know if you already have a flag that you will be flying this year or if you plan to buy and display a flag this year and in subsequent years.

Seniors’ Voice also has an event page on its website that it is encouraging organizations and people to use to post events held across Canada to celebrate IDOP 2019.

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, for

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