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LEGISLATIVE SERVICES



REQUEST FOR SUPPORT APPLICATION FORM

Date of Request	SEPT 2, 2024
Organization/Group making the request	MID VANCOUVER ISLAND ELDER
Contact Person	COLLEGE SOCIETY JOYCE SMITH
Address	P.O. BOX 1501, PARKSVILLE V9P 2H4
Telephone	250-667-0736
Email Address:	jasmithnanaimo@gmail.com
Type of Support Requested (Select one)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Letter of Support in Principle <input type="radio"/> In-Kind Contribution <input type="radio"/> Partnership <p><i>Note: This policy is not applicable to requests for grant funding by the City, including Permissive Tax Exemption requests, or in-kind funding for facility rentals (see Grants Policy and Guidelines for further details)</i></p>

IF APPLICABLE:

Name of grant or program for which you are applying:

NEW HORIZONS FOR SENIORS PROGRAM

Amount of Funding Requested: \$ 25,000 Grant Due Date: SEPT 12 / 2024

Grant Organization: GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Address: 270-220 4th Avenue South-East

City: Calgary, AB Postal Code: T2G 4X3

Telephone: 1-855-312-0400

Please provide an executive summary or short narrative that addresses each of the points outlined in the "Council Support policy". Include a draft letter, any supporting documents or materials and a detailed list of other funding partners (if applicable).

Please submit this form, with accompanying materials, to the attention of the Corporate Officer, Legislative Services, City of Nanaimo, 455 Wallace St. Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6, or by email to: legislative.servicesoffice@nanaimo.ca.

Respecting Your Privacy  
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We are asking the City of Nanaimo for a letter of support for our grant application to New Horizons for Seniors Program for our Proposed Program “Your Learning Community.”

**Name of Organization:**

Mid Vancouver Island Elder College Society, operating as Mid Island Elder College (Elder College), an incorporated non-for-profit society in November 2023.

**Contact Person:**

Joyce Smith, Treasurer  
PO Box 1501  
Parksville  
V9P 2H4

[jasmithnanaimo@gmail.com](mailto:jasmithnanaimo@gmail.com)  
250-667-0736

**Background information:**

Our vision is “To drive the growth of life-long learning and well-being in our community”. We present our courses as a means of promoting quality of life, health and overall well-being to seniors, by offering tools to remain engaged and in the present.

It is undeniable that education is the best available health care as we age, contributing to greater self-worth and a higher quality of life. The benefits go both ways, as educated people contribute more to society and draw less on its resources.

Prior to 2024, Elder College operated in the Regional District of Nanaimo area for thirty years. The new society is governed and managed by a twelve-person board, supported



PO Box 1501 – STN Main  
Parksville BC, V9P 2H4



Email  
[info@eldercollege.org](mailto:info@eldercollege.org)



Phone  
250-797-9055

by over 60 volunteer instructors and event coordinators. Since formation, the organization has worked tirelessly to organize, set up a course registration system and successfully launch a Fall 2024 session of 61 course offerings.

### **Funding Sources for Proposed Program:**

We have established an “Elder College Fund” with Nanaimo Foundation and have been accepting donations from our members since June 2024. We also received grants from three local Rotary Clubs: Rotary Club of Nanaimo, Rotary Club of Lantzville and Rotary Club of Parksville. We have also received support from local businesses such as Coastal Community Credit Union, Nanaimo Foundation and Pharmasave and expect to continue to seek support from businesses and organizations in the community who see the value in our services. Over and above donations and sponsorships, we do provide ongoing courses which generate fees and as well as assess an nominal annual membership fee.

### **Services that will be offered.**

We provide learning opportunities that are easy to access – no exams, no grades, and low fees – just dedicated volunteer teachers and eager students, learning together and from each other, in a wide range of courses. Our courses are offered via face-to face classroom venues and online using Zoom.

Our instructor group consists of retired professors and teachers who deliver course materials they are passionate about, without compensation or honorariums. New instructors are recruited and vetted by a program committee of the Board; student surveys are also used to assess instructors and the quality of course offerings.

For 2025, Mid Island Elder College’s Project “Your Learning Community” will be a growth of its course offerings that is even more focused to the community that we service.



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For our Project starting in April 2025, we intend to survey the existing area market and our members to develop a learner engagement plan that promotes growth.

We expect to expand our course offering to 160 courses reaching more than 1,000 students and expand the subjects of the course offerings to match the survey of our market.

Our project would be a further outreach into seniors' homes, more remote areas such as Gabriola Island and Bowser and development of a fee structure to accommodate low-income earners.

