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# news release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **The Government of Canada supports seniors in Thorsby**

**Thorsby, Alberta January 27, 2010**—Mr. Blaine Calkins, Member of Parliament for Wetaskiwin, today announced \$9,065 in federal support for the Thorsby Senior Citizens Club under the Government of Canada’s New Horizons for Seniors Program.

Mr. Calkins made the announcement on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, and the Honourable Diane Ablonczy, Minister of State (Seniors).

“Seniors have a wealth of knowledge and a lifetime of valuable experiences,” said Mr. Calkins. “By volunteering to teach the young people basic traditional cooking methods, the Thorsby seniors are making a lasting contribution to the community.”

Through the Community Participation and Leadership component of the New Horizons for Seniors Program, the Government of Canada is supporting local projects that enable seniors to contribute to their communities through social participation and active living.

The investment highlighted today falls under the Community Participation and Leadership component of the New Horizons for Seniors Program, which encourages seniors to continue to play an important role in their communities by helping those in need, providing leadership, and sharing their knowledge and skills with others.

With two additional components of the New Horizons for Seniors Program—Capital Assistance and Elder Abuse Awareness—the overall budget of the Program is now \$35 million per year.

Since its beginning, the New Horizons for Seniors Program has funded over 5,500 projects in hundreds of communities across Canada. For more information about the Program, please visit [www.hrsdc.gc.ca/seniors](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/seniors).

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# backgrounder

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## **New Horizons for Seniors Program**

Across Canada, the New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) helps to ensure that seniors are able to actively contribute to and benefit from the quality of life in their communities. The total budget for the NHSP is \$35 million per year.

The Program offers three types of funding to organizations:

1. Community Participation and Leadership funding (up to \$25,000): this funding supports community-based projects across Canada. The projects encourage seniors to continue to play an important role in their communities by helping those in need, providing leadership, and sharing their knowledge and skills with others.
2. Capital Assistance funding (up to \$25,000): this funding helps non-profit organizations that need to upgrade facilities or equipment used for existing seniors' programs and activities. It enables seniors to continue to lead active lives by participating in existing programs and activities in their communities.
3. Elder Abuse Awareness funding (up to \$250,000 ): this funding helps non-profit organizations and coalitions raise awareness of the abuse of older adults on a national or regional level. Through this funding, new educational and awareness resources about elder abuse will be available to improve quality of life, safety and security for seniors.

### **For further information**

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