

West Coast Conference on Aging

June 19 & 20, 2025

Event Program

Wellness, Strength, and Vitality in Aging

Day 1 | Thursday, June 19

7:30 am ● **Registration and Refreshments**

8:00 am **Emcee | Open Conference**

Dr. Eli Puterman
Associate Professor, School of Kinesiology, UBC

8:05 am **Coast Salish Welcome**

Dr. and Elder Roberta Price

8:15 am **Reflection**

Dr. Francis Maza
VP Mission, Ethics & Spirituality Providence Healthcare (PHC)

8:25 am **Opening Remarks**

Fiona Dalton
President & CEO, PHC

8:30 am **Opening Welcome**

Mark Blandford
President & CEO, Providence Living (PL)

8:40 am ● **Overview of Aging in BC and Canada including Evolving Demographics, Socioeconomic Experiences & Initiatives that Support Wellness**

Dan Levitt
BC Seniors Advocate, Office of the Seniors Advocate

9:20 am ● **Frailty and Dementia: Culturally Safe Care for Indigenous Peoples**

Dr. Jennifer Walker
Associate Professor, McMaster University

10:00 am ● **Morning Break | Poster Presentations and Exhibitor Tables**

10:30 am ● **Supporting Older Adults who use Substances**

Serena Eagland
Clinical Nurse Specialist, PHC

Karen Custodio
Director of Operations, PL

Panel Discussion:

Karen Custodio (moderator)
Serena Eagland
Jade Miller, Director of Care, PL
Shelley West, Social Worker, PL



We are grateful to be gathering on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish people, the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh)

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Day 1 Concurrent Sessions

Ballroom 1 & 2

- 11:30 am ● **Frailty, Sarcopenia, Rapid Identification & Interventions**
Dr. Kelly Picard
Renal Dietitian Coordinator, Island Health Authority
- 12:00 pm ● **Lunch | Poster Presentations and Exhibitor Tables**
- 12:45 pm ● **Transforming Long-term Care: Lessons from Implementing the Home for Us Model of Care**
Anastasia Tsatsanis, Leader Quality of Life and Resident Experience, PHC
Vinnie Tang, Change Initiative Specialist, PL &
Deb Chmelauskas, Occupational Therapist & Senior Care Consultant, PL
- 1:15 pm ● **Integrated Community Care 4 All: Principles for Transforming Seniors Care in BC**
Dr. Amy Salmon, Centre Associate Director, Centre for Advancing Health Outcomes &
Sanja Simic, Executive Director, Conconi Family Foundation

Ballroom 3

- An Innovative Preventive and Rehabilitative Model of Care: The Independence Model (TIM)**
Indershini Pillay, Director, Allied Health/Interprofessional Practice, PHC
Eduardo Naranjo, Practice Consultant for Allied Health Scope, PHC
- Nothing About Us Without Us: Increasing Effective Engagement with Residents and Families in Long-term Care**
Lisa Dawson
Vice President/Secretary, Independent Long-term Care Councils Association of BC & Chair of the Vancouver Coastal Associations of Family Councils
- The Transformative Potential of Digital Storytelling for Understanding Seniors' Well-Being**
Jazmine Raine
Trent University



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- 1:45 pm ● **Afternoon Break | Poster Presentations and Exhibitor Tables**
- 2:10 pm ● **Living Well with Dementia:
The Power of Connection and Creativity**
Dr. Debra Sheets, Professor Emerita
School of Nursing, University of Victoria
- 2:55 pm ● **Ancestral Awareness:
Indigenous Contemplative Practices and Healing**
Dr. Michael Yellow Bird,
Professor, Faculty of Social Work, University of
Manitoba
- 3:55 pm **Closing Remarks**
Dr. Eli Puterman

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Day 2 | Friday, June 20

7:30 am ● **Registration and Refreshments**

8:00 am **Emcee | Open Conference**
Jennifer Lyle
CEO, Alzheimer Society of BC

8:05 am **Reflection**
Dr. Francis Maza

8:15 am **Opening Welcome**
Dr. Janet Kow
VP Quality & Safety and Long-term Care, PHC

8:20 am ● **Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities:
Fostering Strength and Wellness through Community
Design and Organizations**
Anthony Kupferschmidt
Strategic Lead Aging and Older Persons,
City of Vancouver

9:00 am ● **Social Prescriptions and the Healthy Aging Journey**
Dr. Grace Park
Past Regional Medical Director Home and Community
Care

9:35 am ● **Morning Break | Poster Presentations and Exhibitor
Tables**

10:05 am ● **Social Robots & Digital Innovations to Promote Social
Connection**
Dr. Lillian Hung
UBC School of Nursing IDEA Lab

Tyler Paetkau
Clinical Ethicist, PHC

Panel Discussion:

Dr. Lillian Hung
Tyler Paetkau
Mario Gregorio, Patient Engagement Partner, UBC IDEA
Lab



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Day 2 Concurrent Sessions

Ballroom 1 & 2

Ballroom 3

11:00 am • **Transforming Care to Enhance Quality of Life:
Early Findings from an Interdisciplinary Evaluation of
"Providence Living at The Views" (60 min)**
Advancing Health Outcomes Team |
Dr. Amy Salmon; Dr. Habib Chaudhury; Ziyang Zhang &
Dr. Adam Easterbrook

11:30 am •

12:00 pm • **Lunch | Poster Presentations and Exhibitor Tables**

12:45 pm • **Moving from Risk to Resilience:
Targeted Skill-Building for Dementia Caregivers**
St. Paul's Hospital Dementia Caregiver Resilience Clinic
Team | Dr. Elisabeth Drance, Geriatric Psychiatry &
Beth McManus, Social Worker, PHC

1:15 pm • **Small Practices, Big Impact:
Building Resilience in Dementia Caregivers**
Aaron Yukich, Caregiver Rx Social Prescribing Lead &
Dr. Elisabeth Drance

The Seniors Quality Leap Initiative (SQLI)

Jennifer Hartwick
Director of Business Process Development, Schlegel Villages &
Kevin Harter
CEO, Luther Court Society

Transforming Care for Home Health Clients: A Journey to Standardize Malnutrition Screening

Leila Goharian, Allied Health Regional Practice Initiatives Lead, VCH
Sepideh Sarbazi, Home and Ambulatory Care Dietitian VCH &
Andrea Brand, Registered Dietitian, VCH

Healthy Hearing: Interventions for Reversible Hearing Loss

Grace Shyng
Registered Audiologist and Hearing Instrument Practitioner
UBC Clinical Assistant Professor, Network Hearing Health & Help BC
Hear Better Committee

Not Your Mother's Menopause: Insights about Menopause from Younger Women with Ovarian Removal

Lucy Muir
University of Toronto, Einstein Lab



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- 1:45 pm ● **Afternoon Break | Poster Presentations and Exhibitor Tables**
- 2:15 pm ● **Around the World in 80 Days at 81! Living Life to the Fullest**
Dr. Sandy Hazelip & Eleanor "Ellie" Hamby
- 3:30 pm **Closing Remarks**
Jennifer Lyle

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