
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Community Services

FUNDING FUELS MORE MATURE DRIVER COURSES

VICTORIA – More British Columbia seniors will be safer on the road thanks to \$75,000 in new provincial funding for BCAA’s road safety awareness workshops, Ida Chong, Minister of Community Services and Minister Responsible for Seniors’ Issues, announced today.

“We are committed to building the best system of support for seniors in Canada and that’s why we’re so pleased to support this program, providing seniors with the tools they need to stay safe while driving and be more self-aware of their driving ability,” said Chong.

This additional funding, for the BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation’s Mature Drivers program, will enable the organization to expand the program into new areas of the province, offering more free workshops to a broader, more diverse audience of senior drivers. Additional mature drivers, their friends and family members will learn how to assess their own driving habits, develop better driving strategies and make appropriate decisions about their mobility and transportation needs.

“Transportation and road safety are priorities for B.C. seniors and were key to several recommendations in the Aging Well in British Columbia report presented by the Premier’s Council on Aging and Seniors’ Issues,” said Chong. “By supporting this Mature Drivers program, we’re helping B.C. seniors to live more independent lives and ensure they remain vital, contributing members of their communities.”

Since April 2005, more than 3,000 participants have benefited from the program in 24 communities throughout B.C.

“Partnerships are key to making the Mature Drivers program successful,” said Allan Lamb, executive director for the BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation. “Thousands of mature drivers have taken part in these workshops already and we look forward to being able to expand the program’s reach across B.C., including meeting the growing demand for the workshop from some of B.C.’s ethnic communities.”

To learn more about the Mature Drivers workshops, visit www.maturedrivers.ca. To learn more about Aging Well in British Columbia, the Report of the Premier’s Council on Aging and Seniors’ Issues, visit www.gov.bc.ca/seniors.

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