

November 12, 2018



DELIVERED BY EMAIL TO:

Mayor B. Taylor
Councillor R. Zielinski
Councillor N. Krog
Councillor C. Moslin
Councillor Z. Eburne-Stoodley
Councillor C. Korolek
Councillor C. Thompson

RE: Grand Forks Seniors Society

The purpose of this report to Council: Grand Forks Seniors Society is requesting assistance from City Council with the relocation and acquisition of property for a new senior's facility.

Background Information: This year brought much distress to the City of Grand Forks. The flooding that occurred and ramifications for families was dire. Many families are still in need of assistance and suffer from the flooding and from the fires of this summer.

The seniors' society was no exception. Although to a lesser degree the Seniors Society of Grand Forks lost everything. Our leased premises were devastated by the flood waters. The contents of the building, except for a few exceptions that some of our seniors were able to salvage, were lost.

Our application for contents only was denied by the Disaster Financial Assistance Program of the Ministry. We are appealing this denial.

The Seniors Society closed for a time and then tried to reopen to accommodate our members. Renting, in no particular order and at any given time, Masonic Hall, the Scouts Hall, the Library, the Boundary museum, The Baptist Church and now we are considering the curling hall at the recreation centre.

As you can imagine the displacement to our seniors has been exhausting. Unable to secure a venue for a definite length of time our membership is suffering. Already several members are not renewing for next year.

The Key Issue: The Grand Forks Seniors Society needs a venue. We need land to secure some mobiles that we can make our own and provide for the enjoyment and safety of seniors in the community.

FILE CODE
WE3 GF Seniors
or 51 - Society request
for Assistance

The Resource Implications: Our executive members have tried obtaining information on trailers/modular units and their cost. We can work with staff to find this information. We are not above fund raising to secure any modules but are not in a position financially to purchase such a unit outright or the land to place it.

Risk Factors to the Community: The purpose of the Grand Forks Seniors' Society is to provide a forum for seniors who are residents of Grand Forks, and the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary in British Columbia, Canada to meet and engage in various activities.

The Seniors Society operates as a charitable organization without profit to its members and provides activities for and by members; they also help protect the rights and interests of all seniors.

The Grand Forks Seniors Society has put on a Thanksgiving dinner for seniors in the City of Grand Forks. This event has been put on by the Seniors Society for a number of years. It enabled seniors in the community to enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner with their friends and neighbours at no cost. It sees nearly 200 attend each year. It had to be cancelled this year due to the absence of a venue.

The hall that was occupied was also a venue for many rental situations, such as receptions and memorials for the community. Providing much needed revenue for the Seniors Society and their functions.

Equality implications: We understand the difficult task that face council in the years ahead and are aware that priorities have not yet been stricken. *Would you not make assisting the seniors in the community one of them?*

Social impact and sustainability: Social engagement is important for people's well-being, regardless of their age. Yet, it's probably most vital during a person's senior years because older adults and the elderly are sometimes more susceptible to social isolation than younger people. Besides, it can be fun and refreshing to take advantage of social opportunities that let you share and connect with others who are in similar situations. Along with helping you navigate all of the changes that come with growing older, taking care of your social well-being provides mental and physical health benefits.

Having an active social life helps prevent depression as well as Alzheimer's and other types of dementia. And intellectual stimulation helps keep your mind sharp. You can learn new knowledge and skills while also having fun. But to do that, you need to find social events that interest you. You need a social club that understands your needs. Grand Forks Seniors Society has been this for the seniors.

Timing implications: The Seniors did wait an appropriate amount of time before presenting this to Council. We understood that families needed to be taken care of first, and still do. But we are now in a grave position and realize we need the help of our City.

Conclusion: The Grand Forks Seniors Society needs their own building. But we are open to any permanent solution.

Recommendations: We are asking for your assistance. We need land and modulars/trailers. If the City is aware of a suitable place for their seniors we would appreciate being made aware of this and of your anticipated cooperation, benevolence and assistance.

Kind regards,
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