

General Information

Proposal name: Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Elders Program

Name of Trustee Applicant: Gary Walkus

Associated Band Department: Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw HFS/Elders

Associated Band Department Contact: Cassidy Walkus – Elders Coordinator

Elders Coordinator contact: 250 949 8131

Elders Coordinator cell: 250 230 1496

Email: elderscoordinator@gwanaknations.ca

Amount requested for 2025-2026: \$189,000.00

Project Description

The Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Elders Health & Safety Project is aimed at enhancing the health, safety, and quality of life for Elders in our Nation. Elders are the knowledge-keepers, caregivers, and heart of our community. This project seeks to reduce the economic and logistical barriers they face by providing essential supports in the following areas:

- **Medical and Emergency Travel Support:**
Many of our Elders must travel long distances to access medical care, often on short notice or for ongoing treatment. This project will provide financial assistance to cover travel, accommodation, and meals to ensure timely and stress-free access to healthcare.
- **In-Home Health & Safety Support:**
Safe and functional living spaces are essential for elder health and independence. The project will assist with replacement of major appliances (e.g., stoves, fridges, heaters, hot water tank) to ensure a safe, warm, and livable home environment.
- **Winter Preparedness:**
The project will provide a reliable stock of firewood to Elders who rely on wood heat, ensuring they remain safe and warm through the winter months.
- **Flexible Emergency Support:**
The fund will also offer emergency relief for unforeseen health and safety needs, such as prescription costs, mobility aids.

Project Goals:

- Reduce barriers to medical care for Elders.
- Improve home safety and comfort.
- Ensure winter readiness and reduce risk of cold-related illness.
- Provide rapid response to urgent and unexpected health and safety issues.

Expected Outcomes:

- Improved health outcomes through timely access to medical services.
- Increased independence and quality of life for Elders living at home.
- Reduced financial stress for Elders and their caregivers.
- Strengthened community resilience by supporting our most vulnerable members.

This project is rooted in the values of care, respect, and responsibility to our Elders. With funding support, we will ensure they continue to live safely, with dignity and honour, in the community they helped build.

Project background:

Who is eligible for elders' health & safety funding.

- Registered band member (724) elders in the age of 60 and over.

What does health & safety cover.

The health & safety program was designed by Leslie Walkus to help alleviate costs for things such as:

- Medical appointments down south:
Campbell River \$300
Courtenay/Comox \$350
Nanaimo \$400
Victoria \$450
Emergency travel (whether its for yourself or a family member) \$500
- Walkers & wheelchairs
- Optometrist: no warranty coverage, extras (bifocals, transition lenses)
- Dentist: extra dental work that is needed but is not covered.
- Washer & dryer
- Cook stove
- Refrigerator
- Hot water tank
- New toilet
- Bed & box spring (standard metal bed frame if needed)
- Shower heads (handheld shower heads)
- Tap replacements
- Front & back door lock replacements

Total: \$70,000.00

Firewood:

- October - 20 loads, 10 each per month
 - November - 20 loads, 10 each per month
 - December - 20 loads, 10 each per month
 - January - 20 loads, 10 each per month
 - February - 20 loads, 10 each per month
 - March - 20 loads, 10 each per month
 - April - 20 loads, 10 each per month
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- May – 40 loads, 20 each per month (winter stock)
 - June – 40 loads, 20 each per (winter stock)
 - July – 40 loads, 20 each per (winter stock)
 - August – 40 loads, 20 each per (winter stock)
 - September – 40 loads, 20 each per (winter stock)

Total: \$119,000.00

Project Management

Cassidy Walkus

Work: 250 949 8131

Cell: 250 230 1496

Email: elderscoordinator@gwanaknations.ca

Reporting Structure

Elders' health & safety management will be administered by the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxdax'w Nations finance department using general accepted accounting practices. All expenditures must be submitted detailed source documents and elders' information. All cheques to be signed by the authorized signatories of the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Nations.

Submitted by:**Trustee Applicant**

Cassidy Walkus – Elders Coordinator