

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

DATE: 2015 October 29

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 155000 01

SUBJECT: APPLICATION TO THE UBCM – AGE-FRIENDLY GRANT

PURPOSE: To seek Council's authorization to submit a funding application to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) to develop a Dementia-Friendly Community Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council authorize staff to submit an application to the Union of BC Municipalities 2016 Age-Friendly Community Planning and Project Grants Program, as outlined in Section 3.0 of this report.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Seniors' Housing and Support Initiative of the UBCM has announced 2016 Age-Friendly Community Planning and Project Grants of up to \$20,000 to assist local governments to prepare for an aging population. Included as a priority area for the 2016 grant program are community-based projects that are supportive of people with dementia. As our population ages, the number of people affected by dementia will continue to grow. Dementia affects about 1.6 percent of the general population and of those people, about 60 percent live in the community. In this regard, the development of community-based dementia-friendly action plans is identified as an important initiative to reduce the stigma of dementia and assist those living with dementia and their caregivers to remain connected to the community.

This report seeks Council authorization to apply for a UBCM Age-Friendly grant of \$20,000 to fund the development of a dementia-friendly community action plan, as described in Section 3.0 of this report. Development of a dementia-friendly action plan would be consistent with the community inclusion goal and age-friendly actions of the Burnaby Social Sustainability Strategy. In addition, the Voices of Burnaby Seniors (VOBS) Community Planning Table¹ has identified dementia as a health concern of Burnaby seniors and has indicated its support for community-based initiatives to address dementia.

¹ VOBS is a community planning table comprised of Burnaby seniors and representatives of agencies that serve seniors. The City is represented on VOBS by Councillor Calendino and City staff from Planning, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, and Citizen Support Services.

2.0 2016 UBCM AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY PLANNING AND PROJECT GRANTS

The 2016 UBCM Age-Friendly grants program is intended to assist local governments in BC to support aging populations through the development of policies, plans or projects that facilitate the creation of age-friendly communities. Applications are required to reflect the following guiding principles:

- **Community Driven** - Community solutions are based on local priorities and plans;
- **Catalyst for Action** – Community activities are catalysts that enable local governments and community partners to enhance and improve services for older adults;
- **Focus on Funding Priorities** - Activities are focused on funding priorities with clear outcomes;
- **Flexible** - Required actions differ in each community;
- **Coordinated** - Activities of different levels of government and community partners are coordinated to avoid duplication among programs and projects; and
- **Sustainable Results** – Community activities contribute to improving the lives of older adults over time.

Applications are also required to:

- demonstrate direct participation of seniors
- complement Provincial priorities regarding seniors²
- include collaboration with one or more partners (e.g., Fraser Health, seniors, senior-serving organizations, community organizations)

To receive a grant, local governments must indicate support for their proposed project and willingness to provide overall grant management including financial accounting, project evaluation and progress and final reports.

3.0 PROPOSED PROJECT

3.1 Context

Dementia is an overall term for a set of symptoms that are caused by disorders affecting the brain. Many diseases can cause dementia, the most common being Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia (due to stroke). Symptoms may include memory loss and difficulties with thinking and problem-solving. It is estimated that cognitive impairment and dementia are

² The Provincial Ministry of Health has identified dementia as a health priority. In 2012, the Ministry of Health launched the Provincial Dementia Action Plan. A three-year plan will be launched soon. The new plan will aim to: increase public awareness and early recognition of cognitive changes; support people with dementia to live safely at home for as long as possible and support caregivers; improve quality of dementia care in residential care including palliative and end-of-life care; and increase system supports and adoption of best practices in dementia care. The new plan identifies connection to community supports and overall community awareness as important factors enabling people with dementia and their caregivers to live a good quality of life and be active members of the community.

present in about twenty percent of the elderly population (or about 1.6 percent of the population overall) and are consistently rated among the top three health concerns for older adults.

According to Ministry of Health data for 2012-13, there were about 2,810 people living with dementia in Burnaby. Over the next 20 years, this number is expected to double. Research indicates that about 60 percent of those with dementia live in the community, and not in supportive care.

