



Current Issues for B.C. Seniors

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SENIORS ADVOCATE
BRITISH COLUMBIA

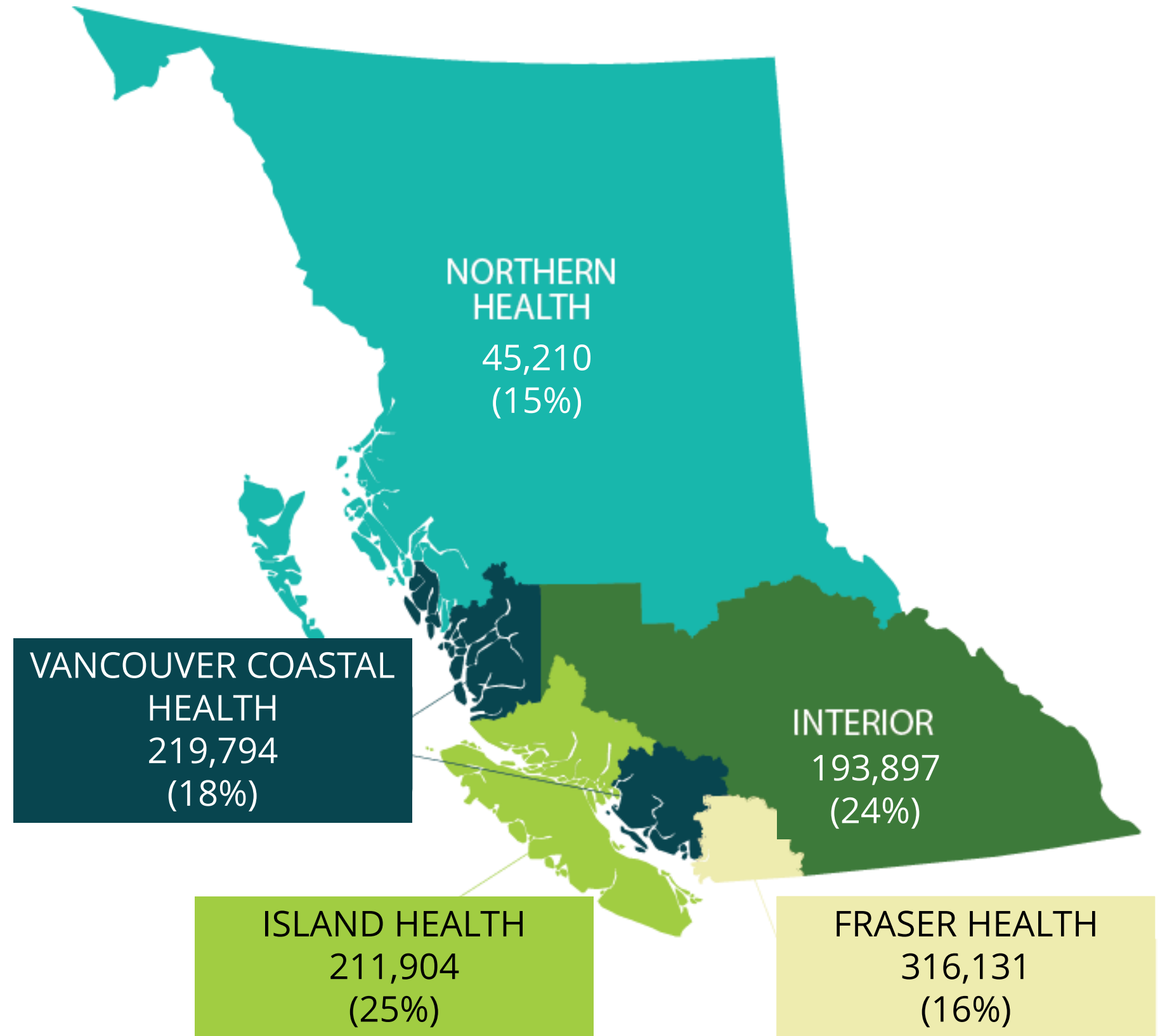
Snapshot of B.C. Seniors

2023

1,016,365
seniors in B.C.

