



411 Seniors Centre Society OUR VOICE

Message from the Executive Director

Greetings 411 Seniors' members, supporters, and friends. Wishing a Happy New Years to you all!

The construction of our new, permanent centre on Fraser Street and 19th Ave. in Vancouver is wrapping up and we are waiting for the City of Vancouver to give us the occupancy permit so we can start moving in. We are anticipating opening the centre to the public in early March, just in time for us to get set up for the annual income tax clinic which start Monday, March 6th. We will announce the exact date of the opening once we have received all the required permits.

The new centre is 7800 square feet and construction was fully funded by the 411 Seniors Centre Society and our membership. It took over a decade of effort by countless committed staff and members of the board of directors to make this new centre a reality. We faced extraordinary challenges with substantial delays waiting for approvals and skyrocketing construction costs, but we have persevered, and we look forward to celebrating this major milestone. The project is a partnership between the housing provider the Community Land Trust, the City of Vancouver who provided the land and the 411 Seniors Centre Society.

The opening of the new centre is the beginning of a new and exciting chapter for the 411 Seniors Centre and the start of the rebuilding of the organization following the disruptions of the last 3 years with the pandemic response and several moves into temporary spaces as we waited for the construction.

What I am hearing from community groups

across the city is that 2023 is a year of rebuilding and this is true for 411 Seniors. It will take some time and effort to bring back a full range of programs and activities. The greatest challenge is to secure stable operating funding through a committed government funder. Currently, we write grants every year to fund the

next year and this does not meet the financial need. But we will persevere and continue to advocate with the City and Province of BC for sustainable operating funding.

So many members of the community have donated during our fundraising appeals. The largest proportion being donations of \$20.00. It always amazes

me that those who seem to have the least, give the most. Our gratitude to all of you who supported us!

The work of the 411 Seniors Centre is a collective effort of many people who volunteer their time and bring their knowledge, skills, and experience to better our community. On behalf
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The new 411 premises on fraser street

Good Bye, Dear Friend of 411

Message from the President

by MARION POLLACK: February 2023 brings two momentous changes to the 411 Seniors Centre. One of these changes – us moving into our new purpose-built seniors' centre brings us great happiness and joy. It is the culmination of over a decade of hard work by 411 Board members and staff. The other change the departure of our beloved 411 Executive Director, Leslie Remund, brings us gratitude and thanks from the bottom of our hearts.

There is a great deal of information in this newsletter about our wonderful new centre and the decade of hard work, blood, sweat and tears it took us to get to where we are. So, I will focus on the great good fortune the 411 Seniors Centre has had in having Ms. Leslie Remund as our Executive Director.

However, before I begin waxing eloquent about having Leslie as our Executive Director, I need to thank everyone who was involved in the long and at times convoluted process in getting our new building up and running. This includes previous boards, especially former Board Presidents Elsie Dean and Stuart Alcock and former Executive Directors Sandra Gephardt and Leslie Remund. Leslie came to 411 in 2016.

People on that hiring committee reported that as soon as Leslie began speaking, they knew she was the perfect fit for 411. And over the years this has certainly proven to be true. Leslie has served as the Executive Director with integrity, passion,



Leslie Remund, 411 Executive Director

and commitment. She brought her vast experience in social services with her along with an understanding that people need to be treated with compassion, respect and dignity. She has supported and guided the Board in both big and little ways. She has helped me to become a better and more inclusive Board member and has helped the Board become more cohesive and determined. She has mentored me and many other Board and staff members.

We have all gained new skills thanks to her. She has shown immense patience with me, and her willingness to listen to everyone has been critical in strengthening 411. Leslie has also brought a clear and strong understanding of finances and financial processes to 411. This has made 411 much stronger. She has instilled the need to fundraise and so in this spirit I am encouraging any and all of you to donate to 411 to thank Leslie for her service. Leslie also understands the construction and building process. She has worked so incredibly hard to get our new building operating. She has ensured that we didn't pay more for certain aspects of the building and has dealt with all sorts of obstacles that would defeat many of us.

While I am enormously sad to see her leave the fact that we will be in our brand spanking new building at the time of her departure is a fitting tribute to her. Leslie has written grant applications for us, liaised with all levels of governments and built strong connections with others in the non-profit seniors' community and been an amazing and wonderful spokesperson for 411.

Leslie has encouraged both members and Board members to get involved in different aspects of 411 and this is an enormous gift to us. She has done all of her work with a sense of compassion, and a sense of humour (mostly). She has handled difficulties and obstacles (like COVID) with grace and strength.

