

To: District of Mission Mayor Atebe and Council,

March 15, 2010

This letter is to ask for Council's resolution to support a grant through the UBCM Seniors Housing and Support Initiative for a 2010 Age –Friendly Community Planning Project. For this purpose, I have requested that Kirsten Hargreaves and the Social Development Program manage this budget and oversee the project.

With this grant, we intend to develop the Mission Soap Box Organic Community Garden located behind the Mission Leisure Center age friendly. Management of the garden was recently awarded to L.I.N.C. (Long-term Inmates Now in the Community) Society. The World Health Organization in its 2007 report Global Age: Friendly Cities: A Guide talked about the importance of green spaces to as well as social and civic participation by our Elders. To make the Mission Soapbox Garden age friendly, it needs a major overhaul. Consideration needs to be given to, for example: raised beds in the garden, a watering source in the garden that is easy to access, walkways that are level and clear, benches for people to sit on, bathroom facilities, opportunities for intergenerational interaction i.e. gardening with Elders and youth/children.

Additionally, with this grant, we intend to work towards the creation of an age friendly policy on community gardens in Mission to help support the elder community to stay in Mission and participate in healthy lifestyle activities. (An age –friendly community is a community where policies, services and structures related to the physical and social environment are designed to support and enable older people to live in a secure environment, enjoy good health, and continue to participate fully in society (World Health Organization.) an age friendly community is a community for all ages.

Currently, the District of Mission unlike other cities and districts in the Lower Mainland i.e. the City of Vancouver, does not have a policy around community gardens.

As the deadline for this grant has recently passed (March 12, 2010) we have delivered the completed application required except for a late resolution from Council. Thus, this letter is to request what I hope will be a resolution as soon as is feasible.

Thank you for your time,

Sherry Edmunds-Flett (Executive Director)
L.I.N.C. Society
33270 14th Avenue
Mission, BC
V2V 4Z7

UBCM Seniors' Housing & Support Initiative

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2010 Age-friendly Community Planning & Project Grants

APPLICATION FORM

The completed Application Form, with all required attachments, is due **March 12, 2010**. Please type directly in this form or print and complete. Use additional space or pages wherever required.

Questions? Contact Local Government Program Services at lgps@ubcm.ca or (250) 356-5134.

Local Government Applicant Information

Local Government: District of Mission

Mailing Address: 8645 Stave Lake Street,
Mission, B.C. V2V 4L9

Contact person: Kirsten Hargreaves

Position: District of Mission - Social
Development Manager

Phone: (604) 820 - 3752

E-mail: khargreaves@mission.ca

Other Contact

Contact person: Sherry Edmunds-Flett

Position: Executive Director

Organization: L.I.N.C. (Long-term Inmates
Now in the Community) Society

Mailing Address:

Phone: 604-852-5514 cell

E-mail: seflett@telus.net

1. PROPOSED FOCUS AREA(S)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outdoor spaces & buildings | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social participation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation (including traffic safety) | <input type="checkbox"/> Communication & information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civic participation & employment |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Respect & inclusion | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community support & health services |

2. TYPE OR PROJECT. Please indicate what type of project you are proposing:

- Community Planning
- Community Project

3. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES. Please describe the specific activities you plan to undertake.

A) Create an age friendly policy on community gardens in Mission to help and support the elder community to stay in Mission and participate in healthy lifestyle activities. (An age –friendly community is a community where policies, services and structures related to the physical and social environment are designed to support and enable older people to live in a secure environment, enjoy good health, and continue to participate fully in society (World Health Organization.) an age friendly community is a community for all ages. Currently, the District of Mission unlike other cities and districts in the Lower Mainland i.e. the City of Vancouver, does not have a policy around community gardens;

B) Make the Mission Soap Box Organic Community Garden located behind the Mission Leisure Center age friendly. Management of the garden was recently awarded to L.I.N.C. (Long-term Inmates Now in the Community) Society. The World Health Organization in its 2007 report Global Age: Friendly Cities: A Guide talked about the importance of green spaces to as well as social and civic participation by our Elders. To make the Mission Soapbox Garden age friendly, it needs a major overhaul. Consideration needs to be given to, for example: raised beds in the garden, a watering source in the garden that is easy to access, walkways that are level and clear, benches for people to sit on, bathroom facilities, opportunities for intergenerational interaction i.e. gardening with Elders and youth/children.

4. AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES IMPLEMENTATION TEAM. Please indicate if you would like the support of the team for your project. If yes, please describe how the team could best support your activities.

No

5. OBJECTIVES. What do you hope the project will achieve?

A. Write an age friendly Community garden policy for the District of Mission.

B. Create a community garden that follows the World Health Organization checklist of essential features of age-friendly cities and the input of Mission seniors which will be used to make the garden a safe and enjoyable place for senior residents.

6. COMMUNITY PARTNERS. Please list all proposed and confirmed partners (e.g. health authority, community organization, First Nation, other local government, etc.).

MFAN (Mission Food Access Network

Union Gospel Mission

Fraser Health Unit

District of Mission

Mission Community Services Society, Mission Food Centre

L.I.N.C.

New Heights Church

St. Joseph's Food Bank

Women's Resource Society of the Fraser Valley

7. INTENDED OUTCOMES & DELIVERABLES

A. An age friendly community garden policy for the District of Mission

-a literature review will be done on existing community gardens from around British Columbia.

-focus groups will be conducted at the Mission Seniors center and other seniors' organizations in Mission as well as at the MFAN meetings.

-a policy document will then be produced which will then be presented to the MFAN advisory committee which will in turn send it to the District of Mission social development commission and then to district council for review.

B. Create an age friendly community organic garden for the District of Mission that will be a safe and enjoyable place for all

- conduct an informal survey and feedback sessions with seniors who currently are members of the community garden or have been members in the past but no longer are.

-make a list of what needs to be done in the community garden to make it user friendly. This would include, but not be limited to as noted earlier, raised beds in the garden, a watering source in the garden that is easy to access, walkways that are level and clear, benches for people to sit on, bathroom facilities, opportunities for intergenerational interaction i.e. gardening with Elders and youth/children.

8. EVALUATION. What tools will be used to evaluate the project and how will this information be used?

The evaluation will be one that measures the project's impact in making the District of Mission more age friendly through the creation of a community garden policy for the District and creating a community garden that is accessible and able to be utilized by all ages. The World Health Organization checklist for age friendly cities will be used to see if we have accomplished these tasks. A participant survey and interviews will be conducted with seniors who have or still use the garden before and after the garden has been made age friendly to see if the renovations etc have met their needs.

9. DEMONSTRATION OF PROMISING PRACTICES. How is the project innovative? What lessons will it provide to other local governments?

The project is innovative because it is creating an age friendly policy for community gardens that is non existent at present in the Fraser Valley. It will be utilizing the input of Mission seniors at every step of the way, the World Health Organization checklist of features for age friendly cities and the members of MFAN-the Mission Food Advisory Network.

The lessons it will provide to other local governments is 1) the valuable input that seniors can provide 2) the importance of having an age friendly policy around community gardens 3)that community organizations, individuals and local government can work together to create viable food issues

10. SUSTAINABILITY. Will the project be sustained after the funding? If yes, how?

Yes, the project will be sustained through donations from businesses and individuals, foundation grants and garden volunteers.

11. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS. Please use this space to add any additional comments.

This project will be managed by the Social Development office in conjunction with MFAN and the non profit organization that manages the garden-L.I.N.C.

12. REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS. Please submit the following with your application:

- Council/Board Resolution
- Detailed budget

Please send completed Application Form and all required attachments as an e-mail attachment to Local Government Program Services at lgps@ubcm.ca. If you submit by e-mail, hardcopies and/or additional copies of the application are not required.

Please submit your application as either a WORD or PDF file(s) and note "2010 SHSI" in the subject line.