

## **2020/2021 Year-end Report of JSA Advocacy Committee to the Annual General Meeting September 23, 2021**

During the last year, from September 2020 to September 2021, the Advocacy Committee has been very active. Among its initiatives are the following highlights:

- prepared and distributed a well-received Position Paper on the future of Long Term Care in the province and across Canada
- created an Advocacy Distribution list of people and organizations who will regularly receive Advocacy Committee communications; 1,000 +
- added a number of key members to our committee
- added Margot Beauchamp as a staff Advocacy Committee Coordinator, which has created organizational efficiencies and improved communications and collaboration with other community organizations
- held in-depth zoom meetings with Mabel Elmore, the provincial Parliamentary Secretary for Long Term Care and Seniors' Services; and with the senior staff of Deb Schulte, the federal Minister of Seniors
- sent JSA letter to both the provincial and federal governments commenting on their respective Budgets as they related to seniors' issues.
- wrote to the City of Vancouver and BC Housing about a proposed supportive housing project at 8th and Arbutus in Vancouver and the request to consider designing units for aging in place.
- responded to BC Transit's plan to reduce the number of bus stops in Vancouver
- increased collaboration with other seniors' organizations, highlighted by our initiating and leading a five organization co-hosted All Candidates Meeting on September 13, 2021.

Initiatives planned for the upcoming year include

- Creating a "Seniors Advocacy Council" with representatives from various seniors organizations who wish to have a coordinated, and thus louder, voice when advocating on common issues
- continue advocating for national pharmacare, including vision and dental care
- lobbying the federal government to to pursue a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons
- push for newly designed Long Term Care facilities
- explore different options for a menu of optimal seniors' housing choices

- research virtual health care
- advocate for digital literacy for isolated seniors, including free internet for those on low income
- combat "ageism" wherever it is found.

Respectfully submitted

Tony DuMoulin