

TO: CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER **DATE:** 2022 July 11

FROM: GENERAL MANAGER
COMMUNITY SAFETY
GENERAL MANAGER
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT **FILE:** 15500 01

SUBJECT: APPLICATION TO BC HEALTHY COMMUNITIES – 2022 AGE-FRIENDLY GRANT

PURPOSE: To seek Council's endorsement of a grant application to the BC Healthy Communities Age-Friendly program to support the creation of an age-friendly strategic plan for a multi-sectoral extreme weather emergency response in Burnaby.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council endorse the City's application to BC Healthy Communities for a 2022 Age-Friendly Communities grant, as outlined in *Section 3.0* of this report.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the Public Safety Committee and the Social Planning Committee.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

BC Healthy Communities¹ has announced 2022 Age-Friendly grants of up to \$25,000 to assist local and Indigenous governments across B.C. to develop age-friendly plans. Eligible activities for Stream 1: Planning grants include adding an age-friendly and equity lens to existing plans or policies including emergency response, evacuation, and/or emergency social services plans.

The deadline to apply for the grant was 2022 July 5. Due to the timing of Council meetings, BC Healthy Communities staff advised City staff that the City could submit an application to the program by the July 5 deadline and seek Council endorsement of the project at a Council meeting later in July. As such, this report seeks Council's endorsement of an application made to the program to support the creation of an age-friendly strategic plan for a multi-sectoral extreme weather emergency response 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.

¹ The Age-Friendly BC Program is funded by the BC Ministry of Health and delivered by BC Healthy Communities in partnership with the BC Ministry of Health.

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2.0 POLICY CONTEXT

The proposed multi-sectoral age-friendly emergency response project aligns with the following Council-adopted policies, plans, and strategies: *Extreme Heat Operational Response Plan* (2022), *Extreme Heat Initial Response Guideline* (2021), *Equity Policy* (2020), *Community Safety Plan* (2020), *Corporate Strategic Plan* (2022), and the *Social Sustainability Strategy* (2011).

3.0 PROPOSED PROJECT

As a result of climate change, extreme weather events are becoming increasingly more common in Canada and globally. For example, flooding due to atmospheric rivers of unprecedented intensity and duration devastated many BC communities. Shortly beforehand, the western North American heat dome caused daily temperatures to rise to record-breaking levels for one week, which resulted in 619 deaths, of which 73 occurred in Burnaby.

The BC Coroners Service received a report on 2022 June 7 from a specially convened panel which had been tasked with reviewing the deaths of individuals who died during the summer 2021 heat events. The panel determined the majority of those who perished were older adults with compromised health and lived alone.

Of note, the panel determined the following salient points regarding those who perished:

- 67% were 70 years or older
- 90% were over the age of 60
- Males and females equally affected
- No deaths among children and infants, or persons under 30
- More than 80% were on three or more chronic disease registries
- 98% occurred in a residence
- 73% occurred in a private residence (39% in multi-unit buildings and 34% in detached buildings)
- 56% lived alone

Protective measures for those at-risk to extreme weather include connections to healthcare or community agencies who can check-in on vulnerable community members before and during extreme events. These agencies can support awareness and preparedness before events and provide services and resources during events to keep vulnerable people safe.

Burnaby is fortunate to have received a UBCM Age-Friendly grant in 2019 that supported the development of a Community-Based Seniors Services (CBSS) Network in Burnaby. Through the CBSS Network and Fraser Health, the City would use the 2022 BC Healthy Communities grant funding to work with partners to develop a multi-sectoral extreme weather response plan focused on isolated seniors and other vulnerable members of the community.

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Two key activities are proposed for the age-friendly grant project including:

- **Development and refinement of a Communications Tree.** The Communications Tree refers to a virtual workspace that would be used to share information, resources and feedback before and during extreme weather events including health information from Fraser Health and other government sources, and emergency measures taken by the City and others. Community organizations would be able to learn about resources, ask questions and seek assistance in filling gaps in the overall community response.

A pilot project to create the virtual workspace is underway this summer through the work of a Fraser Health intern student. This component of the age-friendly activity will include evaluating and refining the Communications Tree concept and developing training to assist community organizations to participate in the program.

- **Development of a multi-pronged, coordinated strategy for reaching isolated seniors/vulnerable populations in emergency situations.** Through the efforts of the City, Fraser Health and community organizations, a number of strategies have been or will be employed during extreme weather events to help isolated seniors remain safe. While there have been successes in reaching a number of isolated/vulnerable seniors, it is recognized that a multi-pronged, coordinated approach is needed to reach those who are truly isolated. Over the fall and early winter/spring, this component of the age-friendly project will involve bringing together City, Fraser Health and community organizations to identify gaps in response and develop strategies to extend outreach to isolated seniors. This work will include using the findings from the Coroners Service Report noted above and working with housing providers (rental and strata), multicultural organizations, and family physicians.

Staff from the City’s emergency management program and from social planning would oversee the implementation of the project. To assist with the coordination of meetings and strategic planning activities, 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 and meeting supplies. As required by the UBCM Age-Friendly grant program, all activities funded through the grant would need to be completed by 2023 September.

4.0 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

BC Healthy Communities has announced 2022 Age-Friendly grants of up to \$25,000 to assist local and Indigenous governments across B.C. to develop age-friendly plans.

It is recommended that Council endorse the City’s application to BC Healthy Communities to support the creation of an age-friendly strategic plan for a multi-sectoral extreme weather emergency preparation and response in Burnaby, as described in *Section 3.0* above.

It is further recommended that a copy of this report be forwarded to the Public Safety Committee and the Social Planning Committee.

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If funding is awarded, staff would report back to Council on the proposed workplan to implement the project. Staff would also undertake overall grant management including financial accounting, project evaluation and progress and final reports to BC Healthy Communities.


for Dave Critchley, General Manager
COMMUNITY SAFETY


E.W. Kozak, General Manager
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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Copied to: Acting Chief Financial Officer
General Manager Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
General Manager Corporate Services
Chief Librarian
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