

NORTH CARIBOO SENIORS' COUNCIL

October 30 2020
Volume 1, Issue 1

#102 – 246 St. Laurent Street (Spirit Square)

Quesnel, BC V2J 2C9 250 991 0510

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Our mission is to protect and enhance the safety, quality of life, livability and sustainability of our Senior Citizen community. We will strive to benefit such members of our community by using the opportunities available to us. We will be successful in serving the needs of our Seniors' community through visionary leadership, strong community partnerships, safety and service, and sound financial management.

After the Age Friendly Initiative study was completed, and the report published, the City of Quesnel under the leadership of Mayor Bob Simpson, was instrumental in securing an interested group of people from the various community sectors that were either involved in Seniors' issues or had some sort of connection, and an organization was formed. After meeting many, many times and determining our direction, a board was formed and a plan to target some of the identified gaps happened.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

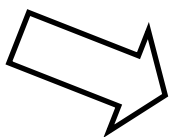
We are pleased to announce that the North Cariboo Seniors' Council office is now open for business! We are located in the same office as the Downtown Association at Spirit Square Our office hours at 11:00 to 1:30 Monday to Friday.

Volunteers Colleen Gauthier, Vivian Wurm, Mike Stevens, and Sally Service will be there to answer questions and take membership dues, and will have Volunteer Applications



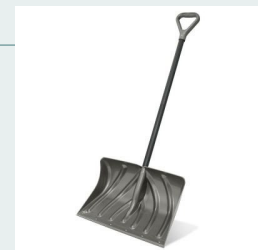
THE CITY OF QUESNEL CONDUCTED AN AGE-FRIENDLY INITIATIVE STUDY INVOLVING OUR SENIOR POPULATION IN 2018 IN ORDER TO HAVE QUESNEL DESIGNATED AS SENIOR FRIENDLY

- The gaps identified as a result of the study showed a lack of affordable housing with seniors accessibility
- Transportation for Seniors in Quesnel who don't drive
- Food security
- Health care was identified as an area of concern for aging seniors wanting to stay in their own homes
- Safety and Social Inclusion
- YOU CAN FIND THE 45 page report ON THE CITY OF QUESNEL'S WEBSITE
- https://www.quesnel.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/reports/quesnel_age-friendly_assesment_and_action_plan_-_final_-_council_june_26_2018.pdf



JOB OPPORTUNITY FOR A CAPABLE SNOW SHOVELLER
MUST COMPLETE A CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK
PLEASE CALL 250 991 0510

Or email your resume to: info@caribooseniorscouncil.org



TODAY I HAVE JUST MET A
WALKING, TALKING, BREATH-
ING, WORKING

ANGEL

I was overwhelmed when a load of topsoil was DUMPED IN-FRONT OF MY GARAGE DOORS. I called NCSC and soon, worker Ron arrived , and quickly moved the load of topsoil to its new location. He was quick, friendly, courteous and efficient.....I can't thank you enough!!"

-Senior Theresa

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Quesnel has a healthy populations of seniors living in the area. Once the gaps were identified and our office opened, we quickly realized the need for more helpers. We want to open the office longer hours, currently 4 volunteers are covering all of the open office hours.

Drivers are needed for meal deliveries. With the 900 meal program almost completed, at least 300 meal of the deliveries have happened, as most seniors received 2 meals at a time.

A criminal record check is required and free of charge for volunteers, and a volunteer application needs to be completed. Any amount of volunteer commitment would be appreciated

Exciting times at NCSC! We are mid-way through 2 major projects for which we have received grant funding. A United Way of Northern BC COVID grant has enabled us to provide 900 home-cooked, frozen meals to seniors for whom food security is a real issue. The meals are being prepared by Trish's Dishes and delivered by a cohort of volunteer drivers from mid-September through to mid-December. Covid issues prevented seniors from occasionally enjoying a restaurant-cooked meal ,or dining out with friends and family. The home-cooked style of meals were much needed and appreciated!

