

## News Release

For immediate release: From the Office of Terry Beech, MP for Burnaby North-Seymour  
New Funding for Local Projects Aims to Tackle Social Isolation for Burnaby Seniors

**June 1, 2016**

New funding for local projects will tackle the pressing issue of social isolation for Burnaby seniors. The *Seniors on the Move* and *Welcoming and Inclusive Spaces* projects will receive a combined total of \$1,110,389 in funding from the Government of Canada. Terry Beech, Member of Parliament for Burnaby North-Seymour will make the announcement at 12:30 pm on June 24<sup>th</sup> while visiting Burnaby Community Services at 2055 Rosser Avenue.

“Seniors are valued members of society and we need to work together to reduce the impact of common obstacles, like physical disabilities or cultural and linguistic barriers, that keep seniors at home,” said Terry Beech, MP for Burnaby North-Seymour. “These projects will provide the knowledge, tools, and resources to help lonely seniors in our community.”

The Seniors on the Move project, led by Burnaby Community Services, will receive a total of \$610,193 in funding. Over three years, the initiative will address the transportation needs of socially-isolated and low-income seniors throughout Metro Vancouver. Project activities include testing innovative modes of sustainable transportation services, and then sharing key findings with transportation providers and other decision-makers to promote systemic change.

A further \$500,196 has been awarded to the Burnaby Neighbourhood House to implement the Welcoming Place/Seniors Outreach Model in eight linguistically and culturally diverse locations throughout Metro Vancouver. Not only will the Welcoming Seniors Spaces project encourage isolated seniors to participate in social activities, it will help them to access different community services with the support of volunteers who are able to communicate in their first language. “We are excited about looking at innovative approaches and scaling-up successful models throughout Metro Vancouver,” said Antonia Beck, Executive Director of Burnaby Neighbourhood House.

Additionally, Burnaby Seniors Outreach is partnering with Family Services of the North Shore and other service providers to deliver the *Volunteers as Navigators and Connectors* project, which will provide additional training for volunteers who work with vulnerable seniors.

Working to reduce loneliness among the elderly requires a collaborative partnership approach with diverse stakeholders. “We are really privileged to be working with our partners to help reduce senior isolation,” said Stephen D’Souza, Executive Director of Burnaby Community Services. “This is an opportunity for us to come together and make a real impact to help the most vulnerable seniors in our community.”

These projects received funding through the Government of Canada’s New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) for Pan-Canadian projects, in collaboration with the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation’s Innoweave Initiative. Since 2004, the NHSP has funded close to 17,800 projects in communities across Canada, with a total Government of Canada investment of more than \$360 million.

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