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LEGISLATIVE SERVICES



REQUEST FOR SUPPORT APPLICATION FORM

Date of Request	OCTOBER 4, 2024
Organization/Group making the request	MID VANCOUVER ISLAND ELDER COLLEGE SOCIETY
Contact Person	CHARLES SHIER
Address	[REDACTED] NANAIMO [REDACTED]
Telephone	[REDACTED]
Email Address:	[REDACTED]
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:

COMMUNITY GAMING GRANT

Amount of Funding Requested: \$70,000 Grant Due Date: NOVEMBER 30, 2024

Grant Organization: COMMUNITY GAMING GRANTS BRANCH

Address: 6TH FLOOR, 800 JOHNSON STREET, VICTORIA BC V8W 1N3

City: VICTORIA Postal Code: V8W 1N3

Telephone: 250 356 1081, 1 800 663 7867

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

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) - Information collected on this form is done so under the general authority of the Community Charter and FOIPPA, and is protected in accordance with FOIPPA. Personal information will only be used by authorized staff to fulfill the purpose for which it was originally collected, or for a use consistent with that purpose. For more information, please visit the Legislative Services Department at 455 Wallace Street, call 250-755-4405, or email foi@nanaimo.ca.

## City of Nanaimo Letter of Support for Grant Funding Request – Executive Summary

<b>Grant organization</b>	Community Gaming Grants Branch (BC Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport) 6th Floor, 800 Johnson Street Victoria, BC V8W 1N3
<b>Applying organization</b>	Mid Vancouver Island Elder College Society
<b>Grant applied for</b>	Community Gaming Grant – Human and Social Services Sector (due November 30, 2024)
<b>Proposed program</b>	Spring and Fall 2025 Courses
<b>Contact person applying for the grant</b>	Charles Shier, Director [REDACTED] Nanaimo, BC [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

### Background information

Mid Vancouver Island Elder College Society, operating as Mid Island Elder College (MIEC), was established as an incorporated non-for profit society in November 2023. Our vision is “To drive the growth of life-long learning and well-being in our community”. 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.

We provide learning opportunities that are easy to access – no exams, no grades – just dedicated teachers and eager students, learning together and from each other, in a wide range of courses. We present our courses as a means of promoting quality of life, health and overall well-being, by offering tools to remain engaged and in the present.

Prior to 2024, Elder College operated in the Oceanside area as a branch of Vancouver Island University (VIU) going back to 2002, and as an independent non-profit starting in 1987.

The new society is governed and managed by a twelve person board, supported by some 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. Plans are underway to offer a full slate of courses in both the Spring and Fall of 2025, which is the program to be funded by the Community Gaming Grant.

**Target Group**

Seniors 50 years and older represent 52% of the RDN population and age 65 and older represents 30% according to 2021 Statscan data.

The following table shows that for the past 10 years, student enrolments averaged about 1,000 per year except for 2020 and 2021, when course delivery was restricted to online presentation due the COVID outbreak. The data for 2024 is limited to the Fall session to date; for other years both Spring and Fall course sessions were offered, as is planned for 2025 and future years.

<b>Elder College - Historical Enrolments</b>		
Calendar Year	Students	Class Enrolments
2014	997	1,539
2015	963	1,423
2016	924	1,496
2017	1,074	1,776
2018	1,073	1,918
2019	1,251	2,382
2020	739	1,326
2021	653	1,906
2022	952	1,919
2023	1,022	1,961
Fall 2024	321	532

Although seniors’ life-long learning is the focus of our programs, there are no restrictions on registration in our courses preventing other demographics from participating.

**Program Delivery**

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. Most of the current instructors have delivered Elder College courses previously under VIU.

Class venues are rented or donated spaces throughout the Oceanside area, including the Vancouver Island Regional Library branches in Nanaimo, Nanaimo Museum, Parksville Community Centre, McMillan Arts Centre in Parksville, St. Philip by-the-Sea in Lantzville, and Berwick Retirement Home Theatre in Qualicum Beach. Zoom classes represent about 30% of class offerings.

Courses range from single to multi session classes, with an average of four sessions per course.

There are no restrictions to course enrolment based on age, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. We do collect age and gender information as provided on a volunteer basis only.

