



2017 Community Excellence Awards

Application Form

Best Practices, Excellence in Action

Please complete and return the application form by **Friday, June 23, 2017**. If you have any questions, contact UBCM at awards@ubcm.ca or (250) 356-5193.

SECTION 1: Applicant Information

Local Government: District of 100 Mile House

Complete Mailing Address: PO Box 340, 100 Mile House, BC, V0K 2E0

Contact Person: Roy Scott

Position: Chief Administrative Officer

Phone: 250-395-2434

E-mail: district@dist100milehouse.bc.ca

SECTION 2: Staff Contact

An invitation to attend the UBCM Community Excellence Awards Breakfast Reception will be sent out via e-mail in early September. Winners will not be named before the ceremony.

Please provide the contact information for the person in your office who should receive and reply to the invitation, on behalf of the elected officials/staff who will be in attendance at the UBCM Convention.

Staff Contact Person: Joanne Doddridge

Position: Director of Economic Development and Planning

Phone: 250-395-2434

E-mail: jdoddridge@dist100milehouse.bc.ca

SECTION 3: Project/Program Information

1. Name of the Project/Program:

Working Together to Support Seniors: The Development of the South Cariboo 55+ Housing Forum and Needs Assessment

2. Project/Program Summary. Please provide a summary of your project/program in 150 words or less

This project marked the first time that an in depth assessment of the current and future

age friendly housing needs of the residents of the South Cariboo was evaluated. This was completed through a grassroots, community-led program that was initiated by the Age Friendly Society of the South Cariboo and completed through partnership with many organizations including the District of 100 Mile House, the Community Development Institute and the Cariboo Regional District.

The process engaged the community and consisted of a community forum and an in depth survey that educated the public on the issues and gathered their feedback on what their future considerations for seniors housing, while stimulating dialogue in the community of the importance of age friendly housing in building economic diversification and community resiliency.

SECTION 4: Project Details

Please answer each question in 250 words or less (our judges value directness and brevity). If you experience difficulty answering a particular question, consider the aspects of your program that may relate to the question and show us how they are linked. Remember to include measurable results whenever possible.

- 3. Results.** How has this program/project resulted in excellence in action in your local government and community?

Throughout the project process, the community became more aware and more engaged in dialogue regarding age friendly and seniors housing as their knowledge and awareness of the issues continue to grow. Over 150 residents participated in a community forum and over 500 responses were gathered from the survey, which is tremendous results. This has led to a increasing interest from both local residents of the South Cariboo and the development community as they now see the opportunities and importance of investing in local seniors to help them continue to age in place.

Throughout the process and after the completion of the project, the District began to see an increase in the number of inquiries from local and regional developers who wanted to use the information that was being gathered as a tool to make investment decisions on building seniors housing in the South Cariboo region. Between January and June 2017, there were serious inquires from 8 developers regarding proposed projects, which is a significant increase over previous years.

The information that was gathered in the report is also currently being used by the Age Friendly Society of the South Cariboo and the Community Development Institute at UNBC to develop further actions to address other concerns that were addressed in the survey including transportation and independent activities services. This will lead to a future projects that will look at building economic diverfication and community resiliency and support local seniors to age in place.

- 4. Service Delivery.** How has the implementation of this program/project improved services within your local government and your community?

The report that was developed for this project will provide an impactful decision making tool for the District of 100 Mile House, the Age Friendly Society of the South Cariboo and other community partners in the future. This document will guide future projects related to age friendly initiatives as the process for the housing needs assessment engaged a significant portion of the community and gives a very in depth look at what needs to be considered for future housing to support the community.

5. Effectiveness. How is the program/project more efficient and/or effective than it was before?

Considering the scope of the project that was completed, many community partners came together to support the work in order to implement the project very quickly as there were many components including organizing panelists for the forum, developing a facilitated session, designing survey and promoting the entire process to the community to gain as much input as possible. Because of the amount of community partners that supported the development of implementation of the program, the rollout of the project was very efficient and completed with very tight timelines, approximately 5 months.

This project was only considered the first of many steps to securing stable and safe housing for the residents of the South Cariboo to age in. The community partners who came together for the first step have demonstrated commitment to continue working together to develop new actions and solutions to support future projects linked to the work already completed. This will make all future work far more effective in creating deliverables that would support the community.

In addition, the project has also energized and excited the community about age friendly housing and many South Cariboo residents are stepping forward to help support future development of new projects that may come from the 55+ Housing Needs Assessment.

6. Economic Impact. How has the program/project saved the community money and/or resources or encouraged economic development?

