

September 15, 2025

File: 0220-20

Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)
New Horizons for Seniors Program – Western Canada and Territories Region
125 East 10th Ave
Vancouver BC V5T 1Z3

To whom it may concern:

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE SGI CRC NHFS GRANT PROGRAM

As the Capital Regional District Director for the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area, I am writing to express my support for the Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre's application to the New Horizons for Seniors Program for the project *"Learning to Lead: Volunteer Training for Active Aging."*

Our islands are home to a large and growing population of older adults, many of whom face geographic isolation, limited access to services, and barriers to social participation. Strengthening opportunities for seniors to remain engaged and to share their skills is essential to the health and sustainability of our communities.

This project directly addresses those needs by:

- Providing seniors with training in areas of governance, communications, budgeting, and digital literacy.
- Ensuring equitable participation through hybrid delivery, allowing residents from all four islands to take part without financial or geographic barriers.
- Building meaningful pathways for seniors to contribute as volunteers, mentors, and leaders in local non-profit organizations.

In my role as Electoral Area Director and as Chair of the Southern Gulf Islands Economic Sustainability Commission, I have seen first-hand the critical role that non-profit organizations play in delivering essential services across our islands including healthcare, housing, eldercare, childcare, transportation, and emergency response. Strengthening the skills and confidence of seniors to lead within these organizations contributes directly to the resilience and vitality of our region.

The Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre has a proven track record of designing and delivering high-quality, impactful programs for seniors. I fully support this application and believe this project will significantly enhance the well-being, confidence, and inclusion of older adults while strengthening the broader community sector that sustains island life.

Best regards,



Paul Brent
CRD Electoral Area Director, Southern Gulf Islands