



REQUEST FOR SUPPORT APPLICATION FORM

Date of Request	OCTOBER 7, 2025
Organization/Group making the request	MID VANCOUVER ISLAND ELDER COLLEGE SOCIETY
Contact Person	CHARLES SHIER
Address	[REDACTED]
Telephone	[REDACTED]
Email Address:	charles@eldercollege.org
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 <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>

IF APPLICABLE:

Name of grant or program for which you are applying:

COMMUNITY GAMING GRANT

Amount of Funding Requested: \$28,000 Grant Due Date: NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Grant Organization: COMMUNITY GAMING GRANTS BRANCH

Address: 2ND FLOOR, 800 JOHNSON STREET, PO BOX 9892 STN PROV GOVT

City: VICTORIA Postal Code: V8W 1N3, V8W 9T6

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

Grant organization	Community Gaming Grants Branch (BC Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport) 6th Floor, 800 Johnson Street Victoria, BC V8W 1N3
Applying organization	Mid Vancouver Island Elder College Society
Grant applied for	Community Gaming Grant – Human and Social Services Sector (due November 30, 2025)
Proposed program	Spring and Fall 2026 Courses
Contact person applying for the grant	Charles Shier, Treasurer 

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.

Elder College has a 30 year history of delivering courses in the Mid-Island region. Prior to 2024, Elder College operated in the Oceanside area as a branch of Vancouver Island University (VIU) going back to 2002.

The new society is governed and managed by a twelve-person board, supported by over 60 volunteer instructors and event coordinators. Since formation, the organization set up a course registration system and successfully launched a small set of Spring courses in 2024, and delivered 55 courses offerings in the Fall 2024. In December 2024 we obtained Registered Charity status with the CRA. In 2025 we delivered 55 Spring courses and expanded in the Fall to a program of 92 courses.

Target Group

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

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

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 Parksville Community Centre, McMillan Arts Centre in Parksville, St. Philip by-the-Sea in Lantzville, Vancouver Island Regional Library branches in Duncan and Nanaimo, the Nanaimo Museum, 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. 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; in 2025 both Spring and Fall course sessions were offered, as is planned for 2026 and future years.

Elder College - Historical Enrolments		
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	382	636
Spring 2025	343	599
Fall 2025	465	916

As indicated above, in the last 12 months 808 registered participants directly benefited from the program. 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.

Membership

Membership provides learners the right to attend and vote at the Society's AGM, including election of directors. We require all learners to become members of the Society for \$25 annually before enrolling in courses, as a mechanism to encourage involvement in the organization of MIEC. There is no limit on the number of members, currently at 522. Membership fees do not represent a primary funding source for the Society.

Marketing and Fundraising

In addition to the membership list, the Society maintains a list of 1,800 names who have expressed interest in Elder College. We market our programs by email to this list, as well as by advertising in local community newspapers in the Oceanside area. We have begun an outreach to retirement homes in the community by offering courses in their internal facilities and seeking out learners who are unable to attend outside classes. The Society solicits donations and sponsorships in the community. We have a recognition program aimed at business sponsorship, and both businesses and members are offered the opportunity of recognition as sponsors of individual courses.

Service Sector Coverage

In terms of the Human and Social Services Sector, we have identified the following sub-sectors as areas that we deliver service:

- Mental Health, Substance Use
- Food and Nutrition

- Seniors Service/Activities
- Emergency Social Services, Outreach
- Education/Tutoring Services
- Other – Human and Social Services

The following is the list of the 90 different courses being delivered in the Fall of 2025 (some of these are being delivered in multiple sessions):

Eat Well, Live Long
"What Is It Like to Be a Bat?" A Close Reading of Thomas Nagel on Consciousness
"If You Aren't Cheating, You Aren't Trying": Sportsmanship, Gamesmanship, and the Ethics of Play
Advance Care Planning - Expressing Your Wishes for Future Health Care
Age-Proof Your Brain
Age-Proof Your Brain
AI Unlocked: Everyday Tips and Tricks for Non-Techies
Aliens, Atlantis, and Archaeologists
Anatomy and Mechanisms of Injury to the Low Back and Lower Extremities
Armchair Experimentation: The Role of Thought Experiments in Science and Philosophy
Art and Times of the Classical Guitar
Artistic Composition Through The Japanese Art of Notan
Barkerville and the Gold Rush Legacy
Biofilia
Bridge 1
Bridge 1: Play And Learn
Circles Of Understanding
Coal Mining History of Vancouver Island
Dancing from the Ground Up: Traditional Line and Circle Dances
Digital Technologies, Capitalism and Political Engagement
Do You Already Know Everything? Plato Says: "Yes!"
Ebru: The Art of Painting on Water
Exploring Canada's Options to Enhance Arctic Sovereignty
Exploring Life and the Afterlife
Exploring Values, Culture, and Legacy in Families
Eye to the Ages: Viewing Humanity's Past, Present & Future
F. Scott Fitzgerald: Novels, Stories, and Influence
Finances - Managing Today and Planning for the Future
Finding Balance - Introduction to Alexander Technique (AT)
Finding Comfort After Loss Through Your Sense of Smell
Fossils - Windows Into The Past
French Painting in the Long 19th Century
Fun With Card Magic
Greenwashing! How to Avoid Being Taken In by Oil, Gas, and Coal
Hiking in England's Lake District

