

---

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2016HLTH0048-000991  
June 10, 2016

Ministry of Health

### **Funding supports seniors' independence**

KAMLOOPS – Health Minister Terry Lake today announced \$5 million for Better at Home, to continue to support seniors' independence in their homes and communities.

“Seniors have told us that it is important that they are able to stay at home for as long as possible and not have to move just because they need a little assistance around the house,” said Lake. “Better at Home reflects our commitment to strengthening home and community supports.”

Better at Home is a non-medical home support program designed to offer support for seniors so they can continue to live in their own homes and remain connected to their communities. Services may include light housekeeping, grocery shopping, friendly visits, transportation to appointments, minor home repairs, light yard work and snow shovelling.

Pilot projects for service to rural and remote communities that began in April 2015 are operating successfully in Arrow Lakes, Columbia Valley, North Central B.C., Robson Valley, Southern Gulf Islands and the Village of Granisle.

“Better at Home services make a difference in people's lives by helping them continue to enjoy their independence as long as possible,” said Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors Darryl Plecas. “Today's announcement is good news as it ensures seniors continue to access these important services.”

The Better at Home program is managed by United Way of the Lower Mainland. Services are provided at the community level by local non-profit agencies in 67 program sites throughout British Columbia.

“Being connected and engaged with others is directly related to seniors' health,” said United Way of the Lower Mainland president and chief executive officer Michael McKnight. “Better at Home really serves as a lifeline to seniors across the province.”

Including today's announcement, a total of \$31 million has been provided by the provincial government to Better at Home since 2012.

### **Learn More:**

For further information on Better at Home, visit: [www.betterathome.ca](http://www.betterathome.ca)

**Media Contacts:**

Kristy Anderson  
Media Relations Manager  
Ministry of Health  
250 952-1887 (media line)

Jennifer Young  
Media Relations  
United Way of Lower Mainland  
604 268-1333

---

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [www.gov.bc.ca/connect](http://www.gov.bc.ca/connect)