

January 11, 2016

Campbell River receives age-friendly community planning and project grant

A \$20,000 grant will support Campbell River's efforts to conduct an age-friendly assessment and community planning process in 2016.

The grant from the BC Ministry of Health supports Council's resolution to establish an age-friendly community. The City will pursue this work with a group of local organizations, whose mandates include the well-being of seniors, and have come together to form the Campbell River Age-friendly Committee. The community organizations include Campbell River Seniors' Centre Society, Campbell River Better at Home, Laichwiltach Family Life Society, Willow Point Supportive Living Society, Immigrant Welcome Centre, and Campbell River Access Awareness Committee. Additional organizations will likely join the community as work progresses.

"We pride ourselves on having an inclusive community, and Campbell River is continually making improvements that can help our residents be more active, engaged and independent," said Mayor Andy Adams. *"We look forward to working closely with the Campbell River Age-friendly Committee to explore new opportunities."*

"This is a wonderful and important opportunity for Campbell River," added Brenda Wagman, coordinator of Campbell River Better At Home. *"We will be working towards becoming an age-friendly community, recognition that 36 other BC communities have already earned."*

Eight features of an age-friendly community that will be explored during the assessment process are:

1. Outdoor spaces and public buildings
2. Public transportation accessibility and affordability
3. Housing affordability, location, security, build and design
4. Older person social participation in leisure, social, cultural and spiritual activities
5. Respect for older persons and inclusion in civic life
6. Opportunities for employment and volunteerism
7. Availability of age-friendly communications and information
8. Community support and health services that meet the needs of older persons

The Campbell River age-friendly assessment work will involve surveys and focus groups to develop an age-friendly action plan.

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