



Making a difference...together

Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area
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Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)

New Horizons for Seniors Program – Western Canada and Territories Region
125 East 10th Ave Vancouver BC V5T 1Z3

Re: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR MAYNE ISLAND ASSISTED LIVING NHFS GRANT PROGRAM

Dear Grant Review Committee,

As the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Areas Director, I am writing to express my strong support for the Pender Island Recreation and Agricultural Hall Association's (PIRAHA) application for New Horizons for Seniors Program funding for their "Friday Community Gathering."

This initiative is designed for seniors aged 55 and over and promotes valuable intergenerational connections. It is inclusive of low-income seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities, offering low-cost or free meals to address food security. The partnership with the Mayne Island Food Bank adds significant value by providing a free community pantry at the events.

The Friday Community Gathering features a range of activities, led by both youth and older adults, such as workshops, tech support, and social events. These activities not only build leadership skills but also combat social isolation and ageism, fostering a more cohesive and supportive community.

PIRAHA's collaboration with Southern Gulf Islands Neighbourhood House (SGINH) and Ptarmigan Arts ensures a well-rounded program, providing essential leadership, coordination, and engaging content. This collaborative effort helps create a welcoming environment with multiple touchpoints for interaction and engagement.

In summary, the Friday Community Gathering is a crucial program that enriches our community by fostering connections between generations and supporting the well-being of our seniors. I strongly endorse PIRAHA's application and urge you to grant the necessary funding to support this invaluable initiative.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Paul Brent
Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area Director
Capital Regional District