



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Newly Launched Navigation and Peer Support Program Helps Seniors and Elders across B.C. Access Support Services

Burnaby, B.C. – Seniors in B.C. will now be able to receive help in navigating and accessing support services via the Navigation and Peer Support (NPS) program, an initiative recently launched by the United Way Healthy Aging (Healthy Aging).

With funding provided from the Government of British Columbia, Healthy Aging will provide over \$1.7M in grants, along with other supports, to 13 community agencies located throughout British Columbia. The 411 Seniors Centre Society will support this initiative, providing expertise to the agencies including information and referral training, webinars and regular information-sharing sessions.

The NPS program is designed to address the gaps in services for seniors who face multiple barriers to independence. The NPS grant stream supports community-based seniors' service organizations to provide information and referral services that support older adults living in poverty and experiencing other health and socio-economic challenges.

These services can include, but are not limited to:

- Supporting older adults to navigate public systems (e.g. housing, transportation, finances, legal, income tax, health, employment, etc.)
- Responding to requests from older adults in accessing community-based services
- Raising awareness of and advocating for available community-based and health services

"As the COVID-19 pandemic is still having an impact on community and has made accessing services even more challenging, there is no better time to launch the NPS program. There is a sizeable segment of the senior population in B.C. who need support services but face obstacles in accessing them," said Kahir Lalji, Provincial Director, United Way's Healthy Aging. "The NPS program is designed to bridge that gap so marginalized seniors can access the support services they need to continue to live independently in their communities."

Using a localized approach, the 13 selected agencies in the NPS program will develop or expand programming and activities that address the unique needs and opportunities in their communities. In consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic, each of the programs will safely provide programming and will include a plan for transitioning into regular programming after the pandemic has ended.

The 13 agencies selected to deliver the NPS program in their community are as follows:

Agency	Community
Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows Community Services	Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows
Chilliwack & District Seniors' Resources Society	Chilliwack
DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society	Surrey
Abbotsford Association for Healthy Aging	Abbotsford
OneSky Community Resources Society	Penticton
Kalein Hospice Centre Society	Nelson
Autumn Services - Society For Senior Support	Fraser Lake
South Vancouver Neighbourhood House	Vancouver
Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House	Vancouver
411 Seniors Centre Society	Vancouver
Comox Valley Senior Support Society	Comox
James Bay New Horizons Society	Victoria
AVI Health & Community Services	Victoria

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About United Way Healthy Aging

United Way Healthy Aging (Healthy Aging) is delivered through the United Way of Lower Mainland (UWLM), whose work is to strengthen vital connections that support people in need in local communities. Healthy Aging is a province-wide model of engagement and collaboration with seniors, service providers, caregivers, and volunteers, and its programs, which are funded by the Province of B.C. and the United Way, currently include: Better at Home, the Digital Learning Pilot Project including Active Aging Plus and ITech, TAPS, Family & Friend Caregiver Supports, Social Prescribing programs and Men's Sheds. These programs are delivered by a province-wide network of over 120 service agencies, who manage senior serving programs in their local community.

