

PARTNER SNAPSHOT:

West End Seniors' Network *Close To Home*



PARTNER OVERVIEW

The West End Seniors' Network (WESN) is the second-largest independent seniors' centre in Vancouver. With three locations, WESN offers more than 70 programs and services for adults 55 years of age and older in the West End, Coal Harbour and Yaletown neighbourhoods. Their *Close to Home* initiative focuses on supporting older adults living in multi-unit residential buildings.

Mission

To enhance the quality of life of older adults by providing social, recreational, educational and supportive programs and services that foster connection and inclusion in the broader community.

Type of Organization

Community-based Charitable Not-For Profit



Participating Communities

- » Vancouver (West End neighbourhood)



Participating Buildings

- » 1 building total
- » High-rise leasehold
- » 170 units (22 storeys)
- » Mixed owner-occupied and secondary rental



Residents

- » Approximately 30% of residents are older adults

APPROACH BEING TESTED

Close To Home works to build connections and address isolation and loneliness in a building with a high proportion of older adults by offering onsite programs and events. With support from resident volunteer leaders and WESN staff, residents organize activities around lunch to encourage older adults to step out of their units and into the common area to talk, eat, learn and share with their neighbours of all ages. Older adults who face transportation or mobility challenges are more likely to engage because they don't need to leave the building, and neighbours become ongoing sources of support.