



FOR RELEASE

Monday, September 28, 2009

Seniors ask for second Vancouver hearing on 2010 provincial budget

VANCOUVER – “I’m very pleased that the Legislature’s Finance Committee is holding public hearings, and asking for our input on the next provincial budget,” Alice West, President of the B.C. Federation of Retired Union Members said today.

“There are certainly a lot of things that seniors would like to talk to them about,” she said.

“My only concern is that it’s very short notice for the Vancouver hearing. The schedule was just announced Wednesday afternoon, and the hearing is already being held today (Monday).

“That’s not much time for any group to get together, talk about what they’d like to see done, and prepare a submission. It’s even more difficult for retired people because some of us don’t drive anymore and have a hard time getting around.

“I hope they’ll take that into account and schedule another Vancouver meeting,” said West.

West said some of the issues she’d like to talk to the committee about include the impact of the HST on seniors, the recent cancellation of grants to non-profit societies that provide assistance to isolated seniors, and the need for improvements in both long-term care and home care for retired workers.

“These things are very important to a lot of people who are living on fixed incomes and limited means,” said West. “I hope the committee will make an effort to ensure we can be heard by setting up a second hearing in Vancouver.”

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