

**TO:** CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2018 November 13**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING **FILE:** 15500 01**SUBJECT:** APPLICATION TO THE UBCM – AGE-FRIENDLY GRANT 2019**PURPOSE:** To seek Council's endorsement of a grant application to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) for an Age-Friendly Communities project to develop a seniors' planning table and strategic plan for community-based seniors' services in Burnaby.**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. **THAT** Council endorse the City's application to the UBCM for a 2019 Age-Friendly Communities grant, as outlined in Section 3.0 of this report.
2. **THAT** Council forward a copy of this report to Voices of Burnaby Seniors (VOBS).

**REPORT****1.0 BACKGROUND**

The UBCM's Age-Friendly Communities program has announced 2019 Age-Friendly grants of up to \$25,000 to assist communities across BC to develop or update assessments or plans in order to enable seniors to age in place and facilitate the creation of age-friendly communities. Eligible activities for Stream 1: Age-friendly Assessments, Action Plans and Planning grants of up to \$25,000 include:

- Development of a local age-friendly plan or assessment;
- Creation of specific plans and/or policies that address one or more of its eight age-friendly community components including outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, respect and inclusion, social participation, communications and information, civic participation and employment, and community support and health services;
- Engagement of seniors in planning activities; and,
- Adding an age-friendly or seniors lens to existing plans or policies.

The deadline to apply for the grant was 2018 November 02. Due to the municipal election and timing of Council meetings, UBCM staff advised City staff that they could submit an application to the program by the November 02 deadline and seek Council endorsement of the project at a Council meeting later in November. As such, this report seeks Council's endorsement of an application made to the program to support the creation of a seniors' planning table and development of a strategic plan for community-based seniors' services in Burnaby, as described

in section 3.0 below. Should Council decide not to endorse the grant application, the City can withdraw the grant application.

## **2.0 POLICY FRAMEWORK**

The proposed project aligns with the following goals and sub-goals of the Corporate Strategic Plan:

- **A Connected Community**
  - Social Connection – Enhance social connections throughout Burnaby
  - Partnership – Work collaboratively with businesses, educational institutions, association, other communities and governments
- **An Inclusive Community**
  - Serve a diverse community – Ensure City services fully meet the needs of our dynamic community
  - Create a sense of community – Provide opportunities that encourage and welcome all community members and create a sense of belonging

## **3.0 PROPOSED PROJECT – WORKING TOGETHER BETTER**

### **3.1 Context**

As our population ages, it is critical that our community has the capacity to address seniors' needs in a coordinated and effective manner. According to BC Stats, seniors aged 65+ currently comprise sixteen percent of Burnaby's population. In ten years' time, seniors are projected to comprise nineteen percent of the population.

Burnaby is fortunate to have many successful initiatives and programs that help to make our community more age-friendly. However, it is recognized by local non-profit and governmental community agencies that they often work in isolation of each other. As a result, there is duplication in services or programs in some areas of the city but gaps in service in other areas. The proposed UBCM grant project, tentatively named "Working Together Better", aims to create an inter-agency planning table that can better coordinate the delivery of community-based support services to Burnaby seniors. The project would use a Collective Impact approach to the work so that all agencies are working collectively towards a common agenda of reducing seniors' isolation and helping seniors to remain connected and contributing members of the community.

### **3.2 Proposed Activities**

The Working Together Better project would include the following activities:

- **Community mapping** – The project would bring together all non-profit and governmental community agencies in Burnaby that provide support services to Burnaby

seniors in order to understand what each organization is doing; understand each agency's capacity to address seniors' needs; identify trends and challenges in service delivery; and identify gaps in service.

- **Collective Impact Approach to Service Provision** – Some community agencies in Burnaby have participated in a pan Canadian New Horizons grant project to address seniors' isolation. These agencies benefited from applying a Collective Impact Approach to address seniors' needs in Metro Vancouver. The intent of the Working Together Better project would be to apply the learnings from this approach to create a common agenda to address seniors' needs in Burnaby.

Burnaby agencies would be engaged in a process to develop a seniors' planning table and strategic plan for community-based seniors' services. Through the process, each agency would determine their own indicators to measure how they meet the common goals of reducing seniors' isolation and helping to keep seniors connected and contributing to the community.

Through the Collective Impact approach community agencies would develop the capacity to work together effectively, develop relationships and trust between agencies, and use limited resources better. The creation of a seniors' planning table and the development of a strategic plan would support agencies to apply for any future funding opportunities and make the most of any new initiatives to support Burnaby seniors. This work would be done in consultation/partnership with the Voices of Burnaby Seniors (VOBS), an existing community committee of Burnaby seniors who come together to raise awareness of seniors issues at the local, provincial and federal levels. The involvement of VOBS would be critical to ensure we are planning *with* Burnaby seniors.

- **Development of a Sustainability Plan for a Seniors Planning Table** – To sustain the Collective Impact approach to the provision of community-based seniors' services, the project would include a sustainability plan. The plan would be developed with the recognition that ongoing coordination funding would not be possible. In that regard, the project would include the development of a realistic Terms of Reference that includes key functions of the planning table such as the frequency of meetings, membership, in-kind support and shared leadership responsibilities.

### 3.3 Alignment

The proposed "Working Together Better" project would be consistent with the community inclusion goal and age-friendly actions of the Burnaby Social Sustainability Strategy. It would also build on and support the objectives of the Burnaby Dementia-Friendly Community Action Plan. The proposed project also aligns with the directions of the Burnaby Healthier Community Partnership which is also aiming to apply a Collective Impact approach to community wellness and sense of belonging in Burnaby.

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### **3.4 Resources**

Staff have been in contact with a number of community-based seniors' services agencies in Burnaby including the City's Citizen Support Services/Better at Home program and staff at the City's seniors' centres. These agencies have indicated their support for the project. Should the grant application go forward and a grant is received, a first step for the project would be to reach out to other Burnaby-based community services agencies to include them in the process.

Planning staff would oversee the implementation of the project. To assist with the coordination of meetings, planning activities, and strategic plan development, it is proposed that a portion of the UBCM grant be used to retain supporting resources to assist staff. Grant funds would also be used to fund communication materials, meeting supplies and honouraria to support representatives of community, non-profit agencies to participate on their own time in the planning activities of the project. As required by the UBCM Age-Friendly grant program, all activities funded through the grant would need to be completed in the 2019 calendar year.

### **4.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The UBCM's Age-Friendly Communities program has announced 2019 Age-Friendly grants of up to \$25,000 to assist communities across B.C. to develop or update assessments or plans in order to enable seniors to age in place and facilitate the creation of age-friendly communities.

It is recommended that Council endorse the City's application to the UBCM for a 2019 Age-Friendly Communities grant to support the creation of a seniors' planning table and development of a strategic plan for community-based seniors' services in Burnaby, as described in section 3.0 above.

It is further recommended that a copy of this report be forwarded to the Voices of Burnaby Seniors.

If funding is awarded, staff would report back to Council on the proposed workplan to implement the Working Together Better project. 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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cc: Director Corporate Services  
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
Chief Librarian  
City Clerk