Mr. Norm Macdonad, MLA
Member of Legislative Assembly
Parliament Buildings, Victoria, British Columbia
norm.macdonald.mla@leg.bc.ca

Wednesday August 25, 2015

Dear Mr. Macdonald,

The Age Friendly Community Plan (AFCP) process in 2014 sparked serious discussions on Golden's AFCP #1 priority, "Community Support and Health Services." Several members of the community have expressed publicly and online their frustrations with trying to access services that allow them to age in place. in a timely fashion.

The May 20th, 2015 Age Friendly Community Committee (AFCC) Golden meeting resulted in the creation of the "Access to Care" committee, consisting of residents, physicians and politicians who have studied the problem, outlined broad principles and identified potential solutions.

AFCC Golden has also learned that Golden is currently not eligible to participate in the Better At Home program until 2017. Currently, through this partnership with the United Way there are 67 communities (including neighbouring Invermere and Revelstoke) involved in a pilot project across BC. An inquiry to the Better At Home program manager confirmed that with current government resources Golden cannot participate before 2017 – the next official intake.

The AFCC believes that the Better at Home program would be very beneficial to the older residents of Golden & Area A. And a requisite local host organization can be found quickly – if the government resources are made available.

The AFCC feels elderly residents benefit from staying in their homes and their community as long as possible. To do so, all of their needs, including Better At Home services, which result in improve health outcomes and reduced government spending in the long-term.

These issues affect every citizen of Golden. Achieving solutions will require the efforts of the entire community and all health care providers. We hope and trust that as Golden's elected representative you will lend their voice to push for the immediate funding of Golden's Better At Home program.

Signed,

AFCC Golden

Contact:
Ryan Watmough, AFCC Coordinator
250-344-8610
nonprofits.gcrs@gmail.com