

February 2017 Edition

Did You Know?

Tax season is upon us. There are many government programs designed to help older Canadians stay financially independent.

In most cases you must apply for income or benefits from a government program. If you are eligible, the amount you receive may depend on your level of income. The majority of programs start at age 65, but some can start earlier.

The most important thing to know about almost all government programs is that you need to **first file a personal income tax return in order to be eligible**. Federal Programs include: Old Age Security (OAS), Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) and Canada Pension Plan (CPP).

Executive Director's Corner

Welcome to the end of one of the colder cold snaps that Kamloops has experienced in quite a few years! While the cold weather and snow can really be an inconvenience for some folks, it can be downright dangerous for some of our seniors who may lose access to supports, or just the basic necessities that we take for granted such as groceries and the ability to get outside. That is why I am officially giving a halo to all of those who helped with the program this year. And a big thanks to Rocky Hunter and Domino's Pizza for their sponsorship. There is nothing like a hot pizza after shovelling.....Keith

Meet our Staff!

Hi there! My name is Natasha Cvitkovich and I am from Delta – located in the Metro Vancouver area of BC. I am currently a third year student in the Bachelor of Social Work program at TRU and for my practicum this year I have been fortunate enough to be placed at Oncore till mid April. I am very excited to be here and hope to meet some of you in the near future. Cheers!



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Better at Home is funded by the Government of British Columbia.

Programs

Grocery Shopping Assistance

The Grocery Shopping Program operates once a week on Thursdays at both Safeway locations with Phone-In and In-Store opportunities for seniors. The Phone-In portion which enables seniors to call in an order and have it delivered, has seen a dramatic increase in the number of seniors requesting and utilizing the service. In order to manage the volume, the program is now waitlisted and a review of current clients is underway.

Program Eligibility:

- Seniors age 65+
- Health and mobility challenges that prevent/ hinder ability to shop
- Low income
- No family or friends that can assist
- No other transportation options

Seniors Must Be Able To:

- Prepare a grocery list ahead of time
- Phone in to the program on the designated day and time(s)
- Provide valid payment information each time they order
- Remain home to receive groceries

Upcoming Programs

Volunteer Income Tax Program

February 28th - April 25th

Seniors meeting the low-income criteria can have their 2016 Income Tax Return filed by a trained Oncore Tax Volunteer free of charge.



NEW! Pre-Registration for the program is required. Registration opens February 1st, 2017. Call 250-828-0600.

REMINDER: Failure to file your income tax on time could result in the interruption of GIS and GST funds.

Volunteers

Snow Angels

We would like to send a huge thank you to our Snow Angel volunteers for all of their hard work with our program this season. Your snow shovelling has helped keep over 100 seniors in our community safe and for this we are truly appreciative!

Congratulations

The staff of Oncore Seniors Society would like to congratulate Charlie Bruce, the recipient of this years 2016 Peace Medal Award. We are extremely fortunate to have Charlie on our volunteer team and from all of the staff we would like to send our heart felt wishes to an exceptional community member.

