



# Memorandum

**Date:** October 20, 2014

**File No.:** 6500-20- Age and  
Disability Friendly  
Community Planning

**To:** North Pender Island Local Trust Committee  
For the meeting of October 30, 2014

**From:** Justine Starke, Island Planner

The North Pender Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) has identified Age and Disability Friendly Community Planning as a top priority on the work program. The objective of this project is to consider how the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee can improve accessibility and inclusion for aging community members and people with disabilities.

At the meeting of August 28, 2014, the NPI LTC endorsed the project charter and directed staff to prepare an age-friendly and disability-friendly assessment for North Pender Island using online and paper questionnaires or surveys. A questionnaire has been developed and is discussed below.

## Seniors Housing and Support Initiative Grant

An opportunity to fund an Age Friendly Community Plan has emerged through a grant opportunity with the Union of BC Municipalities Seniors Housing and Support Initiative (SHSI).

The 2015 SHSI program is intended to assist local governments in BC to best support aging populations, develop and implement policies and plans and/or develop projects that enable seniors to age in place and facilitate the creation of age-friendly communities. The Ministry of Health has now committed additional funds which has enabled UBCM to offer a maximum of 25 grants of up to \$20,000.00. The priority in 2015 is to engage communities that have not yet completed an age-friendly plan or undertaken a project focused on age-friendly communities. The deadline for the application is October 31, 2014.

The North Pender Island Local Trust Committee requested staff to pursue this opportunity by Resolution without Meeting on October 8, 2014:

### It was Moved and Seconded

THAT the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee support Islands Trust staff in applying for, managing, and administering the UBCM Senior's Housing and Support Initiative 2015 Age Friendly and Community Planning Project Grants on its behalf.

The proposed grant application and associated grant is attached as Appendix 1. As mentioned, the application is due on October 31, 2014. If there are no objections by the LTC to the attached grant application, staff will submit it by the deadline. The previous LTC resolution by RWM gives staff direction to do so.

## Impacts on Scope of Work and Project Charter:

The North Pender Island Local Trust Committee is already pursuing a community assessment for seniors and people with disabilities, but the focus of this assessment is narrowed to land use planning tools (ie. building siting, parking requirements, landscaping, density of housing). The SHSI grant would offer the Local Trust Committee the opportunity to broaden this focus and create a more holistic age-friendly plan that would also address other sectors of the community that have impact on senior's lives (health care, transportation, social services, civic participation etc.). With this enhanced focus, the goals and objectives of the project are to:

- Complete an age-friendly community plan of North Pender Island, based on a community survey, community consultation, and interviews with a range of stakeholders and service providers.
- The age friendly plan will recommend policies and actions to address: transportation and mobility (getting around North Pender); the accessibility of outdoor/indoor public, institutional, and commercial infrastructure (the built environment); the availability of accessible, adequate, and transitional housing (including the ability to age in place); senior health services, and social inclusion/civic engagement of seniors
- Update Official Community Plan policies to support a built environment, transportation, housing, and services that are accessible for seniors and people with disabilities.
- Update the Land Use Bylaw to improve the standards of accessibility required in the built environment.
- Identify and create partnerships with relevant agencies/community groups to collaborate on implementation of the age friendly community plan

These goals align closely with the goals of the 2015 Age-friendly Community Planning and Project Program and would enable the NPI LTC to enter into effective partnerships so North Pender Island could better realize its potential to be a more age-friendly community.

The opportunity for funding to do a comprehensive age friendly community plan for North Pender Island will impact the scope of work endorsed by the LTC in the Project Charter. Should the NPI LTC be successful in receiving grant funding, staff will return with an expanded project charter. If the NPI LTC does not receive grant funding, staff will proceed with the previous work program endorsed by the Project Charter (which limits the scope to assessing what the LTC can do within its authority to improve age and disability friendly planning on North Pender) and distribute the questionnaire.

## Land Use Planning Questionnaire:

Distributed separately is a draft questionnaire on age and disability friendly planning, focused on the LTC's land use planning authority. It is recommended that the questionnaire be put on hold until we have the results of the grant application for a more comprehensive "age friendly community plan". Should the application not be successful, the LTC could continue with its work program as endorsed in the current project charter.

This memo has been provided for the information of the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee. Feedback on the grant application or questionnaire is welcome.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Local Planning Services