

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE**B***HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS***SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM THE UBCM****RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** Council authorize staff to submit an application for “Seniors in Communities” funding from the UBCM to host two dialogues sessions with Burnaby seniors, as described in section 3.0 of this report.

REPORT**1.0 BACKGROUND**

At the Social Issues Committee meeting held 2006 March 29, Ms Margaret Ma and Ms Lorell Pride, representing an informal group of seniors and agencies providing services to seniors, appeared as a delegation. The delegation requested that the City consider applying for a grant from the UBCM’s Seniors in Communities program to sponsor dialogue sessions with Burnaby seniors. The purpose of the dialogues would be to raise awareness of the group’s intention to conduct a Strengths and Needs Assessment of Burnaby’s seniors and to identify key seniors who would be willing to take a lead role in the Needs Assessment process.

Arising from the discussion, the Social Issues Committee requested that Council authorize staff to submit a funding application to the UBCM for “Seniors in Communities Dialogue” funding in the amount of \$3000.

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2.0 SENIORS IN COMMUNITIES FUNDING

The UBCM has received funding from the Province to implement the Seniors Housing and Support Initiative. The focus of phase one of the Initiative has been its Seniors in Communities Dialogue funding to support organized exchanges between local government and others involved in the delivery of seniors' services. The objectives of the Seniors in Communities Dialogue funding are to:

- increase understanding of participating local governments about existing seniors programs and needs in their communities;
- provide a forum to discuss issues specific to seniors
- build stronger links between local governments; health care providers; non-profit organizations and others involved in providing services to the senior population;
- determine opportunities for future collaboration and joint action.

The maximum funding available to local government from the UBCM is \$3000. Local governments are required to contribute fifty percent of the cost incurred while hosting a "Seniors in Communities" dialogue. The local government's contribution may be cash or in-kind. Applications must be received from the sponsoring local government by 2006 June 30.

3.0 PROPOSED DIALOGUE SESSIONS WITH BURNABY SENIORS

The informal group of seniors and agencies providing services to seniors would like to initiate dialogue sessions with Burnaby seniors. The dialogues would raise awareness of the group's intention to conduct the Strengths and Needs Assessment of Burnaby seniors, garner community support and participation in the process and identify key community members willing to take a lead role.

Topics to be covered in the dialogue would include: housing choice; transportation; health services; community infrastructure; and social and recreational opportunities. Through the dialogue it is anticipated that seniors and agencies serving seniors would gain a better understanding of what is working well in the community, where there are gaps and other issues of concern in the community, and identify opportunities for collaboration. It is the group's intention to apply for funding from the Federal Government's New Horizons program to conduct the Needs Assessment¹.

The group proposes to hold two dialogue sessions: one in north Burnaby and one in south Burnaby. Each session would have about 75 participants and would take place in early May. Both seniors and representatives from agencies serving seniors would be invited to attend.

To finance the cost of the dialogues, the group has asked whether the City would consider applying to the UBCM for \$3000 from its 2006 Seniors in Communities program. To meet the requirements of the program, the City would be required to contribute an equivalent amount, either cash or in-kind, to host the dialogues. If Council approval is received to apply for the UBCM funding, the City's in-kind contribution could consist mainly of the staff time to help organize the dialogues and facility rental costs.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that staff be authorized to apply for "Seniors in Communities" funding from the UBCM to host two dialogues sessions with Burnaby seniors.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Sav Dhaliwal
Chair

Councillor Dan Johnston
Vice Chair

Councillor Garth Evans
Member