20% of the population

5,000,880
total population



Snapshot of B.C. Seniors



95% aged 65+ live independently

- **77%** aged 85+



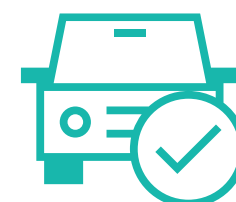
14% are employed

41% are volunteers



9% aged 85+ live in assisted living

13% aged 85+ live in long-term care



88% have driver's license at age 65

- **58%** at age 85
- **40%** aged 85+



80% aged 65+ are homeowners



6% aged 65+ diagnosed with dementia

- **3%** aged 65-84
- **20%** aged 85+



Financial Picture

- Median seniors income is **\$32,990** (\$47,660 avg.)
 - **25%** of seniors live on less than **\$22,000**
 - Median income of people aged 35-54 is **\$54,560** (\$69,161 avg.)
 - **65%** higher than that of seniors
 - **45%** of seniors live on less than minimum wage
 - **6%** of the labour force earns minimum wage

Retirement Savings

- **38%** of workers have Registered Pension Plans
- **\$50,000** median net savings of seniors
- **40%** of seniors do not have RRSPs
- **21%** of B.C. tax filers contributed to RRSPs (2019)
- **\$404K – \$1.3M** value of house in B.C.



Costs of Ageing



Extended health

- eyeglasses
- hearing aids
- mobility aids
- dental care
- medications
- supplies



Help at home

- assistance with household (cleaning, groceries, banking, etc.)
- personal care (home support)
- home maintenance



Assisted living

Long-term care



Government Supports

- Pharmacare
- Better at Home
- Home support
- Subsidized long-term care
- Subsidized assisted living
- Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters
- Seniors Subsidized Housing
- Property tax deferral
- Home Adaptations for Independence
- B.C. Senior's Supplement



Supports for Renters

150,000 senior renters

- **24,000** Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters recipients
- **23,000** Seniors Supportive Housing clients
- **2 out of 3** seniors who rent receive no government support for housing

Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER)

AVERAGE RENT \$1,434 - VANCOUVER

SAFER MAXIMUM \$803

DIFFERENCE **-\$631**

- **95%** live alone
- **81%** have incomes between \$15,000 - \$25,000

BC Housing Seniors Subsidized Housing (SSH)

- **67%** have an income between \$15,000 and \$25,000
- **Nearly 3-year** avg. wait time
- **17% (1,600)** seniors waiting 5+ years



Cost of Home Support

Scenario of Estimated Cost to Health Authority of Fully Subsidized Home Support (1HR) vs. Long-Term Care (LTC) for a Single Senior per Year

SINGLE SENIOR ANNUAL INCOME	\$29,000		
	HOME SUPPORT (1 HR)	HOME SUPPORT (1 HR)	LTC
ESTIMATED COST	\$14,100	\$14,100	\$82,100
CLIENT CONTRIBUTION	\$8,900	REGULATED FEE ELIMINATED	\$22,200
COST TO HEALTH AUTHORITY	\$5,200	\$14,100	\$59,900



Cost of Assisted Living

Cost to a Single Senior for Publicly Subsidized Assisted Living vs Long-Term Care (Based on Median AL Client Rate and Income), 2022

	ASSISTED LIVING	LONG-TERM CARE
MEDIAN ANNUAL INCOME	\$21,861	
MONTHLY INCOME	\$1,822	
CLIENT CONTRIBUTION FEE	\$1,275	\$1,457
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$625	\$235
BALANCE	-\$78	\$128



Challenges to Healthy Ageing

- Geography
- Financial resources
- Ageism
- Health status





QUESTION

ANSWER

Contact

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