



**FAMILIES
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2013HLTH0002-000008
Jan. 8, 2013

Ministry of Health
Union of British Columbia Municipalities

Twenty-seven communities receive Age-friendly BC grants

100 MILE HOUSE – Seniors in 100 Mile House and throughout the province will benefit as 27 communities receive grants of up to \$20,000 to help create programs or tools that address the needs of their older residents.

“This year’s grant recipients have recognized the importance of ensuring that communities and businesses meet the needs of residents of all ages,” said Minister of State for Seniors Ralph Sultan. “Successful projects focus on a wide range of supports to make life easier for older residents. Many of these programs are supporting seniors to remain socially active and connected to their communities and are helping to reduce isolation, which is one of the top issues that I hear from seniors across B.C. when I meet with them.”

The age-friendly planning and project grant program is a partnership between the government of B.C. and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). Grants of up to \$20,000 are provided through UBCM to help establish, or continue, a variety of projects that support healthy, active seniors.

“As B.C.’s population continues to age, it is important that we look to ways to support the health of seniors and ensure that our communities are age-friendly and accessible,” said Cariboo-Chilcotin MLA Donna Barnett. “It is great news for seniors here in the Cariboo, and across B.C., that local governments are engaging in projects and programs that support our oldest residents.”

Applications for age-friendly planning and projects grants were reviewed by staff from UBCM and the Ministry of Health. They were scored on a variety of factors, including: goals, proposed activities, involvement of seniors and other key partners, budget, and innovation and sustainability.

“As local governments come to grips with aging populations, there is a need to rethink the range of services we provide and how they are delivered. This program is helping communities around the province to improve policies and services for seniors,” said Mary Sjostrom, president of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

Since 2007, 117 B.C. communities have received funding to support age-friendly planning and projects. Examples include age-friendly assessments, ensuring services are more accessible, supporting transportation and social connection to help prevent social isolation, and improving the community by increasing garden and green space.

In September 2012, government announced \$500,000 was available for the 2013 round of grants. Fourteen of the 27 successful applicants for 2013 have not received previous funding through the program.

“We are very pleased that this funding will enable us to work in partnership with the South Cariboo Community Planning Council to conduct an age-friendly assessment and will help us build on our ongoing work in creating livable communities for seniors with disabilities,” said Mitch Campsall, mayor of the District of 100 Mile House.

The age-friendly grant program is only one aspect of Age-friendly BC, which focuses on providing communities with support, information and recognition to help meet the needs of an aging population. Local governments can achieve age-friendly recognition and officially become an Age-friendly BC community once they have completed four basic steps that focus on community engagement, commitment, assessment and action.

To learn more about Age-friendly B.C. and the Age-friendly Planning and Project grant program, please visit: www.gov.bc.ca/agefriendly

The age-friendly grant program reflects the goals of B.C.’s Family Agenda, which supports seniors by encouraging healthy, active aging. To learn more, visit: www.familiesfirstbc.ca

A backgrounder follows.

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BACKGROUNDER

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Age-friendly grants recipients for 2013

100 Mile House

Project: Towards an Age-friendly Community

Grant amount: \$19,967

Anmore

Project: Age-friendly community action planning

Grant amount: \$19,910

Barriere

Project: Seniors mental and physical fitness project

Grant amount: \$15,400

Bowen Island

Project: Health-care resource guide for Bowen Island and BEST osteoporosis prevention program

Grant amount: \$19,993

Burns Lake

Project: Age-friendly community assessment

Grant amount: \$17,400

Central Kootenay Regional District

Project: Just for the Health of It! exercise and wellness program

Grant amount: \$5,600

Delta

Project: North Delta seniors' bus

Grant amount: \$20,000

Fort St. James

Project: No Resident Left Behind – seniors' transportation initiative

Grant amount: \$20,000.

Fraser Lake

Project: Senior support and drop-in centre

Grant amount: \$20,000

Kaslo

Project: Kaslo seniors' co-ordinator

Grant amount: \$20,000

Kent

Project: Resource book, community information boards and isolation training

Grant amount: \$15,000

Ladysmith

Project: LaFF and Learn

Grant amount: \$20,000

Metchosin

Project: Seniors' drop in centre

Grant amount: \$20,000

Mission

Project: Active Seniors

Grant amount: \$20,000

Nakusp

Project: Seniors' resource fair

Grant amount: \$3,500

Parksville

Project: Oceanside IMPACTS: Improving Partnerships for Age-friendly Care Transitions for Seniors

Grant amount: \$19,810

Port Alberni

Project: Creating an Age-friendly Alberni Valley

Grant amount: \$20,000

Princeton

Project: Zoning bylaw review: incorporating age-friendly land use regulations

Grant amount: \$20,000

Queen Charlotte

Project: Fit for Life: All ages community park outdoor fitness program

Grant amount: \$10,268.89

Revelstoke

Project: Kovach Park age-friendly enhancement and seniors' fitness programming

Grant amount: \$20,000

Sayward

Project: Seniors' outdoor gym and wellness programs

Grant amount: \$20,000

Silverton

Project: Develop a policy and action plan as well as developing new projects

Grant amount: \$20,000

Sooke

Project: Seniors Volunteer Connections

Grant amount: \$20,000

Surrey

Project: Connecting seniors and their caregivers to resources in the community

Grant amount: \$20,000

Tofino

Project: Creating a Tofino age-friendly community

Grant amount: \$15,500

West Vancouver

Project: North Shore Age-friendly initiative: Seniors connecting seniors for healthy living

Grant amount: \$20,000

Williams Lake

Project: Senior Citizens' Activity Centre – Healthy and safe eating kitchen renovation

Grant amount: \$20,000

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