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of our small staff team, I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you who have carried us through difficult times and applaud the contribution you make. I encourage everyone to join!

As 2023 and the opening of the new centre starts a new chapter for the 411 Seniors Centre, it will also mark the beginning of a new chapter for me. I will be leaving my position as Executive Director of the 411 Seniors Centre at the end of February to focus on my family and caregiving responsibilities. The 411 Seniors Board of Directors is currently in the hiring process for the next Executive Director and they will make the announcement in coming weeks.

Please stay tuned for future announcements on the March opening date. You will find these on the 411 Seniors website www.411Seniors.org or you can call us at 604-684-8171 for updated information.

Leslie Remund
Executive Director

411 Call for Volunteers

Are you interested in making a difference in your community? Come volunteer with us for the month of March and April 2023!

411 Seniors Centre requires Screeners to provide support to the free Income Tax Clinic by assessing the eligibility criteria of low-income seniors and people with disabilities. 411 also requires experienced tax preparers to assist seniors and people with disabilities to complete simple tax returns.

We are also looking for volunteers in the positions of "Advisors" and for the Information and Referral service. Our information and referral services program ensures that older adults are well-informed about the benefits and support available to them, and provide referrals to community and government agencies, as needed.

The Nominations Committee will be re-starting in the next few weeks and we will be looking for volunteers, both for the Committee and for some dynamic people who would like to be part of building the new, exciting 411 Seniors Society. Please think about joining us in this process.

View all details here: <https://411seniors.org/latest-news/news-updates/>



411 coffee and conversation group visiting the new 411 building on Fraser Street

INCOME TAX CLINIC INFORMATION

Date: March 6, 2023 – April 27, 2023

Hours of Operation: Monday – Thursday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We require you to book an appointment to file your Income Tax

Appointment contact number: 604-684-8171. Appointment booking will open on March 1st, 2023, at 9:00 AM. Please wait for all your tax slips (T forms) and receipts before coming to your appointment.



Eligibility Criteria:

- ▶ 55+ years old or person with disabilities
- ▶ Household income is less than \$35,000 (individual) or \$45,000 (couples)

Must Bring:

- ▶ Photo Identification
- ▶ Social Insurance Number

- ▶ All tax receipts (e.g. T4, T4A, T5, etc)
- ▶ All medical receipts - please attach all the receipts individually on a piece of paper and add them up to prevent delays
- ▶ All charitable donation receipts – please attach all the receipts individually on a piece of paper and add them up to prevent delays
- ▶ 2021 Notice of Assessment

411 COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

The 411 Senior Centre Coffee and Conversation group has been meeting at the Kingsgate Mall every Tuesday from 1 to 3 pm over the past few months. Come and share a story, a joke and even a laugh (or two) with us at the Mall. The invitation is extended to all as everyone is welcome to join. Call (604) 684-8171 for more information.

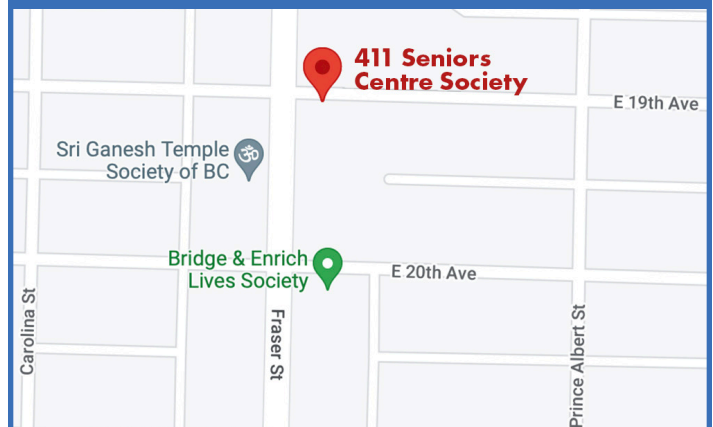


THE NEW BUILDING OPENS

AT 3502 FRASER STREET (Fraser and 19th)

ON MARCH 6

Bus routes include #8 Fraser and #19 Kingsway



411seniors.org

411 Seniors Centre Society

PO Box 47082 Denman Place Vancouver BC V6G 3E1

411 Seniors is the go-to hub for older adults interests. The centre works toward an inclusive community of informed and connected older adults in the Lower Mainland.

Located on the unceded homeland of the Skwxwú?mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.



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