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Young

Your Member of Parliament | Vancouver South



MP Wai Young Delivers Funding for Seniors Centre

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 7, 2013

Vancouver, B.C. – Wai Young, Member of Parliament for Vancouver South, today announced that the Harper Government will invest in a new centre for seniors at the Killarney Community Centre.

“For fifteen years, community members have tirelessly advocated for a Seniors Centre in South Vancouver. Today, on behalf of the Government of Canada, I am pleased to announce a federal investment of \$2.5 million for the Killarney Seniors Centre,” said MP Young. “Seniors, who have given so much to our country, deserve a top-notch facility. Located in the heart of our diverse community, this Seniors Centre will improve the quality of life for seniors from all backgrounds, and provide an accessible space for recreation and socialization.”

The Government of Canada will contribute up to one-half of total eligible costs, to a maximum of \$2.5 million towards this project through the Building Canada Fund – Major Infrastructure Component. This funding is conditional on the project meeting applicable federal eligibility requirements with respect to the Building Canada Fund and the signing of a contribution agreement.

Since 2011, MP Wai Young has worked to engage stakeholders and advocate for the Killarney Seniors Centre in both Ottawa and Victoria, as well as in our community.

“I want to thank the thousands of constituents who signed petitions, participated in roundtables and meetings with me, and made their voices heard,” commented MP Young. “Now, with both the federal and provincial governments delivering their funding, it is up to the City to deliver on their commitment to build this centre.”

The Government of Canada is focused on building a strong economy for families and communities. Today’s investment into the Killarney Seniors Centre will help to build a stronger community here in Vancouver South.

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BACKGROUNDER

Killarney Seniors Centre

- South Vancouver is home to a rapidly growing population of over 25,000 seniors (65 years of age and older), one-third of the seniors' population in Vancouver.
- There are currently nine seniors' centres in Vancouver, but none of them are located in the Southeast quadrant of the city.
- The City of Vancouver committed \$2.5 million, and the Government of BC committed \$1.3 million towards this project. The Government of Canada will contribute \$2.5 million.
- The completed expansion to the Killarney Community Centre will be a 10,000-square-foot facility, and will provide services, programs, and activities for older adults of diverse cultures.

Support for Seniors

Since 2006, Canada's Conservative Government has brought in important measures to support seniors:

- Delivering over \$2.5 billion in annual tax relief for seniors and pensioners.
- Removing over 380,000 seniors from the federal tax rolls.
- Introducing pension income splitting.
- Introducing the largest GIS increase in over 25 years, helping more than 680,000 seniors across Canada. Since July 2011, eligible low-income seniors receive additional annual benefits of up to \$600 for single seniors and \$840 for couples.
- Increasing the amount Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) recipients can earn through employment without any reduction in GIS benefits from \$500 to \$3,500 (A single pensioner, for example, earning \$3,500 or more, will now be able to keep up to an additional \$1,500 in annual GIS benefits).
- Increasing the Age Credit amount by \$2000.
- Doubling the Pension Income Credit to \$2000.
- Establishing the landmark Tax Free Savings Account, which is particularly beneficial for seniors.
- Increasing the age limit for RRSP-to-RRIF conversion to 71 from 69.
- Investing in the New Horizons for Seniors Program to promote volunteerism, mentorship and the social participation of seniors, and expand awareness of elder abuse.
- Taking steps to combat elder abuse in all its forms, including legislation to ensure tougher sentences for those who abuse seniors.