



**February 2026**

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Our Healthy Communities team works with Indigenous communities, municipalities, regional districts and other partners to create opportunities for all people to live well. Healthy built and natural environments, along with supportive social and economic circumstances, are the essential building blocks for health. Topics within the newsletter reflect this broad scope. Learn more about the [Healthy Communities team](#), find your [local team member](#) or visit our [website](#).



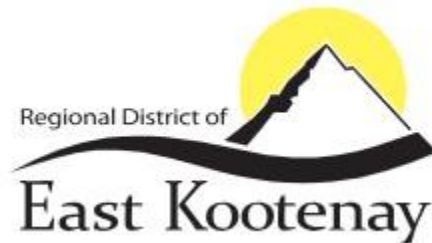
## **Community Recognition**

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## Town of Golden Updates Age-Friendly Plan

[The Age-Friendly Community Plan](#) Update and Modernization Project in Golden revisited the recommendations and goals outlined in their 2014 Age-Friendly Community Plan to understand current progress and determine a path forward. Through this process, both successes and remaining gaps were identified, and the updated plan realigned and reprioritized recommendations based on present-day needs and community feedback. In particular, attention was paid to emergency services and preparedness in order to ensure the well being of older adults before and during climate events, especially in the surrounding CSRD Area A.



## RDEK Adopts New Climate Action Plan

[The Regional District of East Kootenay Climate Action Plan 2025-2030](#) includes objectives and actions in six climate action areas: Green and Resilient Buildings and Property, Green Transportation, Green Economy and Resilient Livelihoods, Resilient Water Supply, Zero Waste, Healthy and Resilient Communities, and Cultivating Resilient Ecosystems. It includes 21 objectives and 61 actions that provide clarity to paths forward.



## Advancing Healthy Public Policy

### **Municipal Guide for Disability Inclusion in Recreation and Physical Activity**

This guide gives easy-to-follow steps for staff in municipal recreation departments to include people with disabilities in programs and activities. It is meant for people who work in municipal government, such as recreation directors, program managers, and coordinators. It can also help people with disabilities, program leaders, municipal officials, caregivers, family, friends, and community groups who want to support or ask for changes. Check it out [here](#)

### **Investing in Sport, Physical Activity, and Recreation**

This [six-module program](#), adapted from national inclusion toolkits, helps municipalities and organizations expand accessible sport, recreation, and physical activity opportunities. It teaches the key steps for making a clear, compelling case to decision-makers about why inclusive programs and policies matter.



### **Climate-Ready Communities Assessment Tool**

The Climate-Ready Communities (CRC) Assessment Tool empowers local governments to evaluate and enhance their climate adaptation efforts. Through a structured self-assessment,

the CRC assessment tool can help your municipality identify gaps and next steps and find effective ways to integrate adaptation into existing municipal processes. Check out the tool [here](#).

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### **Hamilton’s Equity-Based Heat Response Plan**

The City of Hamilton has developed an [Equity-Based Heat Response Plan](#) to offer greater protection to those people in the community who are at greatest risk of harm from extreme heat. This is a great example and a gentle reminder that now is the time to start preparing and/or updating extreme heat plans.



## **Events and Learning Opportunities**

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### **Wildfire Act Policy Engagement: Strengthening Wildfire Prevention through Bylaws**

The BC Wildfire Service will be hosting a webinar to engage with local governments on how local bylaws and provincial legislation work together to prevent human-caused

wildfires.

**March 4, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM pacific time**

[\*\*Register Here\*\*](#)

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### **Webinar - Alcohol Policy in Canadian Municipalities**

Are you interested in how local governments can promote wellbeing and reduce alcohol-caused costs, risks, liabilities and harms? The Canadian Alcohol Policy Evaluation project is offering a special webinar series to increase connections with and learn from those working in municipal, local government, and/or community-level contexts. The next three webinars of the Alcohol Policy in Canadian Municipalities series will feature examples and share experiences of municipal alcohol policy in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Nova Scotia.

**British Columbia-focused webinar: February 26, 2026, 9:30-10:45am pacific time**

Click below and register to receive the invitations to the Webinar Series.

[\*\*Register Here\*\*](#)

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## **Webinar - Green Streets: A Model for Climate Equity and Resilience**

Explore Toronto's innovative Equity-Based Green Streets Program, designed to build climate resilience while prioritizing vulnerable neighborhoods. This webinar recording from CANUE reveals how the program was developed, which communities are targeted, and what implementation looks like in practice. Ideal for municipal staff in public works, water management, sustainable development, parks and recreation, and transportation.

[Watch Here](#)

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## **Webinar - Flood Management for Equitable Outcomes**

This recorded session from CANUE equips local governments with practical resources to embed health and health equity into climate adaptation strategies. It highlights the health impacts of flooding, how social determinants and inequities shape community vulnerability, and outlines actionable steps—both at the government and community level—to reduce flood risk and strengthen preparedness.

[Watch Here](#)



**Funding Opportunities**

## **FireSmart Community Funding and Supports**

As of February 2, 2026 the [FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program](#) will transition to the 2026 Winter/Spring Closed Intake. All applications for the 2026 Winter/Spring Intake will be required to be submitted in full by **April 30, 2026** and will be adjudicated based on merit and priority.

## **2026 Age-Friendly Communities Grants**

Community grant funding focused on helping B.C. seniors to lead independent, active lives is now open, through the [Age-friendly Communities \(AFC\) Program](#), delivered in partnership by the Province of British Columbia and BC Healthy Communities (BCHC). Local and Indigenous governments and communities are invited to submit applications for 2026 funding. This year's grant intake will support two funding streams:

Stream 1 – Up to \$25,000 for age-friendly assessments and action plans

Stream 2 – Up to \$15,000 for age-friendly projects that promote the health, safety, and engagement of older adults

**Grant applications will be open until 11:59 pm, PST, on March 12, 2026**

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## **Climate Fund Finder (Clean BC)**

Planning a climate action project? Need financial support? Not sure where to start? [The Funding Finder](#) is the tool for you. By

## **Wah-ila-toos: Clean Energy Initiatives in Indigenous, Rural, and Remote Communities (Government of Canada)**

answering a few questions, you'll be on your way to learning which programs fit your project best.

**Applications are being accepted on an ongoing basis.**

The [Wah-ila-toos program](#) helps Indigenous, rural, and remote communities switch from diesel to cleaner energy. It also makes it easier for people to get support from the government and have more control over their energy choices.

**Applications are being accepted on an ongoing basis.**

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## How would you rate this issue of the Healthy Communities Newsletter?

lowest 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 highest



*We recognize and acknowledge that we are collectively gathered on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the seven Interior Region First Nations, where we live, learn, collaborate and work together.*

*This region is also home to 15 Chartered Métis Communities. It is with humility that we continue to strengthen our relationships with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples across the Interior.*

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