



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: December 16, 2015
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Meeting Date: January 20, 2016

TO: Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities
FROM: General Manager of Community Services
SUBJECT: Application to UBCM Age-Friendly Community Planning and Projects Grant

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve and support an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Age-Friendly Community Planning and Project Grant.

REPORT SUMMARY

This report seeks Council's approval to support an application to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Age-Friendly Community Planning and Project Grant. This program aligns with the Healthy City Strategy (2014, 2015) *Being and Feeling Safe and Included* goal and multiple actions from the Age Friendly Action Plan (2013). The grant will fund a dementia training program that will help create a more inclusive and dementia friendly community in Vancouver.

The deadline for submitting applications was October 30, 2015. In December 2015, the City of Vancouver was approved in principle for a \$20,000 grant, the maximum available through the program. A Council/Board resolution is required to indicate support for the proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management prior to final grant approval.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

UBCM programs require a resolution of Council as part of the application package. The application for the *Dementia Friendly City: Dementia Friends - Train the Trainer Program* aligns with two Council initiatives: the Age Friendly Action Plan and the Healthy City Strategy.

In 2012, Council unanimously approved a motion for “City Policy to Address Residents with Dementia.” The motion directed staff to report back on developing policy to better assist residents with dementia, including training for frontline City staff to identify and support people living with dementia. This motion was the foundation for the Age Friendly Action Plan, which was adopted by Council in 2013. Two actions from the Age Friendly Action Plan that directly align with this program are:

- *Hold periodic workshops on dementia by Alzheimer Society of B.C. for Park Board staff.*
- *Incorporate specific content on vulnerable populations into the City’s customer service and respectful workplace training for front-line staff, and distribute materials about dementia.*

The Healthy City Strategy (HCS) was adopted in two phases. A Healthy City for All: Healthy City Strategy (2014 - 2025) (Phase 1) was approved in 2014. The HCS framework included the *Being and Feeling Safe and Included* goal that *Vancouver is a safe city in which residents feel secure*. In 2015, Council approved the second phase of the strategy—A Healthy City for All Phase II: Healthy City Strategy Action Plan (2015-2018). The action associated with this goal is to “develop and deliver broad-based training to enhance City staff capacity when addressing conditions...that create vulnerability.” Dementia training is a component of this action.

CITY MANAGER’S/GENERAL MANAGER’S COMMENTS

The Acting General Manager of Community Services recommends approval of the report.

REPORT

Background/Context

The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) [Age-Friendly Community Planning and Project Grants](#) program is part of the [UBCM’s Seniors’ Housing and Support Initiative](#) (SHSI). The purpose of the SHSI is 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 deadline for submitting applications was October 30, 2015. In December 2015, the City of Vancouver was approved in principle for a \$20,000 grant, the maximum available through the program. A Council/Board resolution is required to indicate support for the proposed activities and willingness to provide overall grant management prior to final grant approval.

Currently, over 11,000 people are living with dementia in Vancouver. While dementia does not only impact the aging population, the incidence does increase as the population ages. Vancouver’s senior population is expected to grow more than four times faster than the total population creating a greater need for information and skills to support the rising numbers of individuals living with dementia.

Strategic Analysis

The City is well positioned to participate in the UBCM grant program. In 2014, the City of Vancouver received the Age Friendly Community designation and a \$1,000 grant from the Province of British Columbia. After consulting with the Seniors Advisory Committee, the City decided to use these funds to develop and pilot a Dementia Friends workshop through a partnership with the Alzheimer Society of B.C. The \$20,000 Age-Friendly Community Planning and Project grant from UBCM will build on this work and deliver a train the trainer program to City staff and community partners. The train the trainer program will build a more age-friendly community by improving professional interactions with City staff and by increasing support for people with dementia in the broader community.

The program objectives are:

- 1) to develop a flexible, replicable and sustainable model for delivering the Dementia Friends train the trainer program that will increase the capacity of City of Vancouver staff to support people living with dementia. Frontline staff will be given first priority;
- 2) to create a model that other municipalities and community agencies can use; and
- 3) to increase sense of inclusion for persons living with dementia in our community.

The initiative will draw on the expertise of partners, existing literature, best practices and international models in order to develop, refine, package and deliver the content, tools and strategies for training. The literature, best practice and model review will determine what the most effective and sustainable training format is to reach a broad audience. Both in-person workshops and online technology will be considered.

To support the project, an Advisory Committee will be established with representation from the Social Policy Department, Human Resources Department, the Vancouver Police Department, Parks and Recreation, Vancouver Public Library, Alzheimer Society of B.C, the Metro Vancouver Social Issues Sub-Committee, and the Seniors Advisory Committee. To ensure the transferability of this model, the project Advisory Committee will also include a rural government/community member, non-profit community partner(s) and representation from Aboriginal communities. The Advisory Committee will provide guidance on research and tool development as well as recruitment, evaluation and assistance in leveraging funding. To integrate the lived experience, the project will be informed by working groups of caregivers and people living with dementia.

Implications/Related Issues/Risk (if applicable)

Financial

This project will be funded through a UBCM \$20,000 grant that was awarded in-principle on December 9, 2015. The grant will cover research and consultant costs for the development of the train-the-trainer program, delivery of three training sessions, graphics material design, printing costs and event costs (rentals, food and materials). Existing staff resources will be allocated as an in-kind contribution to this project.

CONCLUSION

The Dementia Friends train-the-trainer program is an opportunity to engage City staff, non-profit organizations and Metro Vancouver municipalities in building a community that is safe and welcoming for people living with dementia. Council support of the \$20,000 UBCM grant will enable this program to be undertaken.

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