



Age-friendly Communities British Columbia's Experience

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● Partner Communities in Age-friendly Guides

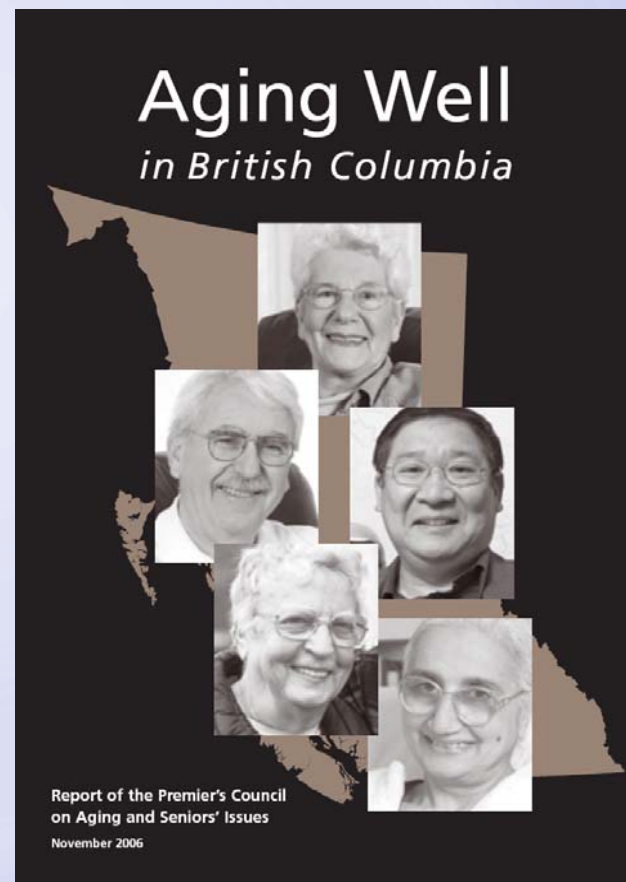
Three communities within BC participated in research phase for the city and rural and remote guides.





Why be part of Age-friendly Communities

-  Premier's Council on Aging and Seniors' Issues
-  The aging of our population will affect every aspect of our society, from families to workplaces to community infrastructure.
-  Within next 10 years - fewer school-age children than people over 65, and more people retiring than entering the workforce.
-  By 2031, over 1.3 million over 65.





Steps Taken

- 🌅 BC Ministry of Health formed a partnership with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), British Columbia Parks and Recreation Association and 2010 Legacies Now.
- 🌅 Partnership developed with Centre on Aging, University of Victoria, BC to conduct focus groups.
- 🌅 Competitive process - application and screening through partnership selection committee to identify partner communities.
- 🌅 Rural & Remote focus under 2,000 population and inclusive of First Nations applications.
- 🌅 Research agreement signed by Mayors of communities.



Steps Taken (cont.)




- ☀️ Seed grants of \$5,000 to document and start implementing findings from focus groups.

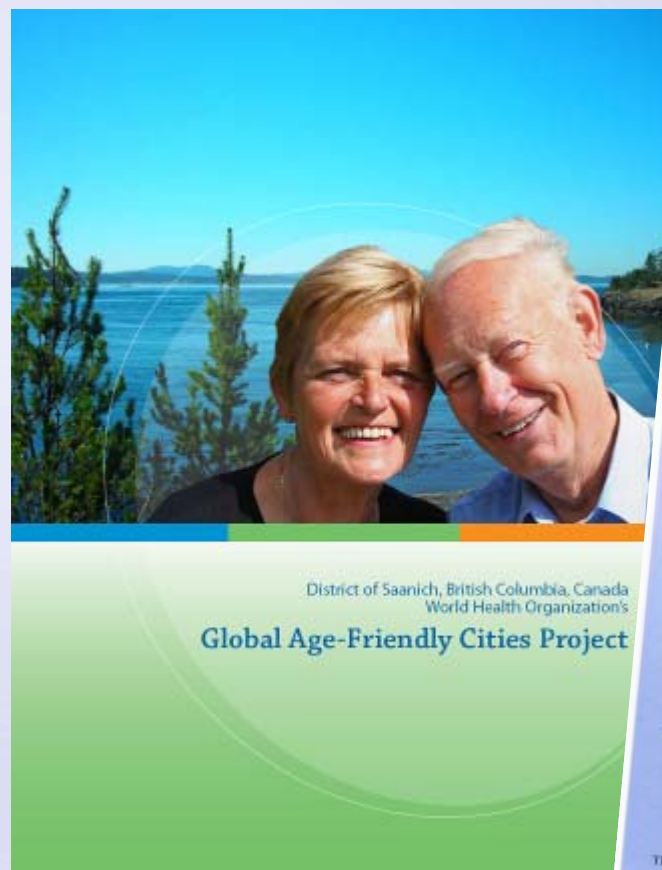
Partner Community Profiles

- ☀️ District of Saanich - Located southern tip of Vancouver Island; Pop.=108,179; 16.9% are 65+; 5th largest municipality in BC.
- ☀️ Village of Alert Bay - Located on Cormorant Island; Pop.=620 (1,400 on Island); predominantly Aboriginal Peoples; 4% are 65+; sea/air access.
- ☀️ Village of Lumby - Located in interior BC; Pop.=1,738; 14.6% are 65+; road access.




