

NO: R245

COUNCIL DATE: November 7, 2016

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **November 2, 2016**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture** FILE: **1850-01**
XC: **5000-01**

SUBJECT: **Application for a UBCM Age-Friendly Communities Grant Program – *Raising the Profile Provincial Summit***

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department recommend that Council:

1. Approve the submission of an application to the UBCM's **2017 Age-Friendly Communities Grant Program** for a grant in the amount of \$20,000 to host '*Raising the Profile for Seniors Provincial Summit*'; and
2. Request that the City Clerk forward a copy of this report and the related Council resolution to the Surrey Seniors Advisory and Accessibility Committee and to the Social Planning Advisory Committee as information.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the City to submit an application for a grant under the *Age Friendly Communities Grant Program*. The grant proposes the City of Surrey, in partnership with *Raising the Profile Project*, host a conference style event titled *Raising the Profile for Seniors Provincial Summit*. This event will bring together industry professionals, and experts to share and discuss leading practices, collaborative strategies and policies required for older adults to maximize their independence, safety, resilience and social connectedness. Council approval of such an application is a requirement of the *Age Friendly Communities Grant Program* application criteria.

BACKGROUND

The Age-friendly Communities grant program is intended 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.

Age-friendly Communities grants have been offered since 2009 and, to date, more than 142 local governments have completed projects or been approved for funding.

DISCUSSION

In consultation with *Raising the Profile Project* and the Seniors Advisory and Accessibility Committee, staff have prepared an application for funding in the amount of \$20,000 from the Age-Friendly Communities Grant Program. The Grant will be utilized to work with key partners and to support hosting the '*Raising the Profile for Seniors Provincial Summit*' in the City of Surrey in fall 2017.

The *Raising the Profile Project* is a new provincial network of executive directors, managers and industry professionals from municipal and community based seniors' services organizations across the province.

The goals of the *Raising the Profile Project* are to:

- 1) Raise awareness of the broader and vital role played by community-based seniors' services to support seniors to remain socially, physically and mentally active, and to maintain their health and independence as they age.
- 2) Document the gaps and disproportionate provision of services in different communities and regions of the province, and the barriers experienced by low income, isolated, immigrant, LGBTQ, rural and/or aboriginal seniors.
- 3) Outline a business case for greater investment in this sector based on evidence showing that health care costs can be significantly reduced, and overall health significantly improved when older adults remain socially engaged, physically active and have access to nutritional education and supports.
- 4) Identify how collaboration and coordination, and building stronger relationships with external partners and funders will increase the capacity of service providers and communities to support aging- well initiatives that benefit the health and wellbeing of diverse populations of seniors.

The goal of the Summit will be to identify social innovation and capacity building strategies that have the greatest potential to create age-friendly communities that support our aging population now and into the future.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

This initiative relates to the Sustainability Charter Inclusion and Health and Wellness themes. Specifically the Summit supports the following Desired Outcomes:

- Inclusion DO15: Surrey's youngest and oldest residents are valued community members.
- Inclusion DO19: Supports are available for healthy aging in place.
- Health and Wellness DO8: Residents feel a sense of belonging and connectedness, and have opportunities for social interaction in their neighbourhoods and community.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council approve an application for a grant in the amount of \$20,000 from the UBCM's **2017 Age-Friendly Communities Grant Program** to support hosting the *Raising the Profile Provincial Summit* as described in this report.

Laurie Cavan
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