

Request for Decision

P6M Initiative - Change the Definition of an Older Adult

Presented To: Finance and
Administration
Committee

Presented: Tuesday, Nov 17, 2015

Report Date Friday, Nov 06, 2015

Type: Managers' Reports

Recommendation

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury changes the definition of an older adult from 55 to 65 as it relates to the Miscellaneous User Fee Bylaw effective January 1, 2016;

AND THAT the Miscellaneous User Fee Bylaw be amended to reflect this change.

Finance Implications

If approved, \$175,000 of revenue will be added to the 2016 budget; \$130,000 for Transit, \$20,000 for Leisure Services and \$25,000 for Parking Services.

Background

CGS's user fee bylaw currently defines an older adult as 55 years of age or older. During 2015 Budget deliberations, Council deferred the decision to change the definition of an older adult in the user fee bylaw, pending further review.

Current City of Greater Sudbury definition

Prior to amalgamation, there were three definitions for the term older adult - age 55, 60, 65 throughout the former area municipalities for leisure and recreation fees, as well as transit user fees. After five years of trying to harmonize these fees, in 2006, Council approved a universal change to this definition for all services affected; that being age 55.

For leisure services, the lower age rate increased the accessibility to the service and also increased the participation in leisure activities, which assisted the City in trying to achieve improved wellness to the community.

The move from 65 to 55 for transit services was estimated to have a budgeted revenue decrease but the increased ridership would reflect the City as being environmentally friendly.

Accepted definition of a Senior (Older Adult) in Canada

Signed By

Report Prepared By

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In Canada, the Canada Revenue Agency considers a 65 year old individual eligible for Old Age Security (OAS) as well as providing an age exemption for personal income taxes. In 2013, the Government of Canada announced that the age for collecting OAS would gradually increase from 65 to 67 commencing in April 2023.

Seniors Survey

A Seniors Survey Report was commissioned in 2012 that speaks to seniors income, to transit ridership and opinions on what people consider to be "senior". The survey was made up of citizens age 55 and older.

- When asked what age they considered someone to be a "senior", 33% said between the ages of 65-69, 30% said between the ages of 60-64, 25% said between 55 and 59, 8% said 70 or older and 3% said between 50-54.
- 37% of Seniors Survey Respondents indicated that they had a household income of between \$20,000 and \$50,000. 35% had a household income of more than \$50,000, 11% had a household income of under \$20,000 and 17% refused to answer.
- When asked about what method of transportation they used on a daily basis, 82% used a personal vehicle, 9% got a ride in someone else's vehicle, 4% used public transportation and 1% used handi transit.

Population Projections

Appendix 'A' summarizes the population in the City for age groups 55+ and 65+ from 2011 to 2036.

- As of the 2011 Census, there were 48,190 people over the age of 55 and 25,850 people over the age of 65. The population between the ages of 55 and 65 was 22,340.
- By 2036, there are projected to be 60,650 people over the age of 55 and 43,760 over the age of 65. The population between the ages of 55 and 65 in 2036 is projected to be 16,890.
- In terms of proportion of the population of the City, people over the age of 55 represented 29% of the entire population in 2011 and people over the age of 65 represented 15.5% of the population in 2011. The proportion of people between the ages of 55 and 65 represented 13% of the population.
- By 2036, the people over the age of 55 will represent 34% of the total population and people over the age of 65 will represent 25% of the population, with 10% of the population being between the ages of 55 and 65.
- The difference in the number of people between the ages of 55 and 65 will continually drop over the next twenty years, however, the number of people over 55 and over 65 will continue to increase.
- The number of people over the age of 65 will increase almost 70% over the next twenty years.

Survey of other Municipalities

Appendix 'B' reflects a survey that was undertaken by the Council Support Section that compares older adult reductions from varying services amongst a number of municipalities. This survey was presented to the Finance and Administration Committee during the 2015 budget deliberations. As noted, every municipality that responded had a senior defined as 65 for public transit and various ages for Leisure Services. None of these municipalities had any senior's reduction for parking.

Further to this survey, according to the information reported about Ontario transit properties through the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA), only 2 out of 26 transit properties (including Greater Sudbury) have reported an age requirement of 55 years for Older Adult. Three (3) municipalities reported an age requirement of 60, while 21 transit properties reported an age requirement of 65 years. In Northern Ontario, Greater Sudbury is the only property that provides a discount to an older adult between the ages of 55 to 65.

