Taking Charge
Creative Connections in Squamish

Sonja Lebans   Karen Clarke   Ellen Hall
Why engage with the community?

- To assess the needs of the community
- To improve services based on community feedback
- To target the most effective resources for community
- To foster healthy communities through self help and peer support approaches
- To be publicly accountable
- Find out more at www.vch.ca/ce
How can you get engaged?

Community Health Advisory Committees (one per health service area and one for the Aboriginal community) are supported as they provide advice to Vancouver Coastal Health management about when and how to engage the relevant communities in VCH strategic planning.

The committees raise community issues for VCH consideration and assist in bringing the voice of the community into planning and policy development.
How can you get engaged?

To get involved with your local committee please contact:

- Aboriginal 604.730.7618
- North Shore/ Coast Garibaldi/Central Coast 604.983.6003
- Richmond 604.244.5101
- Vancouver 604.708.5320
- or email: feedback@vch.ca
VCH Community Engagement with Seniors

Seniors

Community Advisory Committee

Community Developer

Community Survey

Community Forum

Creative Connections

One Stop
Keep Well
Shopping Flyer
Senior’s Centre
Transit Survey
Sidewalk Safety
Mapping
Creating a vehicle to help seniors tackle their issues is probably the largest contributor to the success of this program. Creative Connections has become one community focal point where the seniors of Squamish come to find and share information, voice concerns and create solutions for the challenges they face in their own community.
Some of the local organizations who have representatives involved with Creative Connections include:

- The Tantalus Seniors Centre
- Squamish Branch #70, Senior Citizens Association of BC
- Squamish Public Library
- Vancouver Coastal Health Home and Community Care
- Seniors Select Committee
- Brennan Park Recreation Centre
- Squamish Trails Society
- Retired Teachers Association
- The local newspaper
- And individuals
Creative Connections Work Includes:

- Public Information Sessions on Seniors Benefits, Nutrition Talks, Safe Driving and Emergency Preparedness

- The Seniors One Stop Line
  A local seniors phone referral service and brochure racks located in the Sea to Sky Corridor public health units

- Keep Well Program
  A fitness and information program funded in partnership with Brennan Park Recreation Centre and Vancouver Coastal Health with a focus on Falls and Injury Prevention

- Seniors Shopping Flyer
  A flyer developed and distributed by the Creative Connections seniors with information on local seniors discounts and services
- **Transit Survey**
  A survey currently being distributed to seniors and people with disabilities in Squamish to discover their transit needs.

- **Advocacy**
  Sidewalk and Street Safety, Bicycle and Walking Paths, Transportation, the Expansion of the Squamish Residential Care Facility (Hilltop House), Seniors Housing Needs and the New Squamish Seniors Centre
  - Work has included letter writing to government bodies and local newspapers, attending community meetings and inviting guests to Creative Connections meetings that can address the issues.

- **Community Mapping Project**
  A Squamish map for seniors created by local seniors highlighting walking/biking paths, seniors services, coffee shops, favourite spots, etc. funded in partnership with the District of Squamish and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.
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