



MEDIA RELEASE
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United Way BC Celebrates 100 Better at Home Programs *Milestone highlights growing demand for services that help older adults live independently and stay connected to their communities*

Burnaby, BC - As British Columbia marks Seniors Week, a time to recognize and celebrate the contributions of older adults, United Way British Columbia (United Way BC) is proud to announce a significant milestone: 100 Better at Home programs are now operating across the province, helping thousands of seniors live independently in the comfort of their own homes.

Delivered in partnership with local community organizations, [Better at Home](#) provides seniors with non-medical supports such as light housekeeping, transportation, grocery shopping, friendly visiting, and yard work. These services make it easier for seniors to remain safe, connected, and supported in their communities.

For many seniors, these supports are life changing. One client shared, "I have personally benefitted from Better at Home. They have enabled me to survive the discomfort of chronic pain. I have felt so comforted and supported and connected by these programs. It would've been entirely bleak without them. These services keep us safe and able to stay in our homes."

"This milestone reflects the strength of community partnerships across British Columbia and the increasing need for supports that help seniors age with dignity," said Camille J. Hannah, Director, Healthy Aging, United Way BC.

"Reaching 100 Better at Home programs means more older adults can stay independent, healthy, and engaged where they feel most at home."

Bringing Better at Home to Lasqueti Island

The Lasqueti Better at Home program marks the 100th program in British Columbia, a milestone that highlights how this innovative model is reaching even the most rural and remote communities, ensuring seniors everywhere can continue to live independently in the places they call home.

Located in the Strait of Georgia off the east coast of Vancouver Island, Lasqueti Island is a small, remote community known for its off-grid living and strong culture of self-sufficiency. Accessible only by boat, the island presents unique challenges for aging residents, making local support systems especially important.

"Living off-grid on Lasqueti takes an incredible amount of grit, and the physical workload doesn't slow down just because you're getting older. Out here "aging in place" means hauling water, stacking cords of firewood, and keeping solar arrays clear," said Lisa Peterson, Co-coordinator, Lasqueti Better at Home. "By adopting the Better at Home model for our island, we are finally providing that crucial bit of extra muscle. It means our elders don't have to give up the independent, self-sufficient lifestyle they love just because they need a hand with the heavy lifting."

Meeting the needs of an aging population

As BC's population continues to age, demand for accessible, community-based supports is growing. Many seniors face barriers such as limited mobility, social isolation, and rising costs of living; challenges that can make it difficult to remain at home without extra help.

Better at Home programs are designed to respond to these realities at the community level. What is offered to a senior living in a cabin in Lasqueti may be very different from what is required to support a senior living in a 25th floor condo in Burnaby. But to both, aging at home is the goal.

Through the expansion to 100 programs, United Way BC and its partners are strengthening a province-wide network of care that prioritizes independence, prevention, and connection. Programs like Better at Home allow seniors to age where they feel safest and happiest, while helping communities become more efficient, compassionate, and sustainable. The result is a system where individuals thrive, and public resources are used more effectively: a true win-win.

A collaborative approach to healthy aging

Better at Home is part of United Way BC's broader Healthy Aging initiative, which focuses on improving quality of life for older adults through coordinated services, partnerships, and community-driven solutions. Made possible through funding from the Government of British Columbia, and a strong and trusted partnership, our Healthy Aging portfolio works alongside the Community-Based Seniors' Services (CBSS) sector to deliver programs that help older adults stay active, socially connected, and engaged in their communities.

The success of the program is rooted in collaboration between municipal governments, community agencies, volunteers, funders, and seniors themselves. Together, they create accessible pathways for seniors to receive support before more intensive interventions are needed.

To learn more, visit uwbc.ca/healthy-aging

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About United Way British Columbia

United Way BC helps build healthy, caring, and inclusive communities across our province. We strengthen vital connections that support people in need with a focus on emergency response, kids and youth, seniors, mental health, and food security. uwbc.ca

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