



## December 2012

*"I recently read your news release about Better at Home coming to Cranbrook. Kudos! So exciting and such a valuable service that will improve the lives of so many and make the 'golden years' so much more enjoyable."*

Support worker, Interior Health

*"As a case manager, I know this is exactly what's missing and will make a huge difference. The whole office is cheering and I caught one home support nurse a little bit teary because she feels this is just an answer to her prayers."*

Case manager, Vancouver Island

### Better at Home gets closer to home!

Since the Better at Home project was announced earlier this year, we have moved into implementation mode. Local Community Developers have been recruited in 17 communities to assess local readiness to implement Better at Home programs.

These community developers have been sourcing and developing profiles of the local seniors' population, in conversation with seniors themselves. Community conversations are currently being held to help identify the non-medical home support needs and priorities of older adults in each potential Better at Home community. Stakeholder interviews, focus groups, surveys, community meetings, and various outreach strategies are being employed to ensure widespread engagement with seniors, minority groups, and Aboriginal populations. Finally, community developers are generating a picture of current services supporting seniors to remain independent; ensuring that Better at Home will work alongside and in support of existing programs being delivered by government, non-profits, and the private sector. Final community profile reports will be made available on the [Better at Home website](#), and the first of these are expected by the end of 2012.

Working with communities is absolutely key to the success of Better at Home, so even though we are all very keen to see services implemented as soon as possible, we are committed to listening to local voices and ensuring that this input forms the core of how services are delivered on the ground.

If you would like to participate in discussions regarding the needs of seniors around non-medical home support services in your community, please [go to our website](#) to find out more about scheduled meetings and to get in touch with the relevant community developer in your area.

Thank you for helping to make your voices heard and helping to build Better at Home programs that respect local diversity and conditions and build upon existing assets and cultures.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CKaaij'.

Christien Kaaij  
Provincial Project Manager  
Better at Home



*Better at Home Field Coordinator Jody Olsson discussing non-medical home support needs with Esquimalt residents. Photo credit: Heather Skydt, United Way of Greater Victoria*

