



Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society

Seniors Community Garden Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Purpose:

The Advisory Committee will provide advice and guidance for program planning, delivery, evaluation and future sustainability of Sunshine Coast Seniors Community Garden -Knowledge Sharing, Accessibility and Community Involvement

Mandate:

The Advisory Committee will provide advice and guidance to the Program Coordinator in order that the following objectives be achieved by the program within the timeline and budget required by the funder:

1. Seniors in the community will be involved in sharing knowledge/wisdom and encouraging fun and friendship through indoor/outdoor physical activity of gardening, the therapeutic experience of having hands in the soil and watching something of beauty or usefulness grow.
2. An accessible garden will be designed and built for those seniors that have disabilities. Regularly designed gardens require bending and stooping, a feat that is difficult for some seniors. In this case, seniors will design and construct (with assistance where necessary) raised beds, raised tables and a greenhouse that will be walker and wheelchair accessible.
3. That the program promote ongoing involvement of seniors with the SCBGS at the gardens to reduce their risk of social isolation.
4. An accessible senior community garden will also benefit seniors by: providing up to date information in regards to the benefits of growing fresh organic food on a small scale (container/ balcony gardens), provision of food for economically challenged seniors, exposure to nature, the therapeutic nature of working in the gardens and the creation of the important biodiversity (plants, insects and birds) for community health and enjoyment.

Decision Making:

The ultimate decision-making authority and accountability rests with the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society and the role of the Advisory Committee will be to provide advice to the program coordinator and the Society.

Reporting Structure:

Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society Director, Lori Pickering

Membership:

A small group of seniors that represent the community by geography, senior and partner organizations will provide advice and guidance from multiple perspectives.

Tenure:

Members are appointed by the responsible SCBGS director for the duration of the program (expected to be approximately 12 months).

Meetings:

In addition to written and telephone interaction among members of the Advisory Committee, monthly meetings will be convened in Sechelt.