

2020 - 2022 Community Action Plan

Prepared by

Stewart Community Connections Society

Kimberly Reid, MCFD Family Consultant
Jennifer Larson, Chief Financial Officer
Eike Riemann, District of Stewart Councillor
Dolores Kennedy, Site Manager at Stewart Health Centre
Rob Gardner, Stewart RCMP
Pat Grue, Stewart Food Bank
Brianna Tressler, Parent

Previous revisions:

2018 Kimberly Reid, MCFD Family Consultant
2016 Jennifer Marx, MCFD Family Consultant
2014 Luba Kasum MCFD Family Consultant
2013 Luba Kasum MCFD Family Consultant

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Introduction

Stewart Community Connections Society (“Community Connections”) is a small local working group committed to community development and opportunity. Since 2012 Community Connections has played both leading and supportive roles to a wide range of community development initiatives, including identifying community needs, advocating for services, sourcing funding opportunities, sharing information and providing logistical support to new and existing programs.

Stakeholders Actively Engaged with the Community Connections Roundtable include:

- District of Stewart
- Stewart Health Centre
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Stewart Food Bank
- Ministry of Children and Family Development
- Concerned Citizens

Other stakeholders involved with Community Connections

- Bear Valley School (BVS) & the BVS Parent Advisory Committee
- Stewart Early Years
- Stewart Public Library
- Community Emergency Fund & Christmas Hamper Programs
- Local Business Owners
- Community members with Lived Experience (in poverty)
- Rainy Mountain Figure Skating & Stewart Minor Hockey

In 2018, Community Connections developed a Community Action Plan framed around “game changers”. Game changers are priority areas determined by the Tamarack Institute to have the most impact on families living in poverty (Holmgren, 2016). These areas are Income & Employment, Housing, Transportation, Education, Early Childhood Development, Health, Food Security and Financial Empowerment. Community Connections added one additional priority area titled Recreation, Connection, Inclusion & Support to capture the unique needs of our community.

In 2019, with the support of Northern Health’s Healthy Communities¹ team and Plan H² funding, Community Connections developed a 3 year Action Plan through an extensive community consultation process. This involved online and paper surveys, posters at the School, Public Library and Bear Festival for people to write ideas on, four focus groups, interviews with Family Consultant clients and a large community lunch event.

The goal of this process was to gather community input on what Community Connections should focus on in the years ahead, and participants provided rich input on how Stewart could be healthier, what Community Connections should focus on, and where they could lend support, all helping to guide the development of this plan.

¹ Northern Health’s Healthy Communities team supports local governments and community groups as they work to make their communities a healthier place to live, work, learn and play. The Northwest Healthy Settings Advisor lent planning and facilitation support to the development of this action plan.

² PlanH, implemented by BC Healthy Communities Society, facilitates local government learning, partnership development and planning for healthier communities. Community Connections received a grant from PlanH to support community engagement and development of an updated action plan.

Accountability and Evaluation of Progress

Community Connections makes the following commitment to staying accountable to this plan. We will:

1. Assign a lead³ to each Action Item in the Plan
2. Review the plan progress at each meeting
3. Create annual updates and a final report on the 2020-2022 Community Action Plan.

This plan is conditional on grant funding and responsive to community needs, and so there is a possibility that it will be revised over its 3 year term. Revisions will be captured through the annual updates and the final report.

Community Assets

The planning process took an asset and strengths-based approach. This meant we focused on what was working, what connections could be leveraged, and what talents the team could build upon. Asset based community development “looks for and starts from people’s gifts and strengths (*assets*). These assets equip people to create local opportunities and respond to needs and challenges in their neighbourhoods” (Tamarack Institute, n.d.). There are many assets in Stewart, including:

Category	Assets
Income and Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local employers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private business - District of Stewart - Provincial and Federal Government • Service BC with some Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction capabilities • Family Consultant (Ministry of Children and Family Development’s Community Poverty Reduction Initiative) • Visits by Service Canada, Canada Revenue Agency and Work BC
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial financial support for housing • Community interest in housing
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walkable and bike friendly commuting • Community members that will volunteer to drive within and out of Stewart • Development of local transportation business • Students working to decorate bags that promote designated drivers
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bear Valley School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learning time outdoors at school - Cooking in the school • Stewart Public Library • Internet access
Early Childhood Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Steps parented preschool • Stewart Public Library

