

Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Working Group – Status Update as of March 23, 2020

The following is a preliminary listing of actions to date related to the Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Working Group. In some cases, these actions have been completed and, in others, they are in exploration, underway or ongoing. Given the fluidity of the situation, the listed actions and their status are subject to change at any time.

The Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Working Group, in which the terms of reference have been circulated to Council and which meets at 1:00 p.m. on March 26, will use this preliminary listing of actions as a foundation and starting point for other actions in which to better meet the needs of at-risk and vulnerable populations in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Actions	Status	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop terms of reference for the Seniors and Disabled Persons Working Group, which will include government, faith and non-profit representatives. 	Completed	First meeting is 1:00 on March 26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the services of Mariam Larson, Gerontologist and Age and Ability Consultant, to assist and resource the working group. 	Completed	Contracted for 21.0 hours per week
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a key contacts listing of non-profit organizations serving seniors and persons with disabilities. 	Almost complete	To be circulated to EOC on March 24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and distribute a survey to faith and non-profit organizations as to their preparedness, capacity and needs in serving at-risk and vulnerable populations. 	Completed	Currently tabulating surveys
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document non-profit closures and service reductions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and track the implications for seniors and persons with disabilities. 	Ongoing	To be communicated to EOC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request better prepared and resourced non-profits share their Pandemic Response Plans with less prepared and resourced non-profits. 	Ongoing	To be posted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Friendly Caller Program, in which City staff and Century House volunteers, will provide daily positive interactions and reassurances, including wellness checks, with seniors and persons with disabilities. 	Underway	Registration to start on March 26 or 27
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the development and/or expansion of a Grocery and Prescription Delivery Program for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities. This program would be a partnership with the Seniors Services Society and drug and grocery outlets in New Westminster. 	Underway	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the development and/or expansion of a Meal Delivery Program for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities in light of the uncertain status of the Meal on Wheels Program as Starlight Casino is no longer able to prepare and pack meals. Additionally, volunteer drivers, many of whom are older, will need to be supplemented. 	Just commencing	Possibly involve City catering staff for meal preparation and other staff for delivery

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an information portal on the City’s website which will be a central access point for information and resources for faith and non-profit organizations serving seniors and persons with disabilities. 	Underway	In development with Communications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a public awareness campaign to request that the public donate to faith and non-profit organizations and consider supporting or volunteering for these organizations. 	Underway	To be posted on-line and through social media on March 25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore ways of connecting seniors and persons with disabilities, many of whom are quarantined in long-term care facilities or in self-isolation at home, with pre-programmed laptops and tablets to connect with family members, friends, health care professionals and service providers. 	Being considered	Being implemented in other jurisdictions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Others ... 		