### **Target Groups to be serviced.**

Class venues are rented or donated spaces throughout the Oceanside area, including the Parksville Community Centre, McMillan Arts Centre in Parksville, St. Philip by-the-Sea in Lantzville, Vancouver Island Regional Library branches in Nanaimo, Nanaimo Museum, and Berwick Retirement Home Theatre in Qualicum Beach.

Zoom classes represent about 30% of class offerings to enable those who have mobility issues to have easy access. Currently we have 603 members. Our Project "Love of Learning" is expected to expand our services to over 1,000 learners.

Seniors represent a significant demographic segment of the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) as shown from the following table:



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Statistics Canada Census 2021 for RDN						
	Total		Male		Female	
All ages	170,367		82,385		87,980	
50 and older	88,090	52%	41,000	50%	47,085	54%
65 and older	51,015	30%	23,820	29%	27,190	31%

Source: Statscan Cansim 2021

### Time frame and dates of the Proposed Program

The program plan is to research our market and develop infrastructure to allow us to roll out an expanded service delivery beginning April 2025 to March 31, 2026.

### Anticipated Outcomes of the program.

The anticipated outcome is expanded outreach into the community, provide for more inclusive and diverse audience and expanded course offer to be more attune to the community.

### Detailed Budget (attached):

The proposal seeks funding for the following items:

- a) An assistant ( a student from VIU in MBA or Marketing dept.) to help develop and implement a community survey, a marketing plan and new learning engagement. They would be employed during the summer months of May to



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August 2024. The cost is based on an estimate of 40 hours per week at \$25 per hour plus benefits at 20%.

Salary and benefits	\$24,160
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- b) Partial funding of incremental increase in hours needed for Registrar because of expanded services. Base hours for core services 25 hours.

Expanded costs of registrar	\$69,448
Cost of core services (\$4,117 x 12 months)	<u>\$49,404</u>
Additional cost	\$20,044

We are seeking a grant for \$25,000.

### Other Similar Programs that exist in RDN

Mid Island Elder College recognizes there are other educational opportunities in the Nanaimo Regional District, but we are the only educational organization that offers:

- Dedicated teachers who receive no compensation
- Multiple physical locations offering grassroots connection
- Online courses for those unable to attend a physical setting
- Variety of course length from 2 hours to multiple sessions over 6 weeks
- The depth of academic variety and quality unmatched in the Mid Island area

### Other organizations applying for the same funds:

Since this is a federal government initiative, we would expect other organizations to be applying for the same funds, but we are not aware of who they are.

This is a new initiative and is not a continuation of a project or grant of previous years.



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### Co-operation with other entities

Since inception we have established partnerships with Nanaimo Foundation, Parksville Community Centre, Oceanside Community Arts Centre, the Nanaimo Museum, Vancouver Island Public Libraries, St. Philips by the Sea Anglican Church, Berwick Home in Qualicum Beach. We have received financial and other support from the Rotary Clubs in the area, Nanaimo Foundation and Coastal Community Credit Union.

Our grant applications to New Horizons for Seniors Program will enable us to deepen our course offering, expand our reach and enrich more of those seniors who feel isolated or alone by offering a community of learners. We look to the City of Nanaimo for your support.

Robin Fisher  
President  
Mid Island Elder College



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We happy to write a letter of support for Mid Island Elder College's application for a New Horizons Grant.

We are aware that Mid Island Elder College (MIEC) is a newly formed society that is continuing a thirty-year tradition of providing educational opportunities to late life learners in Nanaimo, Parksville and surrounding area.

There are 88,000 seniors (as of 2021) living in the Nanaimo Regional District and they comprise more than 50% of our population. Mid Island Elder College offers open access, low-cost courses taught by qualified volunteer instructors to late-life learners. It is offering more than sixty courses this fall in a wide variety of subjects including academic, artistic and life style topics.

The City of Nanaimo understands how important education and engagement is to the wellbeing of its seniors and how it benefits to our city. Students who take these courses do so first for the love of learning, but also to stay active and engaged, both in their own minds and in their wider community.

Mid island Elder College has developed a new strategic plan to enable expansion of both its programs and participants based on an evaluation of community needs. For all these reasons, Mid Island Elder College needs this grant money to take their programing to a new level.

We believe that Mid Island Elder College, and the programs that it offers, are a real asset to our city but they need funding to enable new developments. We support this request for funding and urge you recognize the value and importance of Mid Island Elder College and support this application for funding.

Yours truly,