

## **JSA Advocacy Committee 2019 - 2020 AGM Report**

Between September 2019 and May of 2020, the JSA Advocacy Committee pursued the following initiatives:

- established channels for collaboration with COSCO, the BC Anti Poverty Coalition, and, through Grace Hahn, the Peer Support Services Program of JSA
- identified priority issues for the Federal Government: universal pharmacare, eye care and dental care, for seniors at least, to be added on to medicare; and RRIF withdrawal flexibility
- identified Provincial Government priority issues: free provision of the enhances flu vaccine as well as vaccines for pneumonia and shingles; increase SAFER levels, increase in funding for home support; fighting telemarketing fraud

The arrival of the COVID 19 pandemic brought other priorities for seniors into focus:

- increased staffing and improved safety protocols for long term care facilities
- an immediate increase in OAS and GIS to help offset increased costs for seniors during the pandemic

New initiatives in the upcoming year:

- determining the optimal approach to advocacy re long term care after examining the arguments in the debate between Larry Shapiro and Ken Levitt (appearing in the fall Senior Line) about which jurisdiction should be responsible: the Feds or the Province
- seeking free "life-line" pendants for low income seniors
- working with JFSA on transportation issues for seniors

Respectfully submitted:

Tony DuMoulin

JSA Advocacy Committee, Chair  
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