How Do I Know It's True?
How Not to Get Phished
How to Prevent Dementia
Iceland: Reykjavik, and The Golden Circle
Ideas with Legs 2: The Four Elements in Shakespeare's 'The Tempest'
Intelligent Investing & Estate Planning Workshop
Intermediate French Conversation
Introduction to Mindful Stitch
Introduction to the Night Skies
Joyful Living with a Meditation Practice
Landforms and Geology of Nanaimo
Leaving a Legacy: Capturing Life Story and Family History
Life in an Ancient Roman City: What We Can Learn from Pompeii
Lifestyle Management of Common Ailments in Later Years: Women's Health and Wellness
Listening Well to Talking Heads & Both-sides-ism
Living on Earth as if We Want to Stay
Mental Health Today: Debates, Dilemmas, and Dialogue
Murder in Budapest. You are the Sleuth!
Murder Mystery at the Toy and Whistle Company
Mystery Murder at a 1930's Night Club
Non-Fiction Book Club
Non-Profits, Volunteering, and the Law
Origin and Fate of the Universe: What We Know—and What We Think We Know
Overtuning History in Nanaimo: The White and Bob Case
Preparing, Printing, Publishing - How It Works
Probate Bypass & Estate Planning Strategies
Reading Sheet Music
Road Safety for Seniors
Self-Help Energy Hacks for Emotional Wellbeing
Shakespeare's Women And Their Villains
Simple Strategies To Be Secure Online
Solace Through Nature Writing
Tackling Dementia Together: A Guide for Caregivers
The Secret Life of Pots: Emily Carr's Ceramics
The Senior Brain: Staying Sharp at Any Age
Theory of Everything – Made Easy (for Non-Scientists and Non-Mathematicians)
Travelling And Technology
Understanding the Endocannabinoid System: A Holistic Approach to Pain, Sleep, and Aging Well
Vancouver Island History 3: The War Years 1914-1919
Walking England's Coast-to-Coast (C2C) Footpath
Watercolour Painting: Techniques, Creativity, and Personal Style
Weekly Guided Meditation

What is A.I.? How Am I Already Using It?
What's Your Sign?
What's Love Got to Do with Climate Hope?
Who Knew Writing Could Be Fun?
WISDOM: A Personal & Global Survey
Writing Your Legacy

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 2026, and Fall course offerings between September and December 2026. A similar range of courses will be offered in the two 2026 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 second 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.

In the Fall 2025 season, we increased our group instructors to 67 and applied a 10% fee increase across most courses. As a result, we have been able to offer 90 Fall classes, up from 55 in the last two terms, attracting 465 learners, and generating revenue over \$35,000 to date. Combining Spring and Fall in 2025, total course fees revenue is expected to be over \$61,000. Our strategic plans include the following key steps:

- Continue to grow the instructor base and volunteers – with more instructors, we can have more course offerings and resulting course fee revenues; having more volunteers translates into more capacity to deliver services and support the Board;
- We will continue with moderate course fee increases again in 2026 at about 2%; combined with course and student grow, we are budgeting course fee revenues at \$72,000;
- In other programming activities we will 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 the new MIEC 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.

Our vision for the future is an Elder College with a break-even model for core service delivery, strong membership of 1,000-2,000 or more, 100 instructors, and 100 other volunteers. The purpose of this application will be to bridge the gap to allow us to get to that vision.

Attached is the proposed program budget for the gaming application, which is asking for \$28,000.

