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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2015HLTH0103-002134  
Dec. 18, 2015

Ministry of Health  
Union of British Columbia Municipalities

### **2016 Age-friendly grant recipients announced**

VICTORIA – Driving Miss Sayward, a fitness park for seniors and new dementia resources are some of the projects that will soon be underway as 28 B.C. communities receive age-friendly community planning and project grants totalling \$496,165, Health Minister Terry Lake announced today.

“Our age-friendly programs encourage older British Columbians to be active and engaged, which helps them stay healthy,” said Lake. “The 2016 grant recipients have developed a variety of projects focusing on accessibility, transportation, information and outreach, all with a goal of helping seniors be mobile, physically active and socially connected.”

The age-friendly community planning and project grant program is a partnership between the Province and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). Local governments were invited to apply for grants up to \$20,000 to help carry out activities that are designed to help seniors stay active, healthy and independent.

For the 2016 grants, communities were encouraged to consider projects that focus on accessibility, elder abuse prevention, dementia and non-medical home support.

“I frequently hear from seniors that they want to remain independent as well as feel included in their community,” said Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors Darryl Plecas. “Whether it’s providing transportation services or something as simple as accessible walking trails, the age-friendly 2016 planning grants will help make sure older adults are supported.”

Some examples of 2016 grants include the creation of an age-friendly outdoor fitness park in Keremeos; a seniors’ bus program – Driving Miss Sayward; and, a partnership between the City of Vancouver and the Alzheimer Society of B.C. – that supports staff in recognizing the signs of dementia when interacting with seniors.

“For over a decade this program has made an impact in the lives of B.C. seniors by funding small projects tailored to specific local needs,” said UBCM president Al Richmond. “UBCM is very pleased to partner with the Ministry of Health to deliver this program.”

Applications were reviewed by a committee from UBCM and the Ministry of Health. To date, age-friendly community planning and project grants have funded 268 projects in 142 local governments in all areas of B.C., totalling \$5.25 million.

A backgrounder follows.

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## BACKGROUND

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### **2016 Age-friendly community planning and project grant recipients**

The following communities have received age-friendly community planning and project grants:

#### 100 Mile House

Project name: South Cariboo age-friendly initiative—Moving Forward

Grant amount: \$7,000

Project details: Working with the South Cariboo community planning council and other partners, the district will consult with the community in order to assess and explore options for seniors' housing and supports for aging in place. Work will also include the development of a transportation action plan.

#### Burnaby

Project name: Burnaby dementia-friendly community action plan

Grant amount: \$20,000

Project details: The city will engage with partners such as the Alzheimer Society of B.C., Fraser Health, Burnaby Citizen Support Services, Voices of Burnaby Seniors, and people with dementia themselves to establish a dementia-friendly steering committee, host a workshop for key city staff and council members and identify actions to help make Burnaby more dementia-friendly.

#### Burns Lake

Project name: Official community plan review and update

Grant amount: \$15,000

Project details: The village will integrate age-friendly policies that help meet the needs of older residents into its revised and updated official community plan. This work will be done in partnership with the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako and include local seniors, First Nations and Northern Health, as well as other community members and organizations.

#### Campbell River

Project name: Age-friendly assessment

Grant amount: \$20,000

Project details: The city will consult with the community through focus groups and surveys to create an age-friendly action plan.

#### Capital Regional District

Project name: Reducing the barriers for low-income seniors

Grant amount: \$20,000

Project details: The Capital Region Housing Corporation will consult with low-income tenants, provide information on and referrals to programs and services in their neighbourhoods, and create a resource guide to link low-income seniors to community resources.

#### Central Okanagan Regional District

Project name: Regional park age-friendly recreational access project

Grant amount: \$20,000

Project details: The project will improve accessibility by identifying senior-friendly low-barrier trails and beaches in a resource booklet. Additionally, there will be a pilot project to put up signs identifying senior-friendly trails in six area parks. The district will also be widening, levelling and surfacing the Peninsula Trail at Kaloya Regional Park in Lake Country.

#### Chetwynd

Project name: Lunch n' Learn

Grant amount: \$13,100

Project details: The district will host lunch and learn sessions covering topics such as nutrition, home and community safety, and resources for caregivers.

#### Columbia Shuswap Regional District

Project name: Age-friendly assessment of the communities in South Shuswap Area C

Grant amount: \$20,000

Project details: An age-friendly assessment of South Shuswap Area C will be conducted in partnership with the South Shuswap Health Services Society. The regional district will hold public consultations in South Shuswap communities to gather information to develop an age-friendly plan for the region.

#### Delta

Project name: South Delta seniors bus pilot project

Grant amount: \$20,000

Project details: Funding will go towards the South Delta seniors bus pilot project to address transportation needs identified by older adults in Ladner and Tsawwassen. Building on the success of the North Delta seniors' bus, this project is expected to reduce isolation among South Delta seniors by providing an additional option for those requiring affordable and accessible door-to-door transportation.

#### Esquimalt

Project name: Age-friendly assessment on the status of seniors in Esquimalt

Grant amount: \$20,000

Project details: The funding is for an age-friendly assessment on the status of seniors in Esquimalt. The township will consult with seniors and seniors' organizations on the features of an age-friendly community and develop recommended age-friendly goals, objectives, and policies for inclusion in the updated official community plan.

#### Islands Trust

Project name: Supporting Lasqueti Island seniors to age at home, outreach and consultation

Grant amount: \$9,465

Project details: Islands Trust will receive funding for a community consultation to explore the needs of Lasqueti Island seniors living at home and how they can be supported.

