

Better at Home Newsletter



United Way

Better at Home is funded by the Government of British Columbia

Better
at Home

United Way helping seniors
remain independent.

A new year, a new ensemble of Better at Home funded programs!

January marks a new year, perhaps a new you, and a new round of Better at Home funded communities across the province. Joining the Better at Home team are: Campbell River, Nanaimo, North Okanagan including Vernon, Port Alberni, Powell River, Salt Spring Island, Sea to Sky including Whistler, Squamish, Pemberton and Mount Currie, four additional Vancouver programs: Hastings-Sunrise, Kitsilano, Kerrisdale-Oakridge -Marpole, Vancouver South, Victoria, and three First Nation communities: Stó:lō Territory, Gitksan and Cowichan Tribes. This brings the total to 53 Better at Home programs.

With many programs diligently hiring their Program Coordinator(s) and developing their programs, Better at Home knows the importance of properly preparing new staff for the exciting road ahead. In addition to numerous training sessions on reporting, dealing with the media, and teleconferences where coordinators across the province chat about common topics, over 20 in-depth orientation sessions for coordinators have occurred, allowing new staff to learn the basics of the Better at Home project and how to grow a successful program.

With 15 new programs, and now over 25 Better at Home programs delivering services across the province, 2014 is off to an extraordinary start!

Central Okanagan Better at Home's engagement process opens arms to Deaf and Hard of Hearing community



Representatives from the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community attended the Central Okanagan Better at Home Community Meeting last November.

For Deaf and Hard of Hearing seniors, having signing supports available to them and showing sensitivity to their communication needs is crucial, especially when at a presentation for a program that is aimed at keeping them connected to their neighbourhoods and communities.

Read more here:

[Committed to inclusion - Central Okanagan Better at Home's engagement process](#)

Connecting our province at the inaugural Better at Home Provincial Meetup

November 28th & 29th, 2013 marked the first ever Better at Home Provincial Meetup, gathering 52 Better at Home programs from across the province to share knowledge and learn from each other. It also gave coordinators a chance to network with their peers, and to hear provincial news from around BC.

Attendees spent the first day learning from experts in the field on self-selected topics like Mental Health, Elder Abuse, Volunteer Management and Running a Social Enterprise. The second day yielded a flurry of conversations, as the morning was organized around small group discussions. Risk management, client intake, scheduling effectively, integrating Better at Home in the community, and dealing with grief were only some of the many topics participants could choose from. Participants shared their learnings, their challenges and successes. At the end of the day they expressed how useful it was hearing how other sites manage things.

"We always walk away with new ideas from face to face events", said Brigitta Ratschker from Dawson Creek Better at Home, who has had the pleasure of participating in similar events during the pilot phase prior to the start of Better at Home.

At the time of the Meetup, some programs had developed their program and had been delivering services to seniors for many months while others were still in the development phase. Newbies felt comforted by the expertise of already active and fruitful programs. But despite being experienced or newer to the game, every participant took away new ideas.

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