Category	Assets
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local medical system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health challenges - Health fair - Visiting specialists • Trails, walkable town, access to the outdoors • Seniors exercise group • Bordertown Recycling • Community transfer station • RCMP
Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School food programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Snack cupboard and hot lunch inclusion initiative - Children cooking and eating together in school - School garden • Community dinners • Community garden • Clean water • Food Bank • Emergency Fund and Christmas Hamper • Connection to Kalum Community School Society in Terrace
Financial Empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stewart Public Library programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SmartSaver community partner - Webinars
Recreation, Connection, Inclusion and Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Events such as: International Days, Bear Festival, Cabin Fever Days, Kids Christmas Party, Christmas Tree Light-up, Easter Egg Hunt, Bordertown Snowbombers Poker Run, Bear Valley School Play, Toy Bingo, Mountain Music Festival • Community meals during events • Junior Ranger’s Program • Stewart Public Library • Stewart Museum and Historical Society • Bear Valley School Parent Advisory Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extracurricular activities - Parent volunteers • Al Lawrence Memorial Arena <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting on ice activities through Minor Hockey, Old Timers Hockey, Figure Skating, Public Skate and Curling - Supporting extra curricular activities with a cantina downstairs and an entertainment space upstairs • Municipal Baseball Diamond • Mountain Motorcross Park • Caring and contributing people • Volunteers • District of Stewart Community Grant in Aid • New Recreation Director • Stewart Community News Newsletter • Billboards (District, Post Office, Health Centre, Service BC, Bear Valley School) • Hyder, Alaska

Work Plan (2020 – 2022)

Based on our community consultations, Community Connections has identified the following actions for the 2020 – 2022 timeframe for each of the Priority areas: Income & Employment, Housing, Transportation, Education, Early Childhood Development, Health, Food Security, Financial Empowerment and Recreation, Connection, Inclusion and Support. These action items build on existing community assets and connections, and address current gaps and needs identified by a wide range of community members and groups. These actions are also reflective of Community Connections’ current scope and capacity.

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Income and Employment

Priorities	Year 1 Actions (2020)	Year 2 Actions (2021)	Year 3 Actions (2022)
Canada Revenue Agency and Service Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the annual visit by CRA and Service Canada 		
Work BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the annual visit by Work BC 		
Community Volunteer Income Tax Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with Stewart Public Library to deliver a volunteer income tax program Maintain connection to Volunteer Terrace for year-round income tax filing 		
Childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate childcare needs and support the District of Stewart in developing childcare solutions 		
Connection to Employers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate Industry training Authority of BC supports Investigate funding and logistics to host a local employment fair Consider ideal placement and investigate community support for a job board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop ITA supports in our community if appropriate Host or co-host in conjunction with another event a local employment fair Create and maintain a job board, if appropriate 	

Housing

Priorities	Year 1 Actions (2020)	Year 2 Actions (2021)	Year 3 Actions (2022)
Housing Needs Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate to the District of Stewart for supportive housing, affordable housing and emergency housing assessments Support the District of Stewart in the development of a Housing Plan Research the means for a non-profit society to support housing needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the outcome of the needs assessment and housing plan 	
Community Carpentry Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research existing community carpentry programs Identify funding to support a carpentry program Develop a plan to identify community projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify interested volunteers or community organisations Identify and Prioritize community projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and complete at least 1 project.
Preventative Maintenance Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify community partners who can do preventative maintenance for furnaces and chimneys Identify parameters for the list of homes to be serviced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a list of homes to be serviced Complete preventative maintenance before winter 	
Materials Re-Use it Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for a re-use it space for home building materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with community partners to create and support a re-use it space 	

Transportation

Priorities	Year 1 Actions (2020)	Year 2 Actions (2021)	Year 3 Actions (2022)
Medical Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertise medical travel opportunities for income assistance recipients 		
Transportation to Service Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate to the District of Stewart to complete a Transportation Needs Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the outcome of the transportation needs assessment 	