In 2006, the change of the age requirement from 55 to 65 was reviewed by Entra Consultants as part of the Ridership Growth Plan and was not recommended. The consultant estimated that ridership increase would not offset the loss of revenue. The City implemented the Fare Box system after the bylaw change, so staff cannot determine the actual impact (revenue and ridership) since 2006.

The following is a summary of Greater Sudbury 2014 Transit rates compared to two relatives CUTA benchmarks, as outlined below:

Fare Type	2014 CDN Population 50,000 to 150,000 Average	2014 Ontario Average	2014 CGS Rate
Cash - Senior	\$2.37	\$2.76	\$2.15
5/10 Ride - Senior	\$1.81	\$2.01	\$1.70
31 Day Pass - Senior	\$48.53	\$54.66	\$48.00

As outlined in the above table, you will note that the City's fares for Seniors are less than the averages.

Parking

Through a review of the use of the senior's parking reduction, it was revealed that a number of individuals between 55 and 65 that are employed at the City are representing the majority of the uptake of this reduction. Since this initiative was targeting visitors to Tom Davies Square, this initiative is meeting more than the targeted groups; it now seems prudent to eliminate this initiative.

In addition, the City's bylaw also provides a 50% discount for Older Adults (over the age of 55) for parking at Tom Davies Square and YMCA Centre for Life. If the Committee approves the change, the Seniors over the age of 65 will continue to receive the 50% discount at these two lots.

Impact on the 2016 Operating Budget by changing age to 65

It is difficult to project the revenue impacts of this change. However staff's best estimates project an additional \$130,000 for Transit Services, approximately \$20,000 of additional revenue for Leisure Services, and \$25,000 for Parking. This increased parking revenue amount would be contributed to the Parking Improvement Reserve Fund, having no impact on the tax levy. If approved by Council, the revenues will be adjusted in future budgets based on actual results.

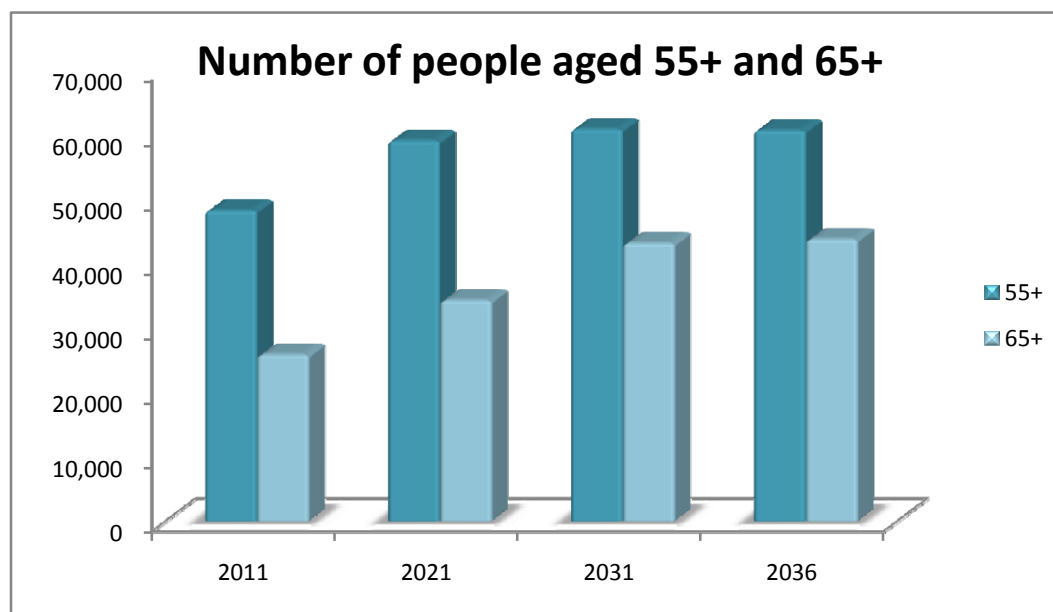
Summary

Increasing the minimum age requirement from 55 to 65 would be in line with a large majority of other municipalities across Ontario.

