



The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Memo

To: Mayor and Council

From: Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Date: November 13, 2024

Subject: Employment and Social Development Canada (EDSC-Federal Government)

File:

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Mayor and Council endorse an application to Employment and Social Development Canada (EDSC-Federal Government) under the New Horizons for Seniors Pan Canadian Granting Stream.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement for a grant application through Employment and Social Development Canada (EDSC-Federal Government).

DISCUSSION

The New Horizons for Seniors Pan Canadian (NHSPC) grant is a funding stream focusing on empowering seniors in their communities and contributing to improving seniors health and well-being through social participation, diversity, and inclusion.

Projects must be completed with community partners and the program can span up to six years. The goal of the funding program is to create long-term resiliency and legacy programs that continue past the granting period.

To prepare its application, Parks, Recreation and Community Services staff, led by the Community Services team, hosted a community partners dinner that saw over 60 community groups and organization participate.

The purpose of the dinner was to explore potential partnerships for the grant and to create connections between and among this varied group of participants.

With interest from several key partners, the District was able to put forward an application for NHSPC funding which would see Saanich acting as the backbone organization and the intermediary with the community partners handling the financials and overseeing their discrete project to ensure they align with the submitted collective impact plan.

The project is titled "REACH Isolated Seniors" and the application partners include:

- Vancouver Island Counselling Centre for Immigrants and Refugees (VICCIR)
- Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS)
- City of Victoria and Westshore Parks and Recreation
- Saanich Neighbourhood Place
- Silver Threads and the CRD
- Victoria Native Friendship Centre and Metis Nation
- Family Caregivers of BC and Volunteer Victoria.

Saanich itself would receive up to 25% of the approved funds to run its own program and hire a staff person to over the project and do the intermediary work.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to the District of Saanich.

CONCLUSION

In leveraging this opportunity, the District of Saanich will support its most isolated and vulnerable seniors and provide much needed social coordination among senior helping organizations to create community resiliency and legacy connections and programs.

Prepared by: Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services

Reviewed by:

Approved by: Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Attachments:

ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS:

I endorse the recommendation from the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services.

Brent Reems, Chief Administrative Officer