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Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Age-Friendly Summerland Survey

The District of Summerland is developing an age-friendly plan and needs to hear from everyone, young and old, about what makes Summerland a great place to age and what we can do together to work on community priorities.

The survey will be available for 2 weeks, **October 1 to 15**, and is open to everyone in the community. The questions are based on the *Age-Friendly Community* framework from the World Health Organization with topics like housing, transportation, outdoor spaces, community services and social inclusion. It can be accessed electronically via the Summerland website <https://www.summerland.ca/>. Paper copies are available at the District of Summerland office as well.

“It is exciting to be moving forward with the development of an age-friendly plan for Summerland,” said Mayor Toni Boot. “The plan will provide a framework for how the District can become a community that is recognized as being age-friendly. Not only will we see an improved quality of life for seniors, but all ages will enjoy a more inclusive, safe and accessible community. As a council, we are committed to collaborative action that strengthens and supports healthy living for all of our residents.”

The project started in May, with the first community advisory committee meeting hosted in June. “I am really pleased to be part of the advisory committee for this project,” said Dusty Tucker. Tucker moved to Summerland almost four years ago to be closer to family, “and because the community is so welcoming and has everything I need.” This survey is intended to help Summerlanders understand what the community needs and wants in order to support health aging. As Tucker says, “Once we know what everyone thinks, we can work together to implement projects that meet community priorities. There is so much knowledge here ... and we can learn from what other communities have done. There are lots of examples of great programs from around the world that would work here.”

Angelique Wood, the Community Development Coordinator for Summerland states, “Everyone benefits from physically and socially accessible communities. The easier it is to get around and connect with others, the stronger and more inclusive our community becomes.”

The project report and plan are due to be completed in December.

For more information on the Age-Friendly Summerland initiative, please contact:

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