



New Horizons for Seniors Program

Engaging Seniors, Strengthening Communities



Program Overview

The **New Horizons for Seniors Program** helps to ensure that seniors are able to benefit from and contribute to the quality of life in their community through their social participation and active living.

The Program offers three types of funding to non-profit organizations:

- **Community Participation and Leadership Funding** provides grant funding of up to \$25,000 for projects that encourage seniors to contribute to their communities by sharing their skills, wisdom and experience and helping to reduce isolation. These projects are initiated and led by seniors and benefit the communities where they live.
- **Capital Assistance Funding** provides grant funding of up to \$25,000 for upgrading community facilities and

equipment related to existing programs and activities for seniors. This enables seniors to continue to participate and lead active lives through programs in their communities.

- **Elder Abuse Awareness Funding** provides contribution funding up of to \$250,000 for national or regional projects that raise awareness of the abuse of older adults. Through this funding, new resources are available to improve quality of life, safety and security for seniors.

Want to know more? Please visit the New Horizons for Seniors Program Web site at www.hrsdc.gc.ca, or call 1-800-277-9914 and select "0" to speak with an agent.



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Seniors are a growing segment of the population and, in many cases, an untapped community resource. Retired baby boomers are the most educated and healthiest seniors in history. Their skills, knowledge and expertise make them ideal participants in activities that promote social well-being and strengthen communities.

Today's seniors want to make a meaningful contribution to their communities. They have the energy and enthusiasm to be active participants and play leadership roles in volunteer organizations. In recent studies, retired baby boomers have stated that they aren't interested in traditional methods of volunteering. They're calling on organizations that rely on volunteers to change their mindset if they want to engage this dynamic group.

Organizations must seek opportunities for seniors to share their wisdom and experience for the benefit of others and the community at large. One such opportunity exists through the **Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors program**, which encourages organizations to engage seniors by asking them to initiate and lead projects that benefit the community through volunteerism, civic leadership and mentorship.

Since the program began in 2005, New Horizons for Seniors has funded over 300 projects in British Columbia. Through the program, more than \$4 million has been invested in B.C. towns, cities and reserves and thousands of volunteers have contributed to their communities.

The Program has three funding components:

- **Community Participation & Leadership Funding – open April 7 – May 16, 2008 (Yukon) and April 7 – June 13, 2008 (BC).**
- **Capital Assistance Funding (Fall 2008)**
- **Elder Abuse Awareness Funding (expected 2009)**

The range of programs is vast. Some examples of funded programs in British Columbia to date include

- a debt-free consulting service for young families, run by retired members of the financial field;
- a community garden in an urban setting to provide medicinal plants and teach others about traditional Aboriginal healing;
- a heritage project to revitalize a former tram system and encourage younger residents to learn about the roots of their community; and
- a living history CD project where students interview and film seniors who immigrated to Canada in order to record and share their memories.

For more information on the New Horizons for Seniors program, visit the Human Resources and Social Development Canada website at www.hrsdc-drhsc.gc.ca or call **1-866-317-8555**. TTY users can dial 1-800-255-4785.