



Making a difference...together

Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area  
Service Delivery  
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Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)  
New Horizons for Seniors Program – Western Canada and Territories Region  
125 East 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Vancouver, B.C V5T 1Z3

September 25, 2023

**RE:** New Horizons for Seniors Program  
To whom it may concern,

As the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area Director, I would like to express my strong support for the New Horizons grant application being submitted by the Pender Island Recreation and Agricultural Hall Association.

I understand the Friday Community Gathering Lunch began in July 2016 and prior to covid they regularly had 40 – 60 participants of all ages attend. As a result of our community having a four-day school week, participants in this weekly activity are of all ages, with most attendees being seniors.

Since restarting in May 2022, attendance has been between 15 - 109 people per week. In addition to the lunch, they also have a barrier-free café where coffee or tea are pay what you wish, as well as weekly special social and recreational activities. These pre-lunch activities offer a way for people to reconnect, socialize and rebuild the trust and conviviality that are a hallmark of our community. It has also created an opportunity for your youth leadership program to provide youth engagement in the community and with older folks. This program contributes in our efforts to reduce the feelings of isolation felt by many of our seniors on our rural and remote islands and an opportunity to encourage multigenerational connections.

I fully support them in their request for continued assistance with this vital community building program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Brent', written in a cursive style.

Paul Brent  
SGI Electoral Area Director  
Capital Regional District