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 Vancouver Island Elder College Society
2026 Organization Budget - Community Gaming Grant Application**

	General Fund Spring/Fall Courses	General Fund Saturday speakers	Gaming Fund	Year Ending Dec 31 2026	Gaming Allocation
Revenues					
Membership dues	13,500		-	13,500	
Saturday Speakers series		5,700	-	5,700	
Community Gaming Grants	-		28,000	28,000	
Corporate and individual sponsorships and donations	15,000		-	15,000	
Course fees - Spring	34,000		-	34,000	
Course fees - Fall	38,000		-	38,000	
In-Kind contribution of instructors					
Total Revenue	100,500	5,700	28,000	134,200	
Expenses					
Program delivery costs					
Program delivery costs-incidentals	500		-	500	
Equipment for delivery of programs	-		8,000	8,000	100%
Rental of facilities - speakers series		2,000	-	2,000	
Rental of facilities - Parksville	11,250		3,750	15,000	25%
Rental of facilities - Nanaimo & other	7,500		2,500	10,000	25%
In-Kind expense of instructors					
Fee remission	-	800	-	800	
Zoom costs	250		-	250	
Subtotal	19,500	2,800	14,250	36,550	
Registration costs					
Contract program administrator	27,750		13,750	41,500	33%
Telephone costs	-		-	-	
Internet	-		-	-	
Software licencing and transaction fees	5,200		-	5,200	
Subtotal	32,950	-	13,750	46,700	
Administration					
Accounting-software costs	4,000		-	4,000	
Legal and professional fees	6,500		-	6,500	
Meeting costs	1,500		-	1,500	
Insurance	1,920		-	1,920	
Bank charges	120		-	120	
Postage and courier	500		-	500	
Office supplies	900		-	900	
Telephone costs	910		-	910	
Contingency costs	10,000		-	10,000	
Subtotal	26,350	-	-	26,350	
Marketing					
Advertising costs	12,500		-	12,500	
Advertising and printing Saturday speakers series		1,500	-	1,500	
Website	-		-	-	
Website development	600		-	600	
Printing, posters, course calendars	8,600	1,400	-	10,000	
PR/Networking costs	-		-	-	
Subtotal	21,700	2,900	-	24,600	
Total expenses	100,500	5,700	28,000	134,200	
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	-	-	-	-	



October 22, 2024

Community Gaming Grants Branch
BC Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
6th Floor, 800 Johnson Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1N3

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Letter of Support for Mid Vancouver Island ElderCollege Society

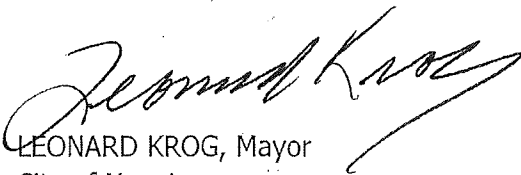
At the Regular Council meeting of October 21, 2024, Council for the City of Nanaimo, Province of British Columbia unanimously passed a motion to provide a letter of support to Mid Island Elder College regarding their funding application to the Community Gaming Grants Branch (BC Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture, and Sport).

ElderCollege was established in 1993 with the purpose of providing courses with life-long learning opportunities for people who are 50+ in the communities from Ladysmith to Bowser. The program was initially set up through the Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo but due to financial issues at the institution, ceased to provide their support at the end of 2023.

ElderCollege is now registered with the B.C. Societies Act as a non-profit organization, rebranding as Mid Vancouver Island ElderCollege Society.

The City of Nanaimo fully supports Mid Vancouver Island ElderCollege Society in their efforts to provide elder education as our population of seniors continues to increase and we fully appreciate the importance of education and engagement both in learning as well as staying active.

Sincerely,


LEONARD KROG, Mayor
City of Nanaimo

October 22, 2025

Community Gaming Grants Branch
BC Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
2nd Floor, 800 Johnson Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1N3

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Letter of Support for Mid Vancouver Island Elder College Society

At the Regular Council meeting of October 20, 2025, Council for the City of Nanaimo, Province of British Columbia unanimously passed a motion to provide a letter of support to Mid Island Elder College regarding their funding application to the Community Gaming Grants Branch (BC Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture/ and Sport).

Elder College was established in 1993 with the purpose of providing courses with life-long learning opportunities for people who are 50+ in the communities from Ladysmith to Bowser. The program was initially set up through the Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo but due to financial issues at the institution, ceased to provide their support at the end of 2023. A new non-profit society was incorporated as Mid Vancouver Island Elder College Society in November 2023 and is also now a registered charity (December 2024).

The City of Nanaimo fully supports Mid Vancouver Island Elder College Society in their efforts to provide elder education as our population of seniors continues to increase, and we fully appreciate the importance of education and engagement both in learning as well as staying active. We wish the Society great success moving forward into their third year of operations and fully support the fund request with their new grant application.

Sincerely,