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50+ Newsletter



April 2023 • Issue 4

New Brunswick Senior Citizens Federation

www.nbscf.ca



News from the Federation

The Board of Directors will be meeting again on Tuesday April 4th and will be mostly concentrating on preparing for the upcoming Annual General Meeting at the Legends Room of the Moncton Coliseum on Tuesday May 9th. They will be approving the new Resolutions, Policies and Strategic Plan of the Federation that will then be presented to our members at the AGM. The registration forms have been sent out to our clubs and some have already made their way back to the office. There is a meeting planned on April 14th with Federal Minister Ginette Petitpas-Taylor and we are still waiting on news from the Provincial government. We have resent the unresolved Resolutions to all MLAs and government officials, and the following letter was also sent to Premier Higgs, Dr. Jennifer Russell, Dr. Yves Léger and Minister Bruce Fitch after hearing concerns from our members:

“Members of the New Brunswick Senior Citizens’ Federation are worried about the province’s upcoming decision concerning the National Advisory Committee on

Immunization’s recommendation that starting in the Spring of 2023, an additional Bivalent booster dose may be offered as per the recommended interval to the following individuals who are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19: Adults 80 years of age and older, adult residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living settings for seniors or those with complex medical care needs, adults 18 years of age and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised (due to an underlying condition or treatment), and adults 65 to 79 years of age, particularly if they do not have a known prior history of SARS-CoV-2 infection.

On September 14th 2022, when the Bivalent boosters first became available, and again on October 21st 2022 when more were provided, this was the message given: “Public Health continues to strongly recommend New Brunswickers stay up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines, including getting a bivalent booster, if five months have passed since their last COVID-19 vaccine or infection,” said Dr. Arifur Rahman,

acting chief medical officer of health. “This is especially important for those most at risk of severe outcomes of COVID-19.” Personal risk factors for severe illness include: being 50 or older. With this upcoming decision, we hope this will be taken into consideration to be fair and respectful towards all seniors, as it concerns those who are over 50.

We have been hearing from many of our members, especially the ones aged 50 to 64 about their concern with the proposed booster vaccination rollout plan. This new plan considers only those 65+ of being in the priority groups. Our concern comes from the fact that many seniors 65+ have a partner, caregiver or close contact living in their home who is between the ages of 50 and 64. Your government promotes the fact that seniors should remain in their homes as long as possible. In many cases, these seniors depend on someone younger who

(continued on next page)



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Fraud and grandparent scams

Law enforcement agencies have seen an alarming rise in grandparent scams. This scam involves fraudsters contacting an older person and claiming to be a grandchild who is in serious trouble and needs money immediately. Be prepared! If you get a call, message or text like this, the fraudster may know your grandchild's name. The fraudster will then arrange to either pick up the money in person or have you send them the money.

Other common scams to watch out for include investment scams, romance scams and service scams.

How can you protect yourself from these scams?

- If you receive a suspicious phone call claiming to be from a family

member in serious trouble, hang up the phone and contact them directly using the number you have for that person.

- If the caller claims to be a law enforcement official and asks you to pay a fine or bail, hang up and call your local police.
- Before investing in an organization or individual, ask for information about the investment. Verify the registration of the company or individual with your provincial securities agency.
- Be wary of people you meet on social media who ask you to invest in their business or project.
- Listen to that inner voice telling you, "This doesn't sound right."

- Be careful what you post online. Fraudsters can use names and details shared on social media for targeting purposes.
- Use unique and strong passwords for all social media and email accounts.

Think that you have been scammed? Contact your local police and report it to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre via their online reporting system or by phone at 1-888-495-8501.

Canadian seniors lose millions of dollars to scams each year. But if you know what to look out for, and if you stay vigilant, you can avoid fraud and scams.

News from the Federation (continued)

lives with them to help care for them with meals, housework and other tasks. We strongly recommend that these people should also be eligible for the booster.

We encourage the government to consider these options when making the decision about the recommendation by the National Advisory Committee

on Immunization (NACI). Please consider all seniors 50+ for the Bivalent booster."

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