



**August 11, 2023**

You are receiving this newsletter to update you on issues and BCNU initiatives you may find important in retirement.

## **Retiree Benefits Program**

### **LPN Eligibility**

Under the terms of the recently ratified 2022-2025 Nurses' Bargaining Association (NBA) provincial collective agreement, effective April 1, 2024, LPNs will be eligible to participate in the Retiree Benefits Program (RBP). This inclusion is a welcome expansion of the program.

The RBP is funded through employer contributions that are part of negotiated language in the NBA collective agreement; the RBP is not funded by members' union dues. Visit the BCNU website to learn more about the [Retiree Benefits Program](#).

### **RBP Survey: What Kind of Benefits do You Value?**

BCNU is reaching out to retired and active members across the province with a two-question online survey to learn more about the health benefit priorities that matter to them. Your input on coverage options ranging from hearing aids to prescription drugs to counselling services will be highly valuable to the RBP Committee as it works to provide retired members with the best coverage possible. The survey is part of the RBP plan design review project.

Please set aside two minutes of your time to take the survey on the [RBP web page](#).

## **New BCNU Council Takes Office Sept. 1**

BCNU held its general elections in June for provincial and regional positions. The following members are confirmed elected to the union's Provincial Executive Committee:

President:	Adriane Gear
Vice President:	Tristan Newby
Treasurer:	Anita Dickson
Executive Councillor - OHS and Mental Health:	Aida Herrera
Executive Councillor - Pensions and Seniors' Health:	Michelle Sordal

[Full election results](#) are on the BCNU website. Terms for all positions start Sept. 1, 2023.

## **Long-Term Care in BC**

Retired members are encouraged to attend upcoming webinars offered by Action for Reform of Residential Care Association (ARRCBC). *Cared for and Cared About: Nursing in LTC* is on Sept. 27 and will feature BCNU Executive Councillor Michelle Sordal discussing the status of nursing in long-term care and exploring opportunities to address challenges. On Aug. 23, another webinar is available titled *What's for Dinner? Unpacking Food and Nutrition in Long Term Care*. Webinars are from 7 – 8:00 p.m. PDT and there is no need to pre-register. Learn more on the [ARRCBC web page](#).

## Two Nurses Receive the Order of BC

Congratulations to retired members Evanna Brennan and Susan Giles upon becoming members of the Order of British Columbia, the highest form of recognition the province bestows upon its residents.

Brennan and Giles were retired before returning to work in 2016 to help respond to the opioid crisis on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Brennan, 73, and Giles, 67, were also the subjects of a 2020 documentary film entitled "[Angels on Call](#)". BCNU offers heartfelt congratulations to the two nurses for their provincial recognition, and gratitude for their incredible dedication to caring for people with substance use and mental health issues.

Read more about this year's recipients of the [Order of British Columbia](#).

## Add Your Voice: Federal Long-Term Care Standards Consultation

Canada's Minister of Health, in conjunction with the Minister of Seniors, is leading the development of a national Safe Long-term Care (LTC) Act following the release of two new complementary, independent [LTC standards](#) earlier this year. With the recent publication of these standards, the federal government is seeking feedback from all Canadians on a range of LTC issues, from quality and safety, the ability to meet national standards, opportunities to address health human resource challenges, and public reporting.

Retired members are encouraged to take part in this opportunity for public consultation. The online questionnaire includes a specific question for individuals who identify as Indigenous, to gain insight of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people regarding culturally safe LTC services.

Complete the [online questionnaire here](#), by Sept. 21. Read more about the work underway in the federal government's discussion paper, as well as the related national care standards, by [visiting the official government of Canada site](#).

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*If you know another retired member who did not yet receive this email, please forward this to let them know they can update their information with BCNU and be added to this mailing list by contacting [Membership@bcnu.org](mailto:Membership@bcnu.org).*

*Questions or suggestions? Reply to this email with your feedback for future eNewsletters.*

*For more information, please visit the [retired nurses](#) page on the BCNU website.*

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