

September 10, 2024

File: 0220-20

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 THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 239,
PENDER ISLAND, B.C.**

To whom it may concern,

As the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area Director, I am writing to strongly support the grant application submitted by the Pender Island Royal Canadian Legion Branch 239 for the upgrade of their walk-in cooler.

Our community on the Pender Islands is predominantly composed of retirees, and many of the activities organized by local volunteer groups are led by seniors and geared towards senior residents. The Pender Island Legion plays a crucial role in our community by offering a facility and hosting social events for residents who might otherwise lack social opportunities due to the island's limited infrastructure. Notable activities include Remembrance Day observances, the Candlelight Service honoring veterans which involves local school children and teachers, and a Special Persons Christmas luncheon for seniors who are widowed or without family on the island. Additionally, the Legion's popular Friday Night dinners provide affordable, home-cooked meals prepared and served by dedicated senior volunteers.

Upgrading the walk-in cooler is essential for maintaining these vital community services. The current refrigeration system is outdated and leaking, creating an unsafe environment for our senior volunteers. A new system will not only enhance safety but also reduce the energy consumption of the overworked existing system. Furthermore, the upgraded cooler will support the Legion's role as a secondary reception center for Emergency Support Services during island emergencies.

I am grateful for the New Horizons for Seniors Program's consideration of this grant and strongly recommend that it be awarded to the Pender Island Royal Canadian Legion Branch 239. This support will greatly benefit our community and its many dedicated volunteers.

If I may be of any other assistance, please contact me at 250-216-5618.

Sincerely,



Paul Brent
Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area Director
Capital Regional District