



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** General Purposes Committee **Date:** November 16, 2012  
**From:** Cathryn Volkering Carlile **File:**  
General Manager, Community Services  
**Re:** **UBCM Age-Friendly Community Planning and Project Grant Application**

### Staff Recommendation

That an application for a UBCM 2013 Age Friendly Community Planning and Project Grant be endorsed, the purpose of which is to fund the project entitled "Kiwaniis Towers: Ready, Set, Plan – A Collaborative Stakeholder Process to Support Health Tenancy in a Seniors Affordable Housing Project".

Cathryn Volkering Carlile  
General Manager, Community Services

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
REVIEWED BY SMT SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 
REVIEWED BY CAO 	INITIALS: 

## Staff Report

### Origin

Since 2007, in accordance with the World Health Organization Age-friendly Cities initiative, the Province has provided grants through the UBCM to support the development of age-friendly communities.

In 2008, the City received a UBCM Age-friendly grant to develop the “Decreasing Barriers, Increasing Wellness” project at Minoru Place Activity Centre. The grant was used to fund the planning and facilitation of health and wellness services to isolated frail seniors. Since receiving the UBCM pilot project funding, the program has been continuously funded by Vancouver Coastal Health.

This year, staff identified the need to plan supportive programming for future Kiwanis Towers residents as a priority for seeking a UBCM Age-friendly Grant.

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on the Age-Friendly Pilot Project that the City is applying to UBCM for- *“Kiwanis Towers...Ready, Set, Plan - A Collaborative Stakeholder Approach to Support Healthy Tenancy in a Seniors Affordable Housing Project”*, and to ask for Council’s support for the project. A Council resolution is required as part of the application process.

The report is consistent with Council’s adopted term goal #2 Community Social Services:

2.1 Completion of the development and implementation of a clear social services strategy for the City that articulates the City’s role, priorities and policies, as well as ensures these are effectively communicated to the public in order to appropriately target resources and help manage expectations.

### Findings of Fact

At its July 16, 2012 Public Hearing, Council approved third reading to a rezoning application from Polygon and the Richmond Kiwanis Senior Citizens Housing Society for the proposed development of 296 one-bedroom units for seniors and associated resident amenity spaces.

Further, at its July 16, 2012 Public Hearing, Council approved the Kiwanis Towers proposed development as an Affordable Housing Special Development Circumstance, which included the recommendation for:

Staff to continue working with the Kiwanis to assist in the development of a tenant management plan to address: operation and tenant management, resident amenity planning, community networking, and partnership opportunities for the delivery of housing and resident programming.

In an effort to support the tenant management plan process, Staff and Kiwanis representatives have worked together to develop the concept, whereby 2013 UBCM grant funding will be sought to conduct a needs assessment and develop an implementation plan for the Kiwanis resident

amenity and tenant wellness programming. The UBCM requires that the City provide overall grant management. The City will seek maximum funding of \$20,000 to support this project.

The Richmond Kiwanis Senior Citizens Housing Society has resolved to support this grant application by the City (Attachment 1).

## **Analysis**

Given that the Kiwanis Towers will house between 296 and 592 seniors, it is essential that the amenity space provided be used to maximize the well-being of residents. As indicated in the attached Expression of Interest (Attachment 2), healthy aging can be supported in a positive manner through ensuring individuals have access to programs and services that emphasize illness and injury prevention, personal choice, and community involvement. Social connection, health and wellness programs will provide significant benefits to residents while helping to ensure successful aging-in-place and minimizing health care costs.

The proposal is to seek funding to support the facilitation of a collaborative, community-driven needs assessment process and the development of an implementation plan to support:

- Isolated and low income seniors living in the Kiwanis Towers development with access to appropriate resident programs that increase their level of social connectedness, physical activity, nutrition, and positive resources for everyday living and independence;
- A sense of community, cross-cultural connections, and a socially inclusive vision to emerge from facility use and programs;
- A health and community service hub approach to the utilization of resident amenity spaces to enhance the ability of health and community service providers to reach a number of older adults living in one location;
- Opportunities for seniors to exercise personal choice and action in the interest of their own health through the provision of a range of age appropriate events, activities, and services; and
- Strengthened multi-sector involvement, community partnerships and in-kind support to coordinate and promote housing design that integrates an accessible, age-friendly physical environment with effective, age-appropriate resident wellness programs and activities to support senior health.

If the grant is received staff will amend the City's financial plan and expenditure bylaw accordingly. In addition, the City will provide overall grant management, administration and monitoring of outcomes and deliverables. Also, if the proposal is funded, a subsequent application will be submitted for the 2013-2014 UBCM Grant Application cycle to proceed with the implementation of long-range planning tools and the development of a Kiwanis resident wellness strategy and sustainability plan.