The following is the list of 54 different courses being delivered in the Fall of 2024:

A Sensible Look at Natural Therapies for Common Conditions  
Ancient Love Poetry  
Archaeologists in Popular Culture (Online)  
Are You Prepared for Emergencies and Disasters  
Biofilia: the Molecules of Life (Online)  
Biofilia: Bacteria and Cells (Online)  
Canada's Theatre and War (Online)  
Coal Mining History of Vancouver Island  
Concepts of Justice: A Global Survey through the Ages (Online)  
Curious About Cannabis (Online)  
Eat Well, Live Long  
Exploring Choice of MAiD for Dementia  
Exploring the Mystical Art of Tarot Reading  
Exploring the Northwest Coast with Cook and Vancouver  
Five from Flanders: Painters of the Flemish Renaissance (Online)  
Founders of Religions (Section 1): Abrahamic Religions  
Fun with Card Magic  
Good Space, Bad Space: The Design and Use of Everyday Spaces (Online)  
Guided Meditation for Wellbeing and Joy (Online)  
How to Talk About Climate Change, Make a Difference and be Happy (Online)  
In/Equality an Alternative Anthropology (Online)  
Introduction to Mindful Meditation  
Introduction to Restorative Justice  
Introduction to the Night Skies  
Joyful Living with a Meditation Practice (Online)  
Learn How to Write Flash Fiction - Mini Masterpieces that Pack a Punch  
Let's Meditate!  
Looting and Frauds in Archaeology  
My Kid Could Do That: Modern Abstract Painting  
Non-Fiction Book Club (Online)  
Our Celestial Beginnings: The Nature, Origin and Demise of Stars (Online)  
Probate Bypass & Estate Planning Strategies  
Probate Bypass & Estate Planning Strategies (Online)  
Publishing 101: For Life Story and Family History Writers (Online)  
RCMP Frauds and Scams  
Revolution, Empire and Change  
Road Safety for Seniors  
Roses! Roses! Roses!  
Shakespeare's Women  
Sustainability, Social Change, and Fun (Online)  
Tales from the Accident Site: Managing 'Human Error' in Commercial Transportation  
The Anthropocene Disaster (Online)  
The Art of Listening to Music  
The Assassination of John F Kennedy  
The Meditations of Marcus Aurelius

The Specific Anatomy and Mechanisms of Injury (Part 1 – Low Back and Lower Extremity)  
Theory of Everything – Made Easy (for non-scientists and non-mathematicians)  
Three Easy Steps to Online Security  
Transforming Long-Term Care for Well-Being  
Understanding Your Property Appraisal Report  
Vancouver Island History From Contact to Confederation 1774-1871  
What Makes Good Environmental Writing?  
Who Knew Writing Could be Fun?  
Women Mystics

### **Grant Application**

For the purposes of the Community Gaming Grant application, the programs for which we are applying funding will be Spring courses offered between March and May of 2025, and Fall course offerings between September and December 2025. A similar range of courses will be offered in the two 2025 sessions to the list shown above.

Although other Elder College programs exist in other regions, Mid Island Elder College is unique in the target group and range of course offerings in the Regional District of Nanaimo area. This will be the first Gaming Grant application by Mid Island Elder College. The purpose of the grant is to bridge our finances to a future vision of expanded course offerings that will make us self-sustaining. Critical activities in 2025 will include:

- Grow the instructor base and volunteers – with more instructors, we can have more course offerings and resulting course fee revenues; more volunteers means more capacity to deliver services and support the Board
- Programming development – make improvements to the quality of course offerings, attract larger class sizes and expand multi-session courses to generate more revenue
- Marketing and promotion plan – expand awareness of Elder College to the target senior group and capture more participation out of the 88,000 in the 50 plus age group; build stronger connections with the retirement home sector to be able to offer more programming to seniors in facilities

Attached is the proposed program budget for the gaming application, which is asking for \$70,000.

### **Other entities support**

We have built relationships with other local non-for profit organizations including the Oceanside Arts Council and the Parksville Community Centre, and the Nanaimo Community Foundation. We have letters of support from the Town of Qualicum Beach, the City of Parksville, and the Oceanside Newcomers Alumni Society.

**Mid Island Elder College**

**Budgeted Revenues and Expenses - 2025 for Spring and Fall Courses -  
Community Gaming Grant Application**

	General Fund	Gaming Fund	Total	Gaming Allocation
<b><u>Revenues</u></b>				
Membership dues	20,000	-	20,000	
Saturday Speakers series	8,610	-	8,610	
Community Gaming Grants	-	70,000	70,000	
Sponsorships and donations	25,000	-	25,000	
Courses - Spring	28,000	-	28,000	
Courses - Fall	32,000	-	32,000	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>113,610</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>183,610</b>	
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>				
<b><u>Program delivery costs</u></b>				
Program delivery costs-incidentals	1,800	-	1,800	
Summer student	5,125	15,674	20,799	75%
Employer costs-CPP/EI/WCB	1,048	3,153	4,201	75%
Equipment for delivery of programs	-	5,000	5,000	100%
Rental of facilities - speakers series	2,000	-	2,000	
Rental of facilities - Parksville	14,150	14,151	28,301	50%
Rental of facilities - Nanaimo & other	4,224	4,224	8,448	50%
Food costs	200	-	200	
Zoom costs	682	-	682	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>29,229</b>	<b>42,202</b>	<b>71,431</b>	
<b><u>Registration costs</u></b>				
Contract program administrator	25,740	25,740	51,480	50%
Staff benefits	2,058	2,058	4,116	50%
Telephone costs	1,362	-	1,362	
Internet	1,600	-	1,600	
Software licencing and transaction fees	3,608	-	3,608	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>34,368</b>	<b>27,798</b>	<b>62,166</b>	
<b><u>Administration</u></b>				
Accounting-software costs	644	-	644	
Legal and professional fees	3,600	-	3,600	
Meeting costs	1,200	-	1,200	
Insurance	1,840	-	1,840	
Bank charges	96	-	96	
Postage and courier	1,218	-	1,218	
Office supplies	1,218	-	1,218	
Contingency costs	10,000	-	10,000	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>19,816</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,816</b>	
<b><u>Marketing</u></b>				
Advertising costs	14,240	-	14,240	
Website	1,367	-	1,367	
Website development	4,000	-	4,000	
Printing, posters, course calendars	9,228	-	9,228	
PR/Networking costs	1,362	-	1,362	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>30,197</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,197</b>	
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>113,610</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>183,610</b>	
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	

## TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH

September 3, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

### **Mid Vancouver Island Elder College Society Letter of Support**

The Town of Qualicum Beach is pleased to convey our support for the Mid Vancouver Island Elder College Society as they seek funding to continue the important work to provide lifelong learning to adults over 50.

The Town of Qualicum Beach is a vibrant seaside community on the east coast of Vancouver Island with a population of 9,303 (2021 census) that remarkably has a median age of 67.5!

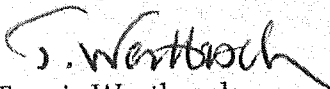
We are thrilled that the Mid Vancouver Island Elder College Society has registered under the *BC Societies Act*, and provides an alternative for our citizens who were senior students of the Vancouver Island University when their Elder College program was cut due to budget constraints (December 31, 2023).

The Society has stepped up to continue Elder College programming knowing how important life-long learning is for the joy, vitality, and well-being of our seniors.

The Town of Qualicum Beach is fortunate that such a dedicated and knowledgeable board and volunteers stepped forward to incorporate and fundraise to keep this crucial service.

We wish the Mid Vancouver Island Elder College Society great success in fundraising in 2024 to achieve their goal to raise funds to set up a registration system, reconnect with their target market, set-up programming and bridge their operating shortfall for the first two years.

Sincerely,



Teunis Westbroek

Mayor

c. Council; Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) L. Varela; Corporate Services  
Mid Island Elder College, PO Box 1501 - STN Main, Parksville, BC V9P 2H4, [info@eldercollege.org](mailto:info@eldercollege.org).

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City of Parksville  
Office of the Mayor

October 2, 2024

Mid Island Elder College Society  
PO Box 1501 STN Main  
Parksville, BC V9P 2H4

To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Support for Mid Island Elder College**

On behalf of Council, I am writing to express the City of Parksville's support for the Mid Island Elder College Society's grant application.

For more than 30 years under Vancouver Island University (VIU), Elder College has provided courses and lectures, enabling adults over 50 to engage in lifelong learning and remain connected within their community. When VIU was unable to continue the program due to budget constraints, the Mid Vancouver Island Elder College Society was formed to continue the invaluable work of providing ongoing education on a diverse range of subjects.

Elder College courses provide opportunities not only for learning, but for social connection and community-building. These social connections and the mental stimulation provided by courses and lectures are crucial to the health and wellbeing of seniors; as a community with a significant population of seniors, the City is supportive of Elder College's efforts to keep seniors engaged and active.

On behalf of the City of Parksville, we wish the Mid Island Elder College Society much success with their funding application.

Sincerely,

DOUG O'BRIEN  
Mayor



To Whom it May Concern

September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

By way of introduction, I am Peter Dunderdale, President of the Oceanside Newcomers Alumni Society (ONAS) for 2024-2025.

Elder College has been a part of our community for as long as I have lived in the area. My wife and as well as a number of members of ONAS have taken courses from Elder College over time and have found them vital in contributing to the ongoing learning opportunities for Seniors in our area.

It was unfortunate that after 30 years, it must reinvent itself as a free-standing society. I know that our members continue to look forward to taking part in the various courses and seminars they will offer in the future. As we age, continuous learning is an important part to keep one mentally focused. Just as important, the socialization of meeting like-minded individuals through the learning process plays a vital role in the aging process and Elder College is an integral part in both.

For a brief time in 2023, it was believed that Elder College courses would be no longer offered to the public, leaving a gap in our community's fabric. Thankfully, a dedicated group of individuals has made strides to ensure that there is a vibrant program going forward which our organization endorses.

To help ensure the new organization is successful, long-term funding is needed, and I am pleased to support the application of Mid Island Elder College Society for funding, as they are an asset to our community for all seniors in many, many local organizations.

Submitted By

Peter Dunderdale

President ONAS 2024-2025, Qualicum Beach BC