



B.C. Federation of Retired Union Members

200 - 5118 Joyce Street, Vancouver, B.C. V5R 4H1 • 604 688-4565 • 1-800-896-5678

Fax: 604 430-5917 • bcforum@bcfed.ca • www.bcforum.ca • facebook.com/BCRetiredUnionMembersForum

April 20, 2017

The Honourable Terry Lake
Minister of Health
PO Box 9050 Stn. Prov Govt.
Victoria, B.C. Canada
V8W9E2

Re: Shingles Vaccine

Dear Minister Lake:

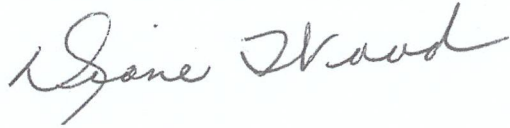
It has come to our attention that there are many thousands of seniors who could benefit from receiving the shingles vaccine through our MSP premiums. At this time, we must pay anywhere from \$180.00 to over \$200.00 depending on the vendor dispensing the vaccine. This is an added hardship for many.

Our organization would like to support the letters you have already received from the B.C. Government Retired Employees' Association (BCGREA), dated October 23, 2016 from their President, Ken Pendergast and the Council of Senior Citizen's Organizations of B.C. (COSCO) dated December 1, 2016 from their President Lorraine Logan.

The pain and suffering, visits to doctors, added medications and time away from social and professional obligations is just a small indication of the havoc shingles causes. The administration of these vaccines could easily be absorbed by pharmaceutical care, as many flu shots are now delivered.

We would implore you and your government to make policy change and we respectfully ask that you consider our request of administering free shingle vaccines to any adult over 50 years of age. This would go a long way in avoiding this debilitating disease and would perhaps provide some peace of mind and security, knowing that avoiding shingles does not rely on the size of your bank account.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane L. Wood". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Diane L. Wood
President
BC Federation of Retired Union Members (BC FORUM)

cc. The Honourable Premier Christy Clark
cc. Judy Darcy, Opposition Critic Health
cc. Ken Pendergast, President, BCGREA
cc. Lorraine Logan, President, COSCO