



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON

MEMORANDUM

TO: Patti Bridal, Chief Administrative Officer **FILE:** 6460-10
PC: Roy Nuriel, Acting Manager, Planning **DATE:** November 30, 2023
FROM: Barbara Everdene, Long Range Planner
SUBJECT: AGE FRIENDLY AND DEMENTIA STRATEGIC FUND UPDATES

This memorandum provides Council with an update on two projects the City has been implementing this year to make Vernon a more age and dementia friendly community.

Age and Dementia Friendly Plan

September 2022, the City received funding from BC Healthy Communities to prepare Vernon's first Age and Dementia Friendly Community Plan. Staff has worked closely with the Vernon Seniors Action Network, engaged community-based service providers and have held and participated in several public events, including the Vernon Senior's Fair. Altogether, community members and City personnel have shared many helpful ideas and recommendations. The draft Plan will be brought to Council in January 2024.

Figure 1: Vernon Seniors Fair (September 2023)



Dementia Inclusive Community Development

In February, the City received funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)'s Dementia Strategic Fund to raise awareness on dementia and plan for more accessible and inclusive physical and social spaces. These actions will ensure the City and community is prepared given that the number of people in Canada living with dementia is predicted to triple over the next 30 years.

On November 23 and 24, 2023, the City offered three sessions to train staff and service providing organizations to better understand the disease and deliver exceptional service to those living with dementia. There were 137 registered attendees, many who expressed strong appreciation for the information provided. The event featured former Vernon resident and international Dementia Advocate Christine Thelker, who spoke to her experience of living with dementia in Vernon. The Alzheimer Society of BC and Simon Fraser University's Department of Gerontology also presented. A video featuring speaker, staff and community member interviews and segments of the event is being produced and will be shared with Council when complete.

Education and Alzheimer BC Education Coordinator Andrea Campbell was among the presenters and shared: *"This was such a great event! So many people are now coming forward wanting to talk or ask how to now incorporate dementia friendly communities into their practice. I so look forward to the new year and what that brings!"*

Next steps on this project will be to:

- An innovative media campaign on creating a dementia inclusive community
- Participatory study of selected public spaces for dementia friendly improvements

Administration will keep Council apprised of project milestones and deliverables as they are produced until the project ends on March 31, 2024.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive for information the memorandum titled "Age Friendly and Dementia Strategic Fund Updates" dated November 30, 2023 and respectfully submitted by the Long Range Planner.

Respectfully submitted:



Barbara Everdene
Long Range Planner

Approved for the Agenda by the CAO 