Education

Priorities	Year 1 Actions (2020)	Year 2 Actions (2021)	Year 3 Actions (2022)
Parent Advisory Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support BVS PAC in their initiatives 		
Tutoring Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose a tutoring program with BVS, BVS PAC and SPL Identify skilled parents or peers that could be a tutor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help to establish a community tutoring program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help to maintain the tutoring program
School Food Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Food Security 		

Early Childhood Development

Priorities	Year 1 Actions (2020)	Year 2 Actions (2021)	Year 3 Actions (2022)
Early Years Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertise the parented early years program hours and services Attend Early Years meetings to help strategize programming Consider Early Years when planning other projects (example for food security or activities with the seniors centre) 		
Stewart Public Library 's Early Years Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertise SPL's early years programming 		
District of Stewart's Early Years Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for the Recreation Director to inventory early years programming in the community and to support or develop as appropriate Support the District of Stewart's Early Years Programming through planning and advertising 		

Health

Priorities	Year 1 Actions (2020)	Year 2 Actions (2021)	Year 3 Actions (2022)
Health Fair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Stewart Health Centre in identifying community groups and health providers to attend the Health Fair Host a Community Connections table at the Health Fair 		
Health Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Stewart Health Centre in planning and hosting a minimum of 1 community health challenge per year 		
Holistic Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify holistic health needs in the community Identify skilled locals able to provide HH services Identify funding to support holistic health opportunities Identify a space for HH providers and clients to meet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify holistic health opportunities/experts from outside the community willing to travel to Stewart Invite local and outside HH providers to the Stewart Health Fair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite local and outside HH providers to the Stewart Health Fair Support HH providers by advertising services and dates
Visiting Specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote specialists that visit Stewart Health Centre through Stewart Community News and Billboards Create a space on the new Community Connections website for advertising visiting specialists 		
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplement the new Mental Health space with the health centre with toys, fidget toys and items of comfort Advertise the new Mental Health space within the Stewart Health Centre Connect with CYMH to host a parent workshop Advertise mental health supports in Stewart Community News 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertise the Mental Health space within the Stewart Health Centre Advertise mental health supports in Stewart Community News Connect with CYMH to host a parent workshop 	
Dental Suite		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the need for a dental suite Identify funding opportunities to support a dental suite Identify a dentist or team of dentists willing to travel to Stewart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin development of dental suite, if appropriate and feasible

Food Security

Priorities	Year 1 Actions (2020)	Year 2 Actions (2021)	Year 3 Actions (2022)
Community Gardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find funding and expand community gardens Make a plan to develop a community greenhouse and secure funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop greenhouse Plan community compost system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop community compost system
Stewart Food Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure connection with KCSS and the Farmers Market Nutritional Coupon Program Provide logistical support to SFB Support the SFB to host Healthy Cooking on a Budget Cooking Classes 		
Community Food Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist BVS to fund the hot lunch and snack cupboard program Work with SPL to create a snack cupboard for homeschoolers and seniors visiting the library Investigate funding and logistics of developing a soup kitchen that also delivers to meet the needs of our most vulnerable community members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist BVS to fund the hot lunch and snack cupboard program Assist SPL to fund the snack cupboard Work with Seniors Centre to create a snack cupboard Secure funding and develop a soup kitchen with delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist BVS to fund the hot lunch and snack cupboard program Assist SPL to fund the snack cupboard Assist Seniors centre to fund the snack cupboard Continue funding and providing soup kitchen services.

Financial Empowerment

Priorities	Year 1 Actions (2020)	Year 2 Actions (2021)	Year 3 Actions (2022)
Education Savings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Stewart Public Library to advertise and deliver the Smart Saver program Advertise the BC Training and Education Savings Grant, Canada Education Savings grant and Canada Learning Bond 		
Financial planning Webinars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Stewart Public Library to advertise and deliver financial planning webinars 		

