



Finding Home™
How to Belong in a Changing World

Welcome to
Finding Home™'s
newsletter!



Welcome to Finding Home's new annual newsletter. We're happy to share this year's highlights and successes with you — our friends, partners and colleagues.



Dora Ng from SUCCESS translates, so seniors can play Mah-jong together

Many thanks to our partners, colleagues and dialogue participants for making 2008–9 such a success! Wishing you a happy holiday season and a 2010 year full of opportunities to create home in your community.

To learn more visit our blog or sign up for our e-newsletter at <http://jessiesutherland.ca> & www.findinghome.ca

Do You Want to Play Mah-Jong?

Recently, *Finding Home™* facilitated a series of dialogues with Mandarin-speaking grandparents who are also caregivers during the day for their grandchildren. The dialogues were hosted by *Kitsilano Neighbourhood House* and funded by the *United Way of the Lower Mainland*. During the dialogues the grandparents agreed that Mah-jong creates a sense of home for them. In China, they explained, everyone plays games together. If they could only have a place to play Mah-jong here in Canada, then they would finally feel at home. At the end of the dialogue series, the grandparents invited a group of non-Mandarin speaking seniors to learn how to play Mah-jong. Visit our blog to learn more about how games provide a great tool for *building welcoming and inclusive communities*.



Finding Home™ Helps Seniors Make Connections

The *Finding Home™ Initiative* received funding from the *Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport* to provide seniors' dialogues to three sites. Each dialogue site received three facilitated dialogue sessions with seniors. In addition, each site was offered the option of producing a visual legacy of the dialogues through the creation of educational posters that highlighted the insights and findings of each dialogue session. The *Finding Home™* seniors dialogues were hosted by:

- *Kitsilano Neighbourhood House at Steeves Manor, seniors living in a mixed housing unit*
- *Seniors Services Society at Dunwood Place, U.K. war brides and widows*
- *Spirit of the Children Society, Aboriginal grandmothers raising grandkids*



Finding Home™ shares a booth with Seniors Services Society at Active Aging Symposium

Important Outcomes

- Seniors generated a new Seniors, Newcomers and Youth Project
- Aboriginal grandmothers raising their grandchildren generated topics for their on-going program
- Seniors helped each other through sharing their experiences with community resources and then accompanying each other to services related to housing and financial services
- City of New Westminster Seniors Advisory Council placed the Finding Home™ educational posters throughout their community as a public education tool
- Finding Home™ has partnered with the Association of Neighbourhood Houses of Greater Vancouver on an Elders Financial Abuse Prevention Dialogue Project proposal

100 Seniors & Elders Collaborate & Celebrate

The West Side Seniors & Elders Resource Guide is Published

Kitsilano Neighbourhood House (KNH) contracted Finding Home™ to build capacity within their staff for effective community engagement, cross-cultural competencies and designing and facilitating seniors & elders asset mapping workshops with the goal to produce a seniors resource guide. Through engaging over 100 seniors and elders from diverse backgrounds, including Musqueam Elders and Newcomer seniors, this project produced the *West Side Seniors & Elders Resource Guide*. The launch of the guide brought together seniors & elders, seniors service providers, the health sector, library staff and the City of Vancouver representatives.



West Side Seniors & Elders Resource Guide

New Community Engagement & Diversity Training!

In this training, participants learn skills and knowledge for fostering a sense of belonging, building inclusive communities and increasing effectiveness in responding to personal and community challenges.

For more information, contact us at 604.879.2402



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To download this guide visit: www.findinghome.ca/services/asset-mapping.html

More Highlights

Visit our blog to learn more about Finding Home™ in Ottawa and how North Shore Seniors are Making Waves in their community.

We recently held Finding Home™ dialogues, keynotes or training at:

- Seniors Services Society
- Kitsilano Neighbourhood House
- Alexandra Neighbourhood House
- John Braithwaite Community Centre
- Gordon Neighbourhood House
- Justice Institute of British Columbia
- University of British Columbia