

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 | Opening Welcome**
Mark Blandford
President & CEO, Providence Living (PL)
- 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

PROGRAM

- 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 səliwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh)

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CURRENT SESSIONS

Ballroom 1 & 2

Ballroom 3 (Breakout room)

11:30 am • **Frailty, Sarcopenia, Rapid Identification & Interventions**
Dr. Kelly Picard
Renal Dietitian Coordinator, Island Health Authority

• **An Innovative, Preventive and Rehabilitative Model of Care: The Independence Model (TIM)**
Indershini Pillay, Director, Allied Health and Interprofessional Practice, PHC
Eduardo Naranjo, Practice Consultant, Allied Health, PHC

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

• **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

12:45 pm • **Fostering Grassroots Culture Change: The Home for Us Model and Appreciative Inquiry Approach**
Anastasia Tsatsanis, Leader Quality of Life and Resident Experience, PHC
Vinnie Tang, Change Initiative Specialist, PL &
Deb Chmelauskas, Occupational Therapist & Senior Care Consultant, PL

• **The Transformative Potential of Digital Storytelling for Understanding Seniors' Well-Being**
Jazmine Raine
Trent University

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



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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**
Mark Blandford

Dialogue
on **aging**

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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 Connection and Support**
Anthony Kupferschmidt
Strategic Lead Aging and Older Persons,
City of Vancouver

PROGRAM

- 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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CURRENT SESSIONS

	Ballroom 1 & 2	Ballroom 3 (Breakout room)
11:00 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The Seniors Quality Leap Initiative (SQLI) Jennifer Hartwick Director of Business Process Development, Schlegel Villages & Kevin Harter CEO, Luther Court Society
11:30 am		<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 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
12:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Lunch Poster Presentations & Exhibitor Tables	
12:45 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Healthy Hearing Healthy Aging Grace Shyng, Registered Audiologist and Hearing Instrument Practitioner. UBC Clinical Assistant Professor, Network Hearing Health & Help BC Hear Better Committee
1:15 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Small Practices, Big Impact: Building Resilience in Dementia Caregivers Aaron Yukich, Caregiver Rx Social Prescribing Lead & Dr. Elisabeth Drance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 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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