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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Smoky Lake Secures New Funding to Strengthen Supports for Older Adults**

**Smoky Lake, Alberta** – The Town of Smoky Lake has secured \$577,000 in funding through Healthy Aging Alberta, with support from the Government of Alberta, to strengthen community-based programs and services that support older adults.

The two-year funding will support three coordinated initiatives designed to help seniors remain independent, connected, and supported while continuing to live in their homes and community. Together, these initiatives will strengthen a coordinated network of supports that helps older adults navigate services, reduce social isolation, and access transportation and community programs.

The funded initiatives include Social Prescribing, Community Supports, and Assisted Transportation, which together address key barriers that older adults in rural communities often face, including service navigation, social isolation, and transportation.

“Town of Smoky Lake Council is very pleased to see this investment in our community,” said Marianne Prockiw-Zarusky, Mayor of Smoky Lake. “Supporting seniors to remain active, connected, and independent is an important priority for Smoky Lake, and this funding will help strengthen the programs and services that allow older adults to continue living and contributing in our community.”

Social Prescribing connects older adults experiencing isolation or barriers to services with community programs and supports through a dedicated Link Worker who helps individuals navigate services and access the resources they need. Community Supports strengthens local programs and volunteer initiatives that keep seniors active and socially connected, while Assisted Transportation improves access to medical appointments, essential services, and community life.

“This funding allows us to strengthen and better coordinate the supports available to older adults in our community,” said Rachele Amyotte, Director of Family and Community Support Services (FCSS). “By improving service navigation, strengthening community programs, and addressing transportation barriers, we are building a stronger system of supports that helps seniors remain independent, connected, and supported as they age.”

Healthy Aging Alberta (HAA) is a ‘by community, for community’ initiative working to make Alberta one of the best places to grow older. Their work is led by the Community Leadership Council, powered by United Way Calgary and Area, and generously supported by the Government of Alberta and Waltons Trust. Healthy Aging Alberta connects, strengthens, and amplifies a network of community-based seniors serving (CBSS) organizations, groups, and community allies who are supporting older adults to age on their terms and in the communities they call home.

Program implementation is expected to begin in Spring 2026, with recruitment for program staff beginning in the coming months.



[TownofSmokyLake](#)



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