Yardwork Grant –A HUGE SUCCESS

Funding from the Community Foundation of Canada via the Quesnel Community Foundation has enabled us to hire a worker to provide 'free of charge' yard and garden work for seniors who are no longer able to do the work themselves and for whom hiring someone is financially not possible. Our worker has completed 8 weeks of weeding, mowing, trimming and raking, and is gearing up for another 3 or 5 weeks. It is obvious to us that this is a much-needed service for seniors – we continue to receive phone calls requesting this help and calls from grateful homeowners who once again can enjoy a well-tended garden. The impact of covid had the whole country gardening and canning like NEVER before! We are pleased that our program is meeting the needs of our seniors!

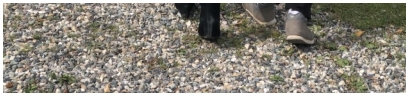


We (NCSC) are attempting to get an extension on the yardwork grant to carry over funds to 2021, as we were late in the season getting approval

Thank you to Quesnel Community Foundation for supporting our worthwhile project!



Volunteers helping seniors in difficult times



NCSC were in search of a logo to represent who we are and what we do. A contest was initiated and the winning logo was designed and submitted by Casey Fisher-CONGRATS CASEY

SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATIONS

Grants received to date:

- ⇒ **Quesnel Community Foundation \$3000 - office set up**
- ⇒ **Community Futures Quesnel \$2500 -marketing**
- ⇒ **United Way COVID - 500 + 900 meals delivered**
- ⇒ **QCF-\$8000 yard and garden work**

3 PENDING GRANT APPLICATIONS IN PROGRESS ARE:

- **500 more meal deliveries**
- **Transportation services in the form of taxi vouchers for needy seniors**
- **Snow removal for seniors**
- **Looking for 2021 opportunities to continue with yard work for seniors**

AGM MEETING

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25 2020

6 :30PM

AT QUESNEL SENIORS" CENTER

461 CARSON AVE

THIS WILL BE A COVID FRIENDLY EVENT

CURRENT ELECTED POSITIONS BEING HELD:

President - Brenda Gardiner

Vice President & Treasurer - Evelyn Towgood

Secretary - Sally Service

Director - Colleen Gauthier

Director - Angela Swyers

Director - Vivian Wurm

Director - Rebecca Beuschel

Director - Dr. Jon Fine

Director-Mike Stevens

PLEASE JOIN US AND BRING A FRIEND

AGE FRIENDLY INITIATIVE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Age-friendly communities are those that support older adults to age-in place. They are communities that are inclusive, accessible and safe. Age-friendly features not only help to support older people, they also provide better accessibility to young families with strollers and those with mobility differences. Age-friendly communities can also improve social determinants of health by increasing access to safe and affordable housing, improving health and community services, and reducing social isolation.

Thirty five percent of Quesnel's population is over the age of 55. Twenty percent of those are age 65 or older and five percent are over the age 80. Aboriginal or First Nations people account for 15% of the population and "visible minorities" make up another 8%. New immigrants are less than 1% of the population in Quesnel.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

NCSC is mounting a Membership and Volunteer Drive for the month of October. We have 3 levels of membership:

- ◆ \$10 for an individual membership,
- ◆ \$50 for a community group membership (e.g. – Rotary, Quesnel Senior Society)
- ◆ \$100 for a business membership.
- ◆ We would encourage you to become a member – to show your support of this new community Council as we work to improve the lives of our seniors. At this point, we have no funding for our operational expenses—and COVID has meant fund-raising will be difficult, if not impossible. A membership purchased during these last 3 months of 2020 will remain current until December 2021.

To date we have logged 215 hours of yard work service deliveries to **61 senior clients** who live in and around Quesnel city limits

With Covid-19 concerns and the side effects....SENIORS ARE STAYING CLOSER TO HOME. Many are finding it difficult to find affordable workers, that once might have mowed their lawns and did yard maintenance. Workers traditionally were interested in summer employment, or willing to earn extra cash, but with the availability of CERB government funding, those individuals were either non-existent or hard to find.

When we applied for the grant, we had not fully anticipated the need or the amount of seniors who would participate!

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We feel that we lucked out when we hired Ron! We have had much positive feedback about his work ethic, his willingness to go above and beyond, and his "caring for seniors" capacity.

OUR SUMMER YARD WORK PROGRAM WAS A HUGE, OVERWHELMING SUCCESS

