

# INFORMATION NOTE

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**Title:** Age Friendly Cities

**Date Prepared:** October 31, 2019

**Report To:** His Worship the Mayor and Members of Council

**Councillor and Role:** Councillor Deanne Stapleton

**Ward:** N/A

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**Issue:** Age Friendly Cities

## **Discussion – Background and Current Status:**

### **Key Considerations/Implications:**

The age-friendly sub-committee have been meeting monthly since July working to review the eight domain checklists that the World Health Organization use as a resource to qualify your city as and “Age-Friendly City.” Below are a list and up to date information on each domain checklist.

- **Outdoor Spaces and Buildings-** checklist items were reviewed by Brian Head- Manager of Parks & Open Spaces and Leslie O'Brien- manager of City Buildings. Sub-committee review is ongoing
- **Transportation;** reviewed by sub-committee, still in review
- **Housing;** checklist items reviewed by Judy Tobin- Manager-Housing, reviewed by sub-committee
- **Social Participation;** checklist items reviewed by sub-committee, still in process
- **Respect and Social inclusion;** checklist items reviewed by sub-committee, still in process
- **Civic participation and Employment;** still in review
- **Communication and Information;** checklist items reviewed by Shelley Pardy- Communications & PR Officer, reviewed by sub-committee, still in process
- **Community Support and Health Services;** reviewed by sub-committee, still in process

### **What is an Age Friendly Community, and Why Become Age Friendly?**

We live in an aging community and statistics show that Canada's senior population is growing. Therefore, it is crucial that we support the health and well-being of older Canadians. This allows for older adults to live healthy and active lives and stay involved in their communities.

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In an age-friendly communities, policies, services and structures are designed to help seniors age actively and the community is designed to help seniors live safely, stay healthy and stay involved.

**An age-friendly community:**

- recognizes that seniors have a wide range of skills and abilities;
- understands and meets the age-related needs of seniors;
- respects the decisions and lifestyle choices of seniors;
- protects those seniors who are vulnerable;
- recognizes that seniors have a lot to offer their community; and
- recognizes how important it is to include seniors in all areas of community life

The World Health organization (WHO) Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities was established in 2010. The goal is to connect cities, communities and organizations with the mutual vision of making their community a place to grow old and participate successfully. Ideally this results in adopting policies and services for older adults participate fully and promotes healthy and active ageing.

The mission of the Network is to stimulate and enable cities and communities around the world to become increasingly age-friendly. The Network seeks to do this by:

- inspiring change by showing what can be done and how it can be done;
- connecting cities and communities worldwide to facilitate the exchange of information, knowledge and experience; and
- supporting cities and communities to find appropriate innovative and evidence-based solutions.

Membership to the Network is not an accreditation for age-friendliness. Rather, it reflects cities' commitment to listen to the needs of their ageing population, assess and monitor their age-friendliness and work collaboratively with older people and across sectors to create age-friendly physical and social environments. Membership is also a commitment to share experience, achievements and lessons learnt with other cities and communities.

(<https://extranet.who.int/agefriendlyworld/who-network/>)

**8 key domains to become age friendly:**

- outdoor spaces and buildings;
- transportation;
- housing;
- social participation;

- respect and social inclusion;
- civic participation and employment;
- communication and information; and
- community support and health services

**Key Considerations/Implications:**

1. Budget/Financial Implications
2. Partners or Other Stakeholders
3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans
  - A sustainable City- A City that is sustainable today and for future generations; economically, environmentally and financially
  - A City That Moves- A city that builds a balanced transportation network to get people and goods where they want to go safely
  - A Connected City- A city where people feel connected, have a sense of belonging, and are actively engaged in community life
  - An Effective City- A City that performs effectively and delivers results
4. Legal or Policy Implications
  - n/a
5. Privacy Implications:
  - n/a
6. Engagement and Communications Considerations
  - n/a
7. Human Resource Implications
  - n/a
8. Procurement Implications
  - n/a
9. Information Technology Implications
  - n/a
10. Other Implications

**Conclusion/Next Steps:**

Continue to work closely with sub-committee and other Departments within the City to conclude the review of the 8 domains.

**Prepared by/Date:**

Karen Sherriffs, Community Development Manager – Recreation Division, Department of Community Services

**Reviewed by/Date:**

**Approved by/Date:**

**Attachments:**

Complete required pieces of Application to join the Network  
<https://extranet.who.int/agefriendlyworld/application-form/>