

TO: MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

DATE: 2008 February 28

FROM: MAYOR DEREK R. CORRIGAN

**SUBJECT: WITHDRAWAL OF FRASER HEALTH AUTHORITY FUNDING FOR
SENIORS WELLNESS PROGRAMS IN BURNABY****RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. THAT Council write to the Provincial Minister of Health, Burnaby MLAs and the Fraser Health Authority expressing concern over the elimination of funding for the Burnaby Partners in Seniors Wellness Program.
2. THAT Council request that Provincial funding be reinstated to the 2006 level.

REPORT

Each of the four seniors' centres in Burnaby has sponsored a health program for seniors under an umbrella group called Burnaby Partners in Seniors Wellness (BPSW). The longest running program has been active for 21 years at Edmonds Senior's Centre.

In 2006, the four programs had a total of 11,400 visits by seniors in our community. Each program provides a wide range of services including health information, blood pressure readings, foot care, weight control, massage therapy, exercise, fall prevention and housing information.

The total budget for these programs is \$66,739.00. Fraser Health Authority had provided funding in the amount of \$35,000.00 in 2006. The City of Burnaby provided in-kind support to a value of \$20,493.00 and the senior's societies raised \$11,246.00 in donations and contributions.

The Wellness Program also benefitted from over 2,373 hours of volunteer service by 103 volunteers, many of whom were retired medical professionals. The cost to Fraser Health amounted to a very reasonable \$3.07 per visit.

In January 2008, the Fraser Health Authority advised that they are eliminating all funding for the Burnaby Partnership in Seniors Wellness program as of March 2008. Apparently, the Authority advises the decision is based on budget constraints.

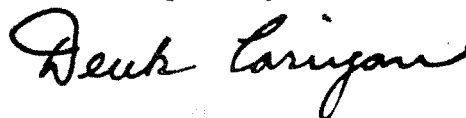
Copy: City Manager
Director Finance
Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

To: *Members of Council*
From: *Mayor Derek R. Corrigan*
Re: *Seniors Wellness Programs in Burnaby*
2008 February 28 Page 2

In my opinion, the Partners in Seniors Wellness Program provided an invaluable resource to seniors in our community. The minimal funding provided by the Fraser Health Authority leveraged municipal assistance, community contributions and countless volunteer hours. The cost per visit is unbelievably low in comparison to hospital or medical office visits. If even a small number of standard professional visits were avoided, the program paid for itself. Even more important, seniors in our community were able to get friendly assistance, in a familiar setting, which helped make them more comfortable and aware.

It is therefore my strong recommendation that Council write the Minister of Health, our local MLAs and Fraser Health Authority expressing deep concern over the elimination of funding for the Burnaby Partners in Seniors Wellness Program. And further, that Council request that the Minister and the Fraser Health Authority reinstate funding to the 2006 level.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Derek R. Corrigan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Derek R. Corrigan
MAYOR