



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

WHEREAS:

1. British Columbia's population of seniors is growing rapidly, leaving many communities with challenges to address physical and social barriers that affect the safety, independence and general ability of seniors to participate in society.
2. There are 570,000 British Columbians with disabilities, composing 13.4% of British Columbia's population. Of those 570,000 individuals with disabilities, 39.6% are seniors.
3. The parties have common interests in the health and wellbeing of older adults within the province and its communities.
4. The World Health Organization (WHO), in partnership with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), the MOH and the municipality of the District of Saanich, are working together to support the development of the WHO Global Age-Friendly Cities Guide. Additionally, the PHAC, in partnership with nine Canadian provinces, the MOH, the Corporation of the Village of Alert Bay and the Village of Lumby are presently working together to support the development of a Canadian Rural and Remote Age-Friendly Community Guide.
5. The WHO Global Age-Friendly Cities Guide and the Canadian Rural and Remote Age-Friendly Communities Guide will assist elected officials, urban planners, business and community groups to identify and address physical and social barriers to seniors' health and wellbeing. Their implementation will provide a lasting legacy that will illustrate how supportive environments increase options for active aging and healthy choices, so that older adults are empowered and better able to remain within and contribute to their communities.
6. The UBCM represents all of the Municipalities and Regional Districts in British Columbia and administers funding for program development and planning support for an aging population.

7. The 2010 L N works in partnership to actively assist communities to discover and create lasting inclusive and accessible social and economic legacies. In collaboration with inclusion and accessibility organizations, UBCM, the Government of British Columbia and Local Government has developed '*Measuring Up*, a guide that enables Local Government to assess the degree to which British Columbians with disabilities are active and involved participants in community life.
8. The MOH is the Government of British Columbia's lead ministry on active aging and the development of Age-Friendly Community Guides and has the cross-government and inter-agency leadership role in supporting province-wide implementation of the age-friendly communities. MOH remains committed to working with its other ministry and non-ministry partners.
9. The BCRPA is a central resource and advocacy agency for the parks and recreation sector. BCRPA delivers the provincial Active Communities Initiative, and in 2006 conducted a province-wide Active Aging Consultation that engaged community stakeholders to identify barriers and gaps in existing services and supports for older adults. In addition, the BCRPA provides professional development opportunities for fitness and recreation professionals working with senior populations, and offers active aging educational sessions at its Annual Symposium.

THEREFORE:

This MOU represents a commitment by the parties to collaborate to support in a coordinated manner across the province, the implementation of Age-Friendly Community Guides by Local Government and communities. This MOU also recognizes the potential for collaboration for further creation of inclusive and accessible communities.

PRINCIPLES:

In fulfilling the terms of this MOU the parties will be governed by the following guiding principles:

1. *Mutual respect* – the parties recognize and respect each others mandates, policies and areas of jurisdiction and that the MOU does not fetter the individual mandates of the parties;
2. *Partnership* – the parties recognize each others' strengths and capabilities. To maximize efficiency and effectiveness, the parties are committed to cooperate in the spirit of partnership, with the acknowledgement that no single agency or organization can effectively accomplish change without engaging with its partners;
3. *Commitment to action* – the parties are committed to support the creation of environments that support and empower older adults so that they are better able to remain within and contribute to their communities;
4. *Coordinated information* – the parties recognize the value of a coordinated approach to the development, exchange and distribution of information to Local Government and communities;
5. *Inclusiveness* – the parties will endeavour to guide the implementation of Age-Friendly Community Guides with the advice, involvement and leadership of older adults and people with disabilities in order to create communities that are accessible and inclusive to all.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES:

The partners have the following mutual objectives:

1. To support in a coordinated manner across the province, the implementation of Age-Friendly Community Guides, to adapt the social, built and physical environments of British Columbian communities, namely:
 - Outdoor spaces and buildings
 - Transportation
 - Housing
 - Respect and social inclusion
 - Social participation
 - Communication and information
 - Civic participation and employment
 - Community support and health services
2. To engage Local Government and communities to advance and facilitate opportunities to enhance their capacity to respond effectively to accessibility, inclusion and aging issues.

ACTIVITIES:

Activities undertaken under this MOU may include:

1. Collaborating to support the launch of the WHO Global Age-Friendly Cities Guide and the Canadian Rural and Remote Age-Friendly Communities Guide.
2. Establishment of an inter-agency working group to identify resources and guide planning within Local Government and communities to implement Age-Friendly Community Guides.
3. Exploring the potential adaptation of existing community and Local Government grants to support implementation of Age-Friendly Community Guides. Examples include Community Health Promotion Fund (administered by UBCM), Active Communities Grant Program (administered by BCRPA), Seniors Housing and Support Initiative (administered by UBCM).
4. Collaboration to ensure the coordination where appropriate, of Age-Friendly Community Guides and *Measuring Up* with existing Local Government and community planning tools.
5. Coordination of an Evaluation Framework to monitor progress on established goals and objectives.
6. Exploration of potential demonstration communities for an integrated Age-Friendly and *Measuring Up* approach.

IMPLEMENTATION OF MOU:

The parties agree to establish an inter-agency working group to further the objectives and activities stated in this MOU. The working group shall meet from time to time, as required, to oversee the implementation of Age-Friendly Community Guides and to identify opportunities for linkages with other complementary tools and organizations as appropriate.

TERM OF THE MOU:

This MOU is a statement of intent by the parties and is not legally binding. For greater certainty, nothing in the MOU obliges the parties to act in a manner inconsistent with provincial legislation, policies or authorities.

The parties may agree to amend or terminate this MOU at any time. The Agreement will be reviewed every three years from the date of signing unless otherwise amended.

COMMITMENT:

In witness of this Agreement the parties have executed this Memorandum of Understanding on Inter-Agency Collaboration and Coordination:

SIGNED on behalf of the **UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MUNICIPALITIES** by:

 Date: Aug 15, 2007
Councillor Brenda Binnie, President

 Date: August 15, 2007
Councillor Janis Dahlen, Chair,
Healthy Communities Committee

SIGNED on behalf of the **2010 LEGACIES NOW SOCIETY** by:

 Date: Aug 20 2007
Bruce Dewar, Chief Executive Officer

SIGNED on behalf of the **BRITISH COLUMBIA RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION** by:

 Date: August 27 2007
Tom Osborne, President

 Date: Aug 27, 2007
Suzanne Strutt, Chief Executive Officer

SIGNED on behalf of the **BRITISH COLUMBIA MINISTRY OF HEALTH** by:

 Date: September 18, 2007
Honourable George Abbott,
Minister of Health