

March 31, 2017

\$170,000 in Grants available to Local Governments for Improving Social Connectedness in their Community or Region

VICTORIA | A new round of grants to improve social connectedness is available to local governments through the PlanH program's Healthy Communities Capacity Building Fund.

Up to ten selected communities will receive a grant to help create stronger social environments and resilient neighbourhoods. Communities will also have access to additional support such as coaching, participation in a provincial online learning network and other resources. The fund provides a total of \$170,000 in grants.

Local governments in BC who are leading the way in creating the conditions that enable healthy people and healthy places, in partnership with regional health authorities and other key community stakeholders, are invited to apply before May 30, 2017.

"This next round of PlanH grants will continue to help create more socially connected communities to encourage healthy people and healthy places," said Health Minister Terry Lake. "When people are more engaged in their community, it helps both them, and their community, to thrive."

There are two types of grant streams available:

Stream One – Cultivating Connections

Grants of up to \$15,000 are available for up to six local governments working with other partners to better understand and take action on improving social connectedness in their community or region.

Stream Two – Resilient Streets Demonstration Communities

Grants of up to \$20,000 are available for up to four local governments and their partners to adapt and implement the *Resilient Streets* program, an approach to building social connections between immediate neighbours on residential streets and in residential buildings.

The Healthy Communities Capacity Building Fund is delivered through the PlanH program. PlanH, implemented by BC Healthy Communities Society, facilitates local government learning, partnership development and planning for healthier communities where we live, learn, work and play. Working together with health authorities, UBCM and the Ministry of Health, PlanH supports Healthy Families BC, the Province's health promotion strategy.

Find an overview of the Social Connectedness grants application guide, FAQs and registration for an information session on April 26, 2017 here: www.planh.ca/funding/roundfour
Follow community progress on Twitter: at @BC_HC, #BCHC_Connected.

-30-

Contact

Jennifer Nichols, Communications Specialist, BC Healthy Communities Society
jennifer@bchealthycommunities.ca | T: 250.589.0223