Recreation, Connection, Inclusion & Support

Priorities	Year 1 Actions (2020)	Year 2 Actions (2021)	Year 3 Actions (2022)
International Days and the Bear Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the Recreation Director and community volunteers by advertising International Days, Bear Festival and other community celebrations 		
Winter Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the Recreation Director to inventory current winter activities Advocate to the District of Stewart for development of a space for children during events like curling and hockey Advocate to the District of Stewart to re-develop the ski hill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support existing winter activities through advertising and by supporting the delivery of community meals Support the development of new winter activities 	
Fitness Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the District of Stewart in the development of a fitness centre Advocate to the District of Stewart for low-cost membership fees for low income families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertise the fitness centre Identify opportunities for exercise based therapies to be delivered from the fitness centre Support expansion of the fitness centre 	
Community Trails Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and prioritize trails to be repaired or expanded Work with the District of Stewart to fund and support trail repairs and expansion 		
Youth Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the District of Stewart in delivering the annual Soccer Camp and Kids Summer Camp Support Stewart Minor Hockey and Raine Mountain Figure Skating Club to access sporting gear as required Advertise Stewart Public Library youth programs 		
Teen Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate to District of Stewart for teen programming and support teen program planning; Identify skilled leaders in the community to lead teen programs Support the Stewart Rangers to access gear Connect with Stewart Rangers to have them support local community initiatives 		
Adult Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inventory and advertise current adult oriented activities Advocate to District of Stewart for the development of new recreation opportunities 		
Seniors Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fulfill requirements of Northern Horizons grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan position and hire seniors' coordinator Support coordinator Fulfill reporting requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the impact of the coordinator role and find a funding mechanism to continue if appropriate. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertise seniors activities Support the seniors exercise class to fund additional exercise equipment Support use of the age friendly space at the arena for seniors activities and events Support transportation needs for seniors to access senior programming 		

Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue publishing Stewart Community News monthly Inventory the community bulletin boards and schedule monthly updates with Community Connections information. 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate costs for securing a website domain Begin development of a Community Connections website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise website development and advertise to the community Complete monthly updates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solicit website feedback and make improvements as necessary Complete monthly updates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revamp the existing Local and Regional Service Guides Distribute Local and Regional Service Guides to local service providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update and distribute Local and Regional Service Guides 	

References

- Holmgren, M. (2016). Sometimes to Hear the Music you Have to Turn Down the Noise: A Game Changer Approach to Poverty Reduction Strategy and Evaluation. Retrieved October 30, 2019 from http://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/316071/Events/CCI/2016_CCI_Toronto/CCI_Publications/A_Game-Changer_Approach_to_Poverty_Reduction_Strategy_and_Evaluation.pdf?
- Tamarack Institute. (n.d.). Asset Based Community Development at a Glance. Tamarack institute. Retrieved from https://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/hubfs/Resources/CDC_ABCD_resources/ABCD_at_a_Glance.pdf

Appendices

Appendix A. Detailed Engagement Process

Phase 1: Community Survey

From May to July 2019 Community Connections gathered preliminary feedback from community members about what a healthy community means to them, what makes Stewart healthy, and how it could be healthier. The results of this feedback informed the development of the following engagement sessions. Posters were displayed at key community events (Stewart Health Fair, Bear Fest) and at key meeting points (Stewart Public Library, Bear Valley School). The survey was shared on Facebook by the District of Stewart. All feedback was anonymous.

Phase 2: Focus Groups

From October 2 – 4, 2019 Community Connections hosted three focus groups to further explore areas of community interest identified through the survey. The themes of the focus groups and the attendees, who were invited by Stewart Community Connections, represented the following groups:

1. Community Connection & Pride
 - Seniors, Parents, Students of Bear Valley School
 - Stewart Food Bank, Community Emergency Fund
 - District of Stewart (Financial Officer, Chief Administrative Officer and Councillor)
 - Ministry of Child and Family Development
 - Stewart Health Centre
 - Museum

2. Community Services
 - Stewart Public Library
 - District of Stewart (Financial Officer, Chief Administrative Officer and Councillor)
 - Seniors, Students of Bear Valley School, Home school families
 - Local Business, Chamber of Commerce
 - Ministry of Child and Family Development
 - Stewart Health Centre

3. Community Physical Activity and Social Inclusion
 - Snowmobile Club, Stewart Minor Hockey
 - Seniors, Students of Bear Valley School
 - Stewart Public Library
 - District of Stewart (Financial Officer, Chief Administrative Officer and Councillor)
 - Ministry of Child and Family Development
 - Stewart Health Centre

The Healthy Settings Advisor also attended a Bear Valley School Parent Advisory Council meeting during this timeframe.