### **Financial Impact**

None.

### **Conclusion**

This UBCM grant application requests funding to conduct a needs assessment and develop an implementation plan to activate common amenity space, and provide systems and networks to support the delivery of programs and services. The goal is to provide Kiwanis Towers residents with access to appropriate resident programs that will increase social connectedness, physical activity, nutrition, and positive resources for everyday living and independence.



Dena Kae Beno  
Affordable Housing Coordinator  
(604-247-4946)

DKB:ls

**Union of BC Municipalities 2013 Age-Friendly Community Planning & Project Grant**

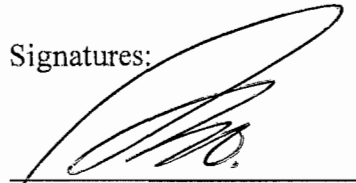
Application by the City of Richmond, November 2013

“Kiwanis Towers: Ready, Set, Plan - A Collaborative Stakeholder Approach to Support Health Tenancy in a Senior Affordable Housing Project”.

With respect to this application, developed by the City of Richmond in consultation with the Richmond Kiwanis Senior Citizens Housing Society, the following motion was passed:


The Richmond Kiwanis Senior Citizens Housing Society supports the application by the City of Richmond for a UBCM 2013 Age Friendly Community Planning and Project Grant for “Kiwanis Towers: Ready, Set, Plan - A Collaborative Stakeholder Approach to Support Health Tenancy in a Senior Affordable Housing Project”.

Signatures:

  
Name Peter So

President  
Title (Signing Officer)

Nov 15, 2012  
Date

  
Name Teri Buxton

Secretary - Treasurer  
Title (Signing Officer)

Nov. 15, 2012  
Date

Local Government Program Services  
 Union of BC Municipalities  
 525 Government Street  
 Victoria, B.C. V8V 0A8

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST-

FUNDING CATEGORY: Age-Friendly Community Planning and Project Grant

PROJECT TITLE: Kiwanis Towers...Ready, Set, Plan – A Collaborative Stakeholder Approach to Support Healthy Tenancy in a Seniors Affordable Housing Project

Satisfying and successful recreation experiences can promote social integration, improve physical and mental health, and enhance self-confidence; which makes significant contributions to self-determination, friendships, and social supports. As a result, these experiences provide the tools and resources for individuals to stay in their home for as long as possible. While many Richmond seniors live exceptionally healthy lives, the older adult community in Richmond is diverse.

The proposed Kiwanis Towers development is a subsidized rental development for seniors with 296 one-bedroom units and associated resident amenity spaces in Richmond, B.C. This development is in the rezoning stage and has involved an innovative multi-stakeholder approach to leverage public, private, and non-profit investment to generate much needed senior rental housing through the primary efforts of: Kiwanis Seniors Housing Society, Polygon Homes Ltd., City of Richmond, and BC Housing. In addition, the project is supported by numerous community partners to build continued, long-term relationships with Kiwanis for the delivery of tenant programs that emphasize healthy living and aging, including: Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, Minoru Seniors Society, and CHIMO Crisis Services, to name a few.

### DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES:

**Coordinating a needs assessment process and development of an implementation plan to:**

- **Activate common amenity space at a low-income seniors' housing development, and**
- **Provide systems and networks to support the delivery of programs and services**

### GOALS OF THE PROJECT

- To provide a coordinated approach to service delivery amongst different levels of government and community partners.
- To ensure there is a sense of belonging for the seniors who reside in the housing development through the collaborative development of an integrated, community resident amenity program.
- To generate an implementation plan to support the effective and continuous delivery for resident access to appropriate programs and active engagement.
- To encourage social connection to counter the effects of social isolation.
- To help realise the City of Richmond's Affordable Housing Strategy vision: "the City of Richmond has recognized the importance of ensuring that all residents have access to suitable and appropriate housing with the necessary community supports to serve the needs of a diverse population."
- To build and strengthen community partnerships for the effective delivery of age-friendly and appropriate resident amenity programming.

The heart of the project is to ensure Kiwanis tenants have access to low cost, community wellness programs. The proposed project will be a community driven, collaborative planning process to develop a resident amenity space and programming needs assessment and implementation plan. The project will serve as a "catalyst of action" to incorporate community stakeholder input to explore and determine the appropriate programs, partnerships, and resources that are required to support 296 to

592 seniors living in one location. The project will be facilitated in partnership with the City of Richmond and Richmond Kiwanis Senior Citizens Housing Society to gather local health and community services, Richmond Seniors, and future tenants' perspectives to develop the needs assessment and age-friendly implementation plan. The pilot project will assist Kiwanis in the effective delivery of proactive tenant wellness and amenity planning approach to sustain and support tenant health and well-being, while contributing to a thriving, diverse senior community that is healthy, active, and aging well.