Outcomes of Research Phase

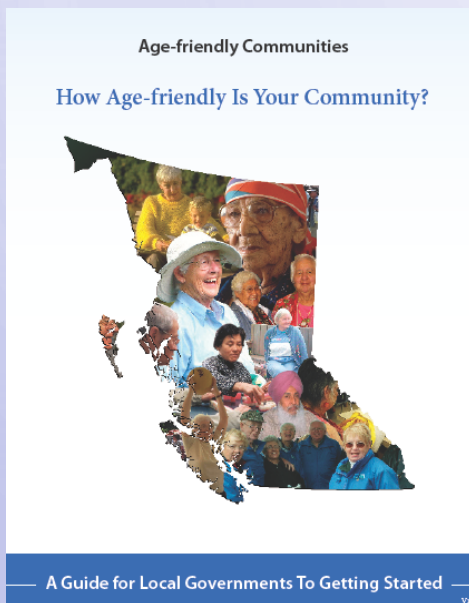
-  The District of Saanich and the Villages of Alert Bay and Lumby quickly adopted many of the suggested actions from their focus groups.
-  Led to many communities asking to be involved.
-  Guides, community reports and actions shared throughout BC.








Implementation Process

 BC has developed a framework that supports the implementation of Age-friendly Communities in BC.





Funding Approaches

-  Dialogue, pilot and community planning grants available through UBCM.
-  BC Government goal to *build seniors-friendly and disability-friendly communities.*
-  Complementary grants through Measuring Up, Active Communities, BC Healthy Communities etc.



Towns for Tomorrow



Local Motion



GREEN CITY AWARDS



Partnership Development

-  Formal partnership endorsed in August 2007.
-  Provincial Age-friendly Leadership Network established in Dec 2007.



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES (UBCM)
THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH)
2010 LEGACIES NOW SOCIETY (2010 L N)
THE BRITISH COLUMBIA RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION (BCRPA)

("the parties")

REGARDING

INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION ON IMPLEMENTATION
OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY GUIDES






Age-friendly Communities in BC

- Partner Communities in Age-friendly Guides
- Expressed interest in becoming a Partner Community
- Seniors Housing & Support Initiative Age-friendly Projects





Evaluation – Towards 2010

-  Collation of evaluation reports from pilot funding grants.
-  Environmental Scan of Community Readiness for an Aging Population.
-  Official Community Plan, Regional Growth Strategy, and Council Resolution monitoring.
-  Engagement with Age-friendly Communities Implementation Team.
-  Development of Age-friendly Communities Indicators
- e.g. BC Healthy Built Environment Alliance.
-  Social Pillar of Sustainability.



Lessons Learned

- 🌅 Partnerships are KEY.
- 🌅 Do your homework - find out what is already going on in the community?
- 🌅 Local Champions are KEY.
- 🌅 From the communities -

What Have We Learned... How to Be Age-Friendly

Involve: Encourage meaningful participation of older persons

Listen: Utilize responsive planning and development practices








Build: Create accessible and appropriate infrastructure

Communicate: Improve access to information and build relationships

Partner: It takes a whole community to be age-friendly!







Next Steps

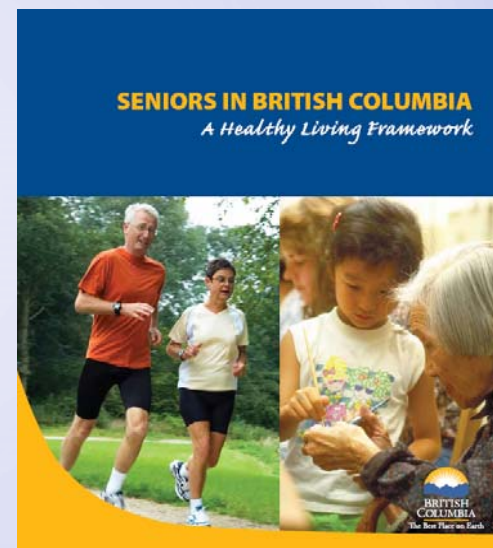
-  Further development of tools and resources for local governments and other partners.
-  New rounds of grant funding with an enhanced focus on age-friendly community planning support.
-  Strategic partnerships with other community development approaches - e.g. Measuring Up, BC Healthy Communities.
-  Develop a stronger focus on First Nation communities.
-  Provincial summit on age-friendly.
-  An Age-friendly Communities Charter for BC.
-  Enabling seniors to take a leadership role.




Conclusion

 The Age-friendly Communities approach supports many of the BC Government objectives, namely:

-  British Columbians leading healthy, active lifestyles;
-  Healthy People, Healthy Communities; and
-  Positive Aging



 Older People are taking a leadership role *“nothing for us without us”*

DON'T PLAN FOR SENIORS - PLAN WITH SENIORS

www.seniorsincommunities.ca/age-friendly