All participants were provided lunch.

Phase 3: One on One Interviews

From October 2 – 4, 2019, Northern Heath’s Healthy Settings Advisor conducted interviews with individuals who preferred this format to focus group participation. These individuals represented seniors, low income, families, parents of children with special needs, and those struggling with homelessness. Interview participants were provided with \$40 in gift certificates to grocery stores.

Phase 4: Community Forum & Skating

On October 5, 2019 Community Connections reserved the arena to gather final feedback on our Community Action Plan draft priorities. The downstairs arena was open to children and youth for free skating, and approximately 40 people participated. Upstairs, we provided opportunities for people to provide feedback through posters and a World Café on the draft priorities. Approximately 25 people attended, excluding Community Connections. Most of the people who attended had not participated in the focus groups. All participants were given lunch and a thank you gift.

Phase 5: Community Engagement Wrap up Dinner

On December 28th 2019 In conjunction with the annual Judy Kirkpatrick memorial hockey tournament, Stewart Community Connections hosted a community engagement wrap up dinner with a large variety of door prizes supporting healthy living, which was well attended by over 80 people.

Appendix B. Summary of Community Connections Accomplishments

(2017 thru 2019*)

Income & Employment

2017-2019 Newsletters published by Stewart Community News advertise local employment opportunities when available and information to support local businesses and budding entrepreneurs.

2018-2019 Community Connections supports visits by Service Canada, Canada Revenue Agency and Work BC.

2017-2019 Community Connections made an agreement with Volunteer Terrace to assist low income families with preparing and filing Income Taxes. During tax season or all year long families can send their tax information to Volunteer Terrace who will prepare and file the return at no cost.

2018-2019 Community Connections advocated to the District of Stewart to apply for the BC New Spaces Fund to bring licenced childcare to the community, and then offered to support strategic planning efforts once the grant was approved. Despite the need for childcare and despite having a grant in place, Council declined the current plan and returned the grant money. Families in Stewart still have no options for daycare, limiting their ability to earn income through employment.

2017 Community Connections assisted the Regional District of Kitimat Stikine conduct a Business Walk, a survey of business licence owners to understand barriers and opportunities for business and to identify potential supports. Afterwards Community Connections participated in a roundtable discussion with the Regional District of Kitimat Stikine and the District of Stewart to identify economic supports and opportunities for economic development in Stewart.

2017 Community Connections submitted a letter of support to the mayor of Kitimat to advocate for the Regional District of Kitimat Stikine's Northwest Regional Workforce Attraction Initiative that will help attract workers and families that root in the community.

Housing

2017-2019 Stewart Community News published housing supports for low income families as available.

2017-2019 Community Connections advocated to the District of Stewart the need for a housing plan.

2019 Community Connections supported an emergency housing project in the fight against homelessness through planning and the coordination of volunteers to build a small home for a vulnerable senior living in a tent.

Transportation

2019 Community Connections wrote a letter of support to the Passenger Transportation Branch for a local trying to secure a passenger transportation licence.

2018 Community Connections advocated to the District of Stewart the need for a Transportation Plan.

Education

2018-2019 Community Connections supported the Parent Advisory Committee by offering grant writing support and by advertising their initiatives.

2018-2019 Community Connections supports educational outcomes through food security initiatives such as the Breakfast and Snack Cupboard and the Hot Lunch Inclusion Program.

2019 Community Connections worked with Bear Valley School and Child and Youth Mental Health to bring a day long workshop to teachers at the school.

Early Childhood Development

2017-2019 Community Connections supports First Steps parented preschool, Story Thyme and Puddle Parade by providing strategic planning support and advertising.

2017-2019 Community Connections supports the Early Years Table to plan and deliver the Dolly Parton Imagination Library for families with children age 0-4.

