



Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee
Serving Richmond since 1991



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TO: MAYOR & EACH COUNCILLOR
FROM: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

pc: Leslie Sherlock

September 22, 2005

Mayor and Council
Richmond City Hall
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, B.C. V6Y 2C1

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Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: Letter of support for Wellness Coordinator position

This letter is in support of the 'Wellness Coordinator' position for the city of Richmond.

The Seniors Advisory Committee members feel strongly that the position of a Wellness Coordinator is invaluable to both seniors and the community. This letter of support for this position is not just from our members.

This request appears to come up on every year when the budget is being reviewed. With respect the Seniors Advisory Committee strongly urges Council to please reconsider and place this position on an on going basis. This would remove the uncertainty of the position and allow for more flowing program planning throughout the year.

To give Council more information in which to guide their deliberations in this most important position, I as Chair of RSAC, personally sought out people who take advantage of the Wellness Programs as well as providers of services at the clinics.

I can say without reservations, that every person I spoke to regarding the Wellness Clinics, the praise for the program was most gratifying.

Providers I spoke with unhesitatingly felt the dollars saved by the clinics with early

diagnosis of possible problems far outweighed those spent on this position. They were able to refer clients to Doctors, who were happy to take their referrals quickly, in many cases saving the cost of a further on hospital stay.

Many of those I interviewed liked the 'Holistic approach' of the program.

The Wellness Coordinator's position requires many hours spent in organizing and producing the 'Annual Wellness Fair' which has been such a success.

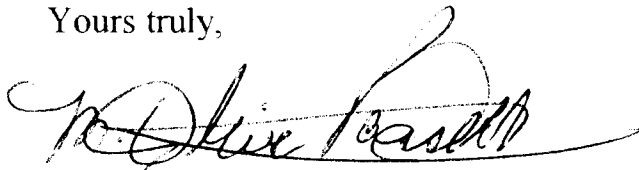
This fair offers many seniors and indeed, any adult in the community who wishes to be active, an excellent opportunity to become more involved, using their skills to gain new knowledge and confidence.

Much of the time of this position is spent coordinating the volunteers and programs in the already established clinics as well as assuring the expansion of other popular programs.

The value of this position is shown in the increased variety of resources available and the growing attendance of Wellness Clinics at Minoru Seniors Centre, Steveston, South Arm and Thompson Community Centres and their success rate is excellent and well attended.

Because the members of the Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee feel this position is a valuable asset to the community we respectfully request Council seriously consider making this position a permanent budget consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Olive Bassett', written in a cursive style.

M.Olive Bassett, Chair