SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE BC CRN MANAGEMENT

INTERGENERATIONAL EVENT STRENGTHENS HOUSTON’S COMMUNITY TIES

Last summer, the Houston CRN collaborated with community partners to host an intergenerational event to reduce the isolation of seniors. Planning ran from September 2015 to June 2016, and was funded by BC CRN’s Special Projects Grant.

Houston is a forestry, mining, and tourism town located between Prince George and Terrace in Northern BC. With a population of 3,200 and consisting of mainly young families, and younger adults (the median age is 38), Houston is a multi-cultural township whose seniors (ages 65+) were at risk of isolation.

1 Source: District of Houston website: www.houston.ca.
2 As of May 2016. Source: Statistics Canada, Census Profile for Houston, BC.
“In rural communities like Houston, many seniors feel alone and cut off from the rest of the community”, says Belinda Lacombe, Regional Mentor. “Our focus was to engage the community, particularly youth, to provide a social connection important to reducing isolation of seniors.”

“This event was a catalyst for bringing several groups together in partnership and planning. The event planning was just as important as the day itself,” adds Judy Daye, Coordinator for the Houston CRN. “It gave people a reason to participate, and learn more about each other and the community they live in.”

Over 100 people attended the festivities on June 1. The program included a reading from Bob Hamblin, one of Houston’s elder poets, talks from Wetsu’wet’en Hereditary Chief Russel Tiljoe on Houston’s history, performances from Smithers Valley Youth Fiddlers, dancing, and lots of food. For many participants, it was the first time they’ve experienced an event like it in Houston. For others, it had been a number of years since the community was brought together in this way.

“The biggest challenge was bringing all of our partners to the table,” adds Belinda. “Resourcing is always an issue as projects like this are often done from the side of everyone’s desk. Because of the dedication of a few key people, namely Judy and Sjoukje Warren, everyone had a chance to provide input, which made Intergenerational Day meaningful and relevant.”

When asked about the lessons learned from the project, Judy states: “Intergenerational activities are soul food – literally and figuratively - for our vulnerable populations. Food and the preparation of food is an opportunity to bring generations together in a safe way. When people feel safe, they open up. It’s our job as CRNs to follow the community’s lead, bring people together, and provide support when needed. Communities know what works for them.”

For more information on Houston’s Intergenerational Day project, please contact Belinda Lacombe at 250.845.9119 or Judy Daye at 250.845.7294.

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**PROJECT TEAM**

Belinda Lacombe, Regional Mentor | Judy Daye, CRN Coordinator | Carol Seychuk, Executive Director, Northern Society for Domestic Peace | Tina Daye, Abuse Counselor, Northern Society for Domestic Peace | Russel Tiljoe, Wetsu’wet’en Hereditary Chief | Bob Hamblin, Elder Poet | Houston Seniors Club | Kate Langham, Director of Program, Dze L Kant Friendship Centre | Jackie Maurer, Pregnancy Outreach, Dze L Kant Friendship Centre | Carrie Abraham, Teen Program Coordinator, Dze L Kant Friendship Centre | Cheylene Jubb, Youth Coordinator, Dze L Kant Friendship Centre.
BC CRN PROVINCIAL LEARNING EVENTS

January 27, 2017: Seniors Aging OUT: Working Together for Inclusive Spaces for LGBTQ2 Seniors

Nicole Tremblay, Clinical Social Work Educator at Island Health, and Jane Osborne, BC CRN Regional Mentor, Central Vancouver Island present their respective projects intended to affect how this population on the Island access health and community services. The Island Health LGBTQ2s Aging Issues project focuses on educating and training front line staff on this community, their issues, and how to provide competent care that meets their unique needs. Its companion project, BC CRN’s Seniors Aging OUT, intends to build welcoming and inclusive communities for those who identify as LGBTQ2+ and their allies.

Provincial Learning Events are toll-free teleconferences that take place the third Tuesday of the month from 10:30 am to 12 pm.

Everyone is welcome. Access recordings and materials for previous events.

Email info@bccrns.ca to receive notifications of upcoming teleconferences.

(Note: there is no event in December.)

IT’S NOT RIGHT! COMMUNITY PRESENTER TRAINING - UPCOMING DATES

- February 20, 2017, Terrace
  Local contact: Belinda Lacombe, Regional Mentor – Northwestern BC.
  Application deadline: January 9, 2017.

- March 2, 2017, Kelowna
  Local contact: Micki Materi, Regional Mentor – Okanagan.
  Application deadline: January 18, 2017,

Interested individuals should submit a completed application to itsnotright@bccrns.ca.

Download the application package.

Visit the BC CRN web for more information on the It’s Not Right! program.

Contact BC CRN at itsnotright@bccrns.ca or your local contact with any questions.

NEW RESOURCES TO DISCOVER

- Abuse is Wrong in Any Language | Government of Canada | Department of Justice.
- Abuse and Neglect of Older Adults | VictimsInfo.ca.
- Addressing Ageism, Elder Abuse and Social Isolation | National Seniors Strategy.
- Beware of fake retailer apps when doing your shopping this holiday season | Canadian Bankers Association.
- Chinese and Punjabi Elder Abuse Posters | Canadian Centre for Elder Law/BC Law Institute.
- Domestic Violence & Seniors | Victim Services of Leeds and Grenville.
Ensuring Older Canadians Have Access to Affordable Housing and Transportation | National Seniors Strategy.


The 12 Scams of the Holidays | Canadian Bankers Association.

The State of Homelessness in Canada | Canadian Observatory on Homelessness.

Helping Students and Seniors Learn about Fraud Prevention | Canadian Bankers Association.

Report on National Housing Strategy Holds Promise for the 100,000 Canadians with Intellectual Disabilities | Canadian Association for Community Living.

The Serious Health Consequences of Financial Abuse: How can Financial Literacy Help? | CNPEA.

HEADLINES FROM MEDIA

BC to Reduce Maximum Charge on Payday Loans, Seek Options to High Cost Lenders | The Province | Sept. 22, 2016.

Canada’s family violence rates are staggering, says new report | Global News | Oct. 21, 2016.


The Cruelty Of Calling Older Adults ‘Sweetie’ Or ‘Honey’ | Huffington Post | Nov. 1, 2016.


Text message fraud cost Canadians half a million dollars so far in 2016 | Global News | Nov. 15, 2016.

Revelstoke’s Community Response Network helps our town connect | Revelstoke Mountaineer | Nov. 22, 2016.

Traffic Tickets Email Scam | Global News | Nov. 24, 2016.


Transit Police Launch Next Phase of ‘Sexual Offending on Transit Campaign’ | The Indo Canadian Voice | Nov. 29, 2016.


'I trusted them fully': BC man, 92, says of son and daughter who took his millions | CBC News | Go Public | Dec. 5, 2016. (Listen to the report.)

Plan to add more subsidized housing for BC's low-income seniors meets just fraction of demand | The Vancouver Sun | Dec. 5, 2016.
MORE EVENTS THAT MAY INTEREST YOU

- May 4-5, 2017 | Celebrating Métis Education, Culture, Language And Resources | Vancouver, BC.
- IMPACT-Ability | A 7 Part Webinar Series Hosted by Al Etmanski and Vickie Cammack.

E Connector is published eight times a year, and contains CRN news stories, and the most current resources we could find on the topic of adult abuse and neglect from across the country.

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