



# ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

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## REQUEST FOR DECISION

**TO:** ACRD Board of Directors

**FROM:** Amy Anaka, MCIP, RPP, Planner

**MEETING DATE:** November 13, 2019

**RE:** Alberni Valley Age-Friendly Project Introduction

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### Recommendations:

*THAT the Board of Directors receive the Alberni Valley Age-Friendly Project Introduction report.*

*THAT the Board of Directors appoint an Electoral Area Director to the ACRD Age-Friendly Working Group.*

### Background:

At the October 24, 2018 Board of Directors meeting the Board directed staff to apply to the 2019 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Age-Friendly Communities grant program to develop a local Age-Friendly Plan. On November 27, 2018 UBCM approved Stream 1 funding for the creation of an Alberni Valley Age-Friendly Community Action Plan, in the amount of \$24,750. The Age-Friendly Communities program assists communities in BC to support aging populations by developing and implementing policies and plans, undertaking projects that enable seniors to age in place, and facilitating the creation of age-friendly communities (UBCM). Age-friendly is a global, national and provincial initiative with a main goal of supporting healthy aging by encouraging and supporting communities in becoming more age-friendly.

The 2016 Census notes that 21.8% of the total population in the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) is 65 years or older, which is higher than the provincial average of 18.3%. The largest population group in the ACRD is 45 to 64 years (30%), with the greatest growth expected in the next 20 years for those 75 and older. With this aging population, the ACRD needs to consider planning initiatives that support age-friendly communities such as accessibility, transportation, housing, health care, food security, and recreation.

### Project Overview:

The overall project goal is to develop an Age-Friendly Plan that will include objectives and strategies to promote the development of the rural areas of the Alberni Valley (AV) as age-friendly communities. The Age-Friendly Plan will focus on residents 55 years and older in the four ACRD Electoral Areas (EA's), but will consider all ages and abilities, as an age-friendly community benefits all people. An age-friendly community is one that is designed to help older people live safely, enjoy good health and stay involved (Age-Friendly Communities, Government of Canada).

According to the 2016 Census, the total population of the four AV EA's is approximately 6,500, with 3,075 residents being 55 years and older. The population of residents 55 years and older includes:

Members: City of Port Alberni, District of Ucluelet, District of Tofino, Yuułu?i?ath Government, Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Uchucklesaht Tribe, Toquaht Nation  
Electoral Areas "A" (Bamfield), "B" (Beaufort), "C" (Long Beach), "D" (Sproat Lake), "E" (Beaver Creek) and "F" (Cherry Creek)

- Area B Beaufort: 200 of 443 residents (45%)
- Area D Sproat Lake: 915 of 1,616 residents (57%)
- Area E Beaver Creek: 1,120 of 2,754 residents (41%)
- Area F Cherry Creek: 840 of 1,935 residents (43%)

Although the Plan will be focused on the four AV EA's, the project team will involve and consult with other agencies and organizations such as First Nations, the City of Port Alberni, the Alberni Clayoquot Health Network, and other established committees and groups. The City of Port Alberni received similar UBCM grant funding to complete an Age-Friendly assessment, which is currently underway. ACRD staff have met with the City's project team, expressing interest in working together.

Plan development will incorporate related activities and reports, some of which include existing age-friendly plans for the Districts of Tofino and Ucluelet, and City of Port Alberni. As well as the current City of Port Alberni assessment underway, and the ACRD Zoning Bylaw Review and EA Transit Feasibility Study, both of which are also currently underway.

The Plan will focus on eight themes established by the World Health Organization to evaluate a community's age-friendliness through an age-friendly lens, including: outdoor spaces and buildings; transportation; housing; respect and social inclusion; social participation; communication and information; civic participation and employment; and community support and health services. Evaluation with an age-friendly lens will set priorities for ACRD policies and bylaws.

### Project Timeline & Tasks

The following project timeline outlines how the Age-Friendly Plan will be completed over four phases, by April 30, 2020.



- **Phase 1 Project Strategy tasks include:** Project kick-off meeting, background research, identify partners and stakeholders, establish Working Group, and engagement strategy.
- **Phase 2 Community Engagement tasks include:** Create web presence, resident survey, service provider survey/discussions, resident and service provider roundtable discussions/focus groups.
- **Phase 3 Planning/Needs Assessment tasks include:** Analysis of engagement activities, consultation summary, and research local policy context.
- **Phase 4 Plan Development tasks include:** Create policy action items (reviewed with an age-friendly lens), policy development to inform updates to ACRD documents (Zoning Bylaw, Alberni Valley EA OCP's, Alberni Valley Parks and Trails Strategic Plan, Alberni Valley Agricultural Plan and Coastal Addendum, and Alberni Valley Emergency Plan), create Plan.

The Age-Friendly Plan supports policy development for regional and rural planning initiatives including the EA OCP's, Zoning Bylaw, development permit requirements, food security and active transportation.

**Age-Friendly Working Group:**

To help guide the Age-Friendly Project development, an Age-Friendly Working Group (WG) will be established for the duration of the Project, ending in April 2020. The WG will be led by Project staff and may be comprised of ACRD residents/community members, service providers/government representatives, First Nations, and any other individuals or organizations as needed. ACRD staff are also recommending that an EA Director is appointed to the WG. The WG is expected to meet once a month, starting in December, for which dates and times will be determined.

**Time Requirements – Staff & Elected Officials:**

The Project will be completed by current Planning staff, with the assistance of a Planning Consultant, Cherie Enns Consulting. Staff have recommended that one EA Director is appointed to the Working Group and attend the monthly meetings.

**Financial:**

The Project is provided by the Age-Friendly Communities program, with 100% funded by the Province of BC with no capital cost to the ACRD. There will be in kind costs to the ACRD including meeting space, office supplies, and administration.

**Next Steps:**

Upon receipt of the Age-Friendly Project introduction report from the Board, next steps include: additional background research, development of an engagement strategy, creation of a survey to ACRD residents and service providers (available online and paper form, and mailed to AV EA residents and property owners), and service provider discussions.

Staff will provide an overview of the final Age-Friendly Plan to the Board when it is complete. Following this, the ACRD would have access to apply for Stream 2 UBCM funding, which would support the development of local projects supporting age-friendly communities.

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