

## NEWS STORY

# Lack of home care could be costly

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Home-support services have been discontinued for hundreds of seniors on Vancouver Island. Told they no longer qualify for assistance, some, who have had support for up to 10 years, are being told to go to a care facility for a bath, pay \$5 plus transportation, and pay dearly for the emotional loss of safety and security.

Why is no one coming forth to complain? The shock, humiliation and loss of dignity is one reason; the fact many don't know where or how is another.

Those who won't leave home will be trying to bathe or shower without assistance and could fall, and the costs to the health-care system may be astronomical. For example, a hip fracture can cost the health-care system about \$24,000!

Will you and I someday have to go out and pay for a bath, given by a stranger in a nursing home? We should all be very worried.

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