#### Kamloops

Project name: Kamloops inclusive accessibility plan

Grant amount: \$15,000

Project details: Community members and local organizations will be engaged in the

development of an inclusive accessibility plan, which builds on previous work, including the city's 2010 age-friendly community plan.

#### Kaslo

Project name: Seniors outreach and support project and caregiver support program

Grant amount: \$20,000

Project details: This two-part project includes training and co-ordinating volunteers to provide one-on-one outreach and support to isolated seniors, as well as planning, organizing and facilitating a caregiver-support program.

#### Kelowna

Project name: Kelowna's community for all ages plan

Grant amount: \$20,000

Project details: The city will engage in an age-friendly community assessment process to develop a community for all ages plan, building on the Healthy City Partnership signed by the city, UBC, and Interior Health in 2014 to develop a long-term strategy to promote a healthy quality of life for all residents.

#### Keremeos

Project name: Creation of an age-friendly outdoor fitness park to increase recreation and healthy living opportunities for seniors

Grant amount: \$20,000

Project details: An age-friendly outdoor fitness park will be created to increase accessible recreation and healthy living opportunities for local seniors. The village will engage older adults in the planning process.

#### Mission

Project name: Active for life strategy

Grant amount: \$18,500

Project details: The district will develop a strategy to support the health and well-being of Mission's aging population. The project will help seniors age actively, safely, enjoy good health and stay connected to the community. This work will complement Mission's broader Sport for Life strategy and make sure that the needs of older adults are considered.

#### Nelson

Project name: Age-friendly community plan

Grant amount: \$20,000

Project details: The city will create a working group with seniors to conduct an age-friendly assessment of their community and develop an action plan. This will build on previous work, such as the city's active transportation plan and Path to 2040 Sustainability Strategy. Partners include the Nelson CARES Society, the Nelson & District Seniors Coordinating Society, and the Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute at Selkirk College.

#### Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District

Project name: Age-friendly buildings and benches

Grant amount: \$20,000

Project details: The regional district will work with BC Transit, business owners, and other partners to make bus stops and businesses in Okanagan Falls more accessible. In addition, the project will establish an incentive program to encourage local businesses to become more age-

friendly.

Prince George

Project name: Age-friendly action plan

Grant amount: \$20,000

Project details: The city will work with partners to conduct an age-friendly accessibility assessment and develop an action plan. The consultation process will include seniors, community partners and city staff. The results will be used to develop an action plan representing a commitment to make Prince George more accessible and liveable for seniors.

Princeton

Project name: Incorporating age-friendly policies and direction into Princeton's official community plan

Grant amount: \$20,000

Project details: The town will gather input from local community workshops and the results will inform the official community plan and land use regulations. These regulations will build on the age-friendly zoning bylaw completed by the town in 2013.

Salmo

Project name: Age-friendly survey, roundtable and recommended actions

Grant amount: \$20,000

Project details: The village will develop information brochures and health and wellness programs, as well as improving sidewalk safety based on feedback from a survey and public roundtable forum.

Sayward

Project name: Driving Miss Sayward / Live, Laugh, Love project

Grant amount: \$20,000

Project details: The projects include a bus program, a lunch program, wellness workshops, and social and recreational activities for seniors. The bus program is expected to reduce isolation among local seniors by providing an additional option for those requiring affordable, accessible transportation to medical appointments, social activities and community events.

Sechelt

Project name: Age-friendly planning initiative 2016

Grant amount: \$20,000

Project details: The district will partner with Sunshine Coast seniors to conduct a survey and develop an age-friendly community plan. The planning process will identify seniors' needs and age-friendly solutions within the community, and the recommendations will be integrated into the district's bylaws and policies.

Sicamous

Project name: Becoming a leader as an age-friendly community

Grant amount: \$20,000

Project details: There are two main components: increasing accessibility compliance throughout the district and finalizing the new seniors transportation services plan so that it is streamlined, cost-effective and sustainable.

Silverton

Project name: Silverton age-friendly project 2016

Grant amount: \$12,000

Project details: The village will develop a variety of age-friendly fall and winter educational and recreational activities for older adults. The topics will include end-of-life issues, accessing community resources, advance care planning, making healthy choices and staying at home versus assisted living.

#### Smithers

Project name: Age-friendly assessment and action plan

Grant amount: \$20,000

Project details: The town will consult with the community to create an age-friendly action plan. The process will focus on accessibility and safety within outdoor spaces, trails, public buildings and recreation infrastructure.

#### Telkwa

Project name: Transportation and trails assessment and action plan

Grant amount: \$6,100

Project details: The village will build on its previous age-friendly community plan and develop additional plans for transportation and accessible trails. These plans will focus on walking and bicycling infrastructure, icy winter conditions on paths and trails, stairways that are difficult to navigate and transportation options such as ride-share services.

#### Vancouver

Project name: Dementia friendly city: Dementia Friends - Train the Trainer program

Grant amount: \$20,000

Project details: The city will develop and pilot a Dementia Friends workshop for city staff through a partnership with the Alzheimer Society of B.C. A Train the Trainer program will also be developed and delivered to city staff and non-profit organizations to increase participants' awareness and improve their interactions with people with dementia.

#### Learn more:

More information about Age-friendly BC can be found by visiting: [www.gov.bc.ca/agefriendly](http://www.gov.bc.ca/agefriendly)

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