Retaining seniors in the community has great economic benefits. A 2011 StatsCan report indicated that the average senior spends approximately 30,000 annually in the local economy. If this number is extrapolated, that means that for every 100 seniors retained in a community, approximately \$3,000,000 circulates in the local economy. This is significant in communities such as 100 Mile House, which has one of the oldest populations in the province that will continue to age in the coming decades.

In addition to building appropriate housing that will retain seniors, the survey also gathered information regarding what other services are in demand, including transportation and support for independent activities such as home maintenance and grocery shopping. These services provide many small business and entrepreneurial opportunities for local residents and could provide social entrepreneurial opportunities for local non-profit organizations that are seeking new opportunities to generate revenue for local projects.

7. Accountability. How has this program/project improved accountability to citizens of your local government?

By participating in this project, the District has demonstrated a commitment to working to solve challenges identified in the community and working with community partners to deliver effective programs that will create impactful and positive changes in the community.

8. Teamwork. Tell us about the teamwork involved in making this program/project possible.

As mentioned before, this project had many community partners that all came together to deliver a very successful project that was implemented in a short period of time.

The lead organization for this project was the Age Friendly Society of the South Cariboo who provided the direction and much of the logistical support in organization. The District

provided support in the form of material development, technical review of the project process and support in securing resources to analyze the data gathered from the survey. The District also provided support in organization and execution of the forum and promotion of the entire process in the community.

Through a region wide economic development initiative known as Cariboo Strong, the Community Development Institute at UNBC became involved in the project and provided technical support by designing the survey and reviewing the facilitation process for the forum. The CDI provided support and advice throughout the whole process where required and stayed engaged from beginning to end. The CDI will continue to support the implementation of project outcomes and next steps.

The Cariboo Regional District also became involved as a part of the Cariboo Strong program and administered the online survey and promoted the project through their channels.

In addition to the help that was noted above, countless other community organizations provided support or volunteered to ensure smooth implementation including the South Cariboo Chamber of Commerce, Black Press Publishing, Interior Health Authority, Canlan Ice Sports Corp., Northern Development Initiative Trust and many others who provided support in many ways.

9. Innovation. What makes this program/project innovative and creative?

While the completion of a Housing Needs Assessment is not innovative or unique, the process to complete the project, the resources, both financial and human capacity, are often not available in rural communities to take on such projects. Without organizations such as the Age Friendly Society and the Community Development Institute, this would have been much more challenging and time consuming to complete.

10. Sustainability. What measures have you put in place to ensure the continued operation of this initiative? (e.g. staff time, resources, financial)

After the launch of the final project, many of the community partners have continued to work together to build actions and momentum upon the work that was already started and look for new opportunities to support the community. The District will provide support and capacity in any role that it can and looks forward to seeing new initiatives brought forward that are linked to the Housing Needs Assessment.

11. Best Practices. How do the processes behind the program/project, and the subsequent results, serve as an example of best practices?

This project was a true testament to the value and importance of developing partnerships in a community. From the time the project was first proposed to the launch of the final report, the total time to complete this project was 6 months. To be successful in completion of the work, a fairly large and diverse team had to be assembled and learn to function together very quickly.

Without community partners, it is often becomes much more challenging to successfully implement projects and programs, especially in rural communities where being cost efficient is important. By partnering with a diverse group of organizations, the expertise and support that was given helped keep costs of the project very low. It also created a sense of pride and ownership as all of those who participated now see themselves in the work, which has built the momentum to continue to work together in the future.

12. Transferability. How is this program/project transferable to other local governments?

The process and outcomes of this project are easily transferred to other local governments, especially that are small in size and more rural in nature. While the process to complete the project was fairly straightforward, many lessons were learned about working with diverse groups of partners and those lessons would be beneficial for many communities who are considering undertaking a similar project.

13. Knowledge Sharing. What helpful advice would you share with other communities looking to embark on a similar project?

The first is that as communities continue to age, it is critical to start planning on how to support residents so they are able to age in place and be retained in the community. Seniors provide many social and economic benefits to communities and by supporting to help them remain in the community as they grow older will have significant benefits.

The second is that by partnering and working together on projects and programs, you are much more effective in program and service delivery. Not only does partnering help communities become more efficient, it also helps build momentum and energy around topics as those who participate in the process take ownership and pride and are eager to help continue to move forward.

14. Additional Information. Please share any other information you think may help support your submission.

SECTION 5: Signature

Applications are required to be signed by an authorized representative of the applicant.

Name: FLORI VINCENZI

Title: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Signature: 

Date: June 23/17

Applications should be submitted as Word or PDF files. If you choose to submit your application by e-mail, hard copies do not need to follow.

Submit applications to Local Government Program Services, Union of BC Municipalities

E-mail: awards@ubcm.ca or mail: 525 Government Street, Victoria, BC, V8V 0A8