2018-2019 Stewart Community News advertised Ripley's Corner, Stewart Public Library's early years program.

2018 Community Connections supported the Stewart Early Years table to host a Positive Discipline Parenting course and a Kids Have Stress Too seminar.

Health

2017-2019 Stewart Community News publishes health and mental health resources.

2017-2019 Stewart Community News publishes dates of specialists visiting the Stewart Health Centre.

2019 Community Connections works with the Stewart Health Centre and Child and Youth Mental Health to create a dedicated space for remote access mental health services.

2017-2018 Community Connections supported the Early Years Table to host a youth health fair.

Food Security

2017-2019 Community Connections supports the Stewart Food Bank through strategic planning, helping to secure food supports and helping to connect families.

2017-2018 Community Connections supports to Stewart Food Bank to deliver their Community Cooking on a Budget Classes.

2017-2019 Community Connections connects with the Kalum Community School Society and their food security programs: FoodShare, FruitShare, and the BC Farmers' Market Nutritional Coupons program.

2018-2019 Community Connections worked with Bear Valley School to implement a breakfast and snack cupboard and hot lunch inclusion program using a District of Stewart community grant in aid.

Financial Empowerment

2018-2019 Community Connections worked with Stewart Public Library to become a Smart Saver community partner to help connect families to free money for education from the Canada Learning Bond and BC Training and Savings Grant through the Smart Saver program.

2019 Community Connections advertised the Canada Learning Bond and BC Training and Education Savings Grant to all families at Bear Valley School and to homeschool families through Stewart Public Library.

2018-2019 Community Connections supports the Stewart Public Library to host financial planning webinars.

Recreation, Connection, Inclusion & Support

2017-2019 Community Connections published monthly editions of Stewart Community News. This newsletter strives to provide the community with supports for families and information on events and services in Stewart. Stewart Community News is delivered by email, posted on Facebook and a limited number is available in print at participating locations thanks to printing donations from the District of Stewart.

2017-2019 Community Connections supports communication through community bulletin boards, including boards at the Service BC office, Stewart Health Centre, Post Office and Bear Valley School.

2017-2019 District of Stewart and Community Connections facilitated a 3 week Kids Summer Camp for kids age 5-12. To make sure every child had the opportunity to participate, the District of Stewart agreed to waive registration fees if families register through the Family Consultant. As a result a number of children were gifted the opportunity to attend the camp.

2017-2019 Through collaboration with Community Connections and Healthy Communities, the District of Stewart hosted British Soccer Camp a weeklong sport camp for kids age 5-16. The District of Stewart agreed to register low income families at no cost until supplemental funding through Canadian Tire Jumpstart could be secured. Three children attended the soccer camp due to these coordinated efforts. In 2019 the District of Stewart sponsored the camp making registration free for families. Registration more than doubled, supporting the need for low cost opportunities for recreation.

2019 Recognizing the impact of supporting low cost recreation, the District of Stewart waived user fees at the arena, first for youth groups and then for all user groups. This provides support to all members of our community to access opportunities for recreation.

2019 Community Connections supported the BVS Parent Advisory Committee's application for a District of Stewart Grant in Aid to support delivery of the Annual Kids Christmas Party.

2018-2019 Community Connections supports the development of the Mountain Music Festival to connect people to music through workshops, busking, open mic and a weekend of music.

2018 Community Connections worked with the District of Stewart to create an age friendly space and promote age friendly activities using Northern Health's age friendly grant.

2019 Community Connections was successful in the New Horizons for Seniors grant to hire a coordinator to facilitate senior activities in 2020/early 2021

2017-2018 Mount Raine Figure Skating Club agrees to register children from low income families at no cost until supplemental funding through Canadian Tire Jumpstart could be secured.

2017-2018 Community Connections works with the District of Stewart to identify, fund and complete trail maintenance supporting active outdoor living in our community.

2019 In addition to the direct accomplishments in our Community, Stewart Community Connections successfully registered as a Society with BC Societies and obtained charitable status with the Canada Revenue Agency.

*Important Community Connections initiatives prior to 2017 include: Helping to found Stewart Food Bank, building our community garden space and finishing construction of the Boardwalk.