#### **PROPOSED ACTIVITIES**

An Integrated Stakeholder and community-based action research project to develop a Kiwanis Resident Wellness approach through the completion of a:

- 1) Community needs assessment to identify potential programs, services, and collaborative and multi-sector partnerships to support access by Kiwanis residents to community service and health programs; which maintains and improves physical, emotional and mental health in a physical environment that integrates age-friendly features.**

The Global Age-Friendly Cities Guide will be used to inform the framework and guiding principles to focus on opportunities to support active aging, health and participation. The described activities will include an emphasis on the themes of: Maintaining Independence and Preventing Disability, Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, and Community Support and Health. This community driven process will support the strategic directions of Richmond's Affordable Housing Strategy and Older Adults Service Plan. Partnering with a variety of local residents, future Kiwanis residents, diverse community partners, and local service providers will be a key element of the assessment and decision-making process.

- 2) Implementation plan to support the effective delivery of resident wellness programs through the incorporation of multi-stakeholder input and best practice research to focus on the following key program components:**

- Provide access to low-cost or free tenant wellness and illness prevention programs;
- Decrease service barriers;
- Increase tenant wellness, health and financial literacy;
- Generate opportunities for social connection, referrals and support;
- Engage seniors and community participation in the planning process;
- Support efficient and sustainable delivery of services; and
- Increase social connectedness and communication between culturally diverse groups.

- 3) Long-range planning tools and recommendations for future incorporation into a resident wellness strategy and sustainability plan.**

If this proposal is funded, a subsequent application will be submitted for the 2013-2014 Grant Application cycle to proceed with the implementation of the final phase as noted in #3 above.

**TIMELINE:** The project will be planned in early 2013, the community needs assessment will be conducted early Spring through Summer 2013, the implementation plan will be developed in early Fall 2013, and the evaluation phase being concluded by November 2013.

#### **COMMITTED PARTNERS:**

- City of Richmond
- Richmond Kiwanis Senior Citizens Housing Society

- Vancouver Coastal Health
- BC Housing
- Minoru Seniors Place Executive
- Polygon Homes Ltd.
- Dagneault Planning
- Robert Ciccozzi Architecture, Inc.
- AWM Alliance Real Estate Group Ltd.
- PWL Partnership Landscape Architects Inc.
- CHIMO Crisis Services

#### **PROPOSED PARTNERS:**

Family Services, Richmond Food Security Society, Richmond Multi-Cultural Concerns Society, B.C. Non-Profit Housing Association, United Way, SUCCESS, Multi-Cultural Helping House, FIRST- Family Integration and Resources Support Team, Alzheimer's Society, Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee, and Richmond Senior Advisory Committee.

#### **ANTICIPATED BUDGET**

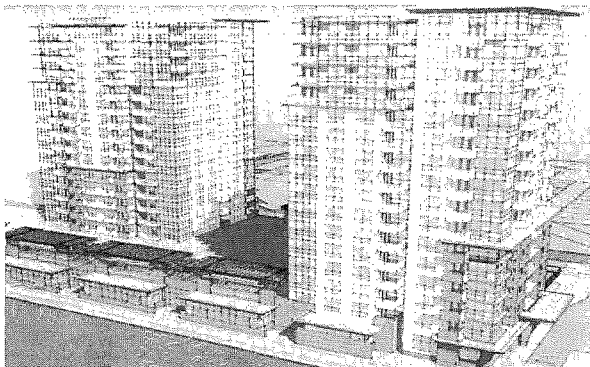
Request to UBCM is \$20,000

- To support costs associated with the community needs assessment consultation process, focus group meetings, survey tool development and administration, replication materials, and progress report writing.
- To support costs associated with the development of an implementation plan, project evaluation processes, and the preparation of the final stakeholder report.

#### **PRIMARY CONTACT:**

Dena Kae Beno, Affordable Housing Coordinator  
City of Richmond, Community Social Development, Community Services Department  
604-247-4946 [dbeno@richmond.ca](mailto:dbeno@richmond.ca)

#### **Conceptual Drawing of the Proposed Kiwanis Towers Project**



- **296 units of subsidized rental housing for seniors and resident amenity spaces**
- **Strategic City Centre location- close to transit, city and senior services, and shopping**
- **Innovative collaboration- Kiwanis Society, Polygon, City of Richmond, and BC Housing**
- **Potential City financial support through the use of Affordable Housing Reserve Funds**
- **Housing and program delivery to be supported and strengthened through community partnerships**