As defined by the Alzheimer Society of BC, a **dementia-friendly community** is a community that focuses on the inclusion of people with dementia and on stigma reduction. Its community members are educated about dementia and recognize that people with dementia may sometimes experience the world differently. Community members foster understanding about dementia and encourage people with dementia to participate in their communities to the fullest extent possible.

Dementia-friendly initiatives can include:

- **dementia education and training** that would assist frontline staff (recreation, library, police and fire department staff) and community members in understanding how to provide appropriate assistance and feel more confident in responding to a person with dementia;
- **social and recreational programming** that is inclusive of people with dementia and their caregivers; this type of programming helps those with dementia remain connected to the community and prevents social isolation; and
- **age-friendly improvements to the built environment** that are supportive of people with dementia and other cognitive impairments. For example, built environment improvements could include ensuring that new signage is clear and simple and entrances to new buildings are clearly distinguishable.

Development of a dementia-friendly action plan would be consistent with the Burnaby Social Sustainability Strategy and its three overarching goals of community inclusion, community livability and community resilience. The Strategy contains numerous actions designed to make Burnaby a more age-friendly community. In addition, a dementia-friendly action plan would contribute to the health and well-being objectives of the Burnaby Healthier Community Partnership³.

3.2 Project Description

As noted by the Alzheimer Society of BC, development of a dementia-friendly community action plan is intended to help communities work toward a common vision on important and meaningful initiatives to assist people affected by dementia. The intent is to incorporate dementia-friendly actions into existing work programs and policies.

If the proposed grant application were approved, a Burnaby dementia-friendly community action plan would be developed with community partners, and would include consultation with

³ In January 2014, the City, Burnaby School District and Fraser Health established the Burnaby Healthier Community Partnership to coordinate actions on key issues affecting community health with the goal of promoting health and wellbeing. The partnership is focusing on the health priorities of mental wellness and physical activity and literacy.

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community stakeholders. Actions would be identified for the City and other community partners who participate in the plan's development. With support from the Alzheimer Society of BC, it is anticipated that the outcomes of an action plan would focus on:

- education to create awareness of dementia and communicating appropriately with people with dementia and other cognitive challenges; dementia-friendly education and awareness sessions would be held with frontline City staff, Council members and community members to assist in creating a more dementia-friendly community;
- social and recreational programming that is inclusive of people with dementia and their caregivers; and
- continued age-friendly improvements to the built environment that are supportive of people with dementia.

If successful in receiving a grant, staff would prepare a further report to the Social Planning Committee to outline next steps and process for advancement of the action plan work. As required by the UBCM Age-Friendly grant program, all activities funded through the grant would need to be completed in the 2016 calendar year.

3.3 Resources

Staff have been in contact with the Alzheimer Society of BC to determine what support it has available to communities. The Society has developed a Dementia-Friendly Communities Local Government Toolkit to assist in meeting the specific needs and capacities of individual communities. Staff from the Alzheimer Society would be available to provide community education resources and assist with outreach activities for participation in the action plan development.

In addition, through the Burnaby Healthier Community Partnership, it is anticipated that Fraser Health staff would be available to assist in developing the dementia-friendly action plan. City staff from the Planning Department, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, Library, Citizen Support Services and other service areas would also be able to participate in developing the action plan.

4.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Seniors' Housing and Support Initiative of the UBCM has announced 2016 Age-Friendly Community Planning and Project Grants of up to \$20,000 to assist local government to prepare for an aging population. The funding may be used to develop and implement policies, plans and projects that promote the creation of age-friendly communities and enable seniors to age in place.

It is recommended that Council indicate its support for the development of a dementia-friendly action plan by authorizing staff to apply for \$20,000 in funding from the UBCM to develop the plan, as outlined in Section 3.0.

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If funding is awarded, staff would pursue the next steps of the project including the preparation of a report to the Social Planning Committee outlining the plan development process. As required in the UBCM grant criteria, City staff would also undertake overall grant management including financial accounting, project evaluation and progress and final reports to the UBCM.


Lou Pelletier, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

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