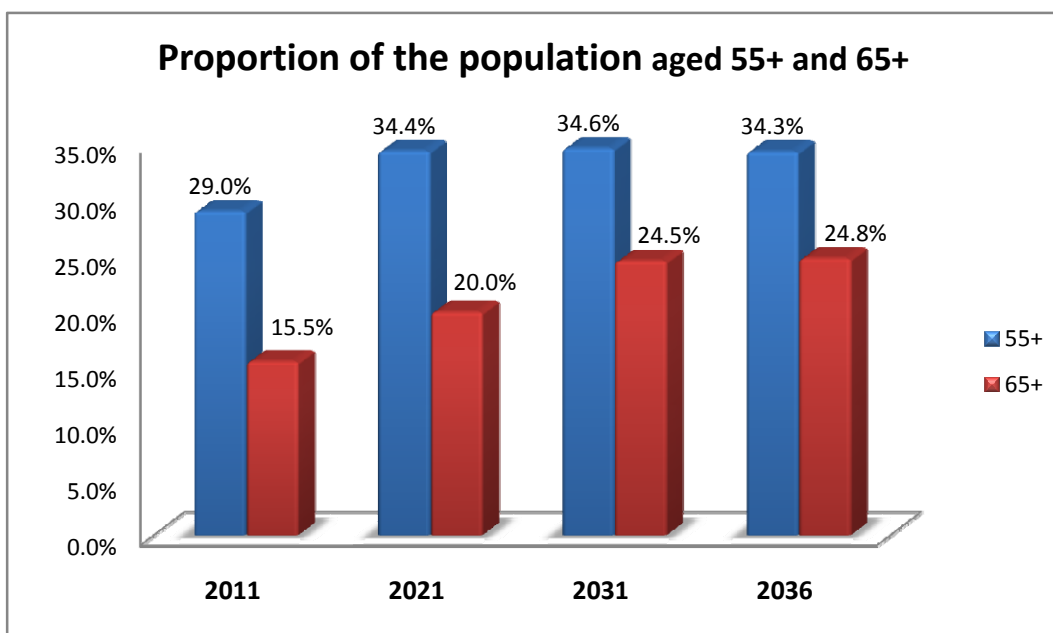
If approved, the Miscellaneous User Fee Bylaw will be amended to incorporate the new definition of older adult. In addition, the 2016 budget will reflect an additional \$175,000 in revenue with \$25,000 being credited to the Parking Improvement Reserve Fund.

Appendix A

Population Aged 55+ and 65+ in the City of Greater Sudbury 2011-2036



Number of People Aged 55+ and 65+	2011	2021	2031	2036
Total Population	166,330	171,750	175,840	176,800
55+	48,190	59,020	60,830	60,650
65+	25,850	34,290	43,140	43,760
Difference	22,340	24,730	17,690	16,890



Proportion of the Population Aged 55+ or 65+				
Age	2011	2021	2031	2036
55+	29.0%	34.4%	34.6%	34.3%
65+	15.5%	20.0%	24.5%	24.8%
Difference	13.4%	14.4%	10.1%	9.6%

Source: Growth Outlook to 2036 - City of Greater Sudbury, Hemson Consulting Ltd, May 2013

Prepared by the Community & Strategic Planning Section, City of Greater Sudbury

12-Jan-15

Appendix 'B'

Definition of a Senior Age of Seniority from Various Ontario Municipalities

Tab	Subject	Website
1	Definition of Senior	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_age
		http://www.senioryears.com/citizen2.html
		http://www.senioryears.com/citizen.html
		http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Senior+Citizens

Tab	City	Website	Property Tax Deferral Program	Leisure Activities	Public Transit	Parking Pass
2	Thunder Bay	www.thunderbay.ca	65	55+	65	No senior discount
3	North Bay	www.cityofnorthbay.ca	65	55+	65	No senior discount
4	Hamilton	www.hamilton.ca	65	55+	65	No senior discount
5	Barrie	www.barrie.ca	65	55+	65	No senior discount
6	Guelph	www.guelph.ca	65	55+	65	No senior discount
7	Ottawa	www.ottawa.ca	65	50+	65	No senior discount
8	Toronto	www.toronto.ca	65	60+	65	No senior discount

The link to the application for a reduced bus pass from the city of Hamilton.

<http://www.hamilton.ca/HealthandSocialServices/SocialServices/SupportPrograms/AffordableTransitPass.htm>

The information in this survey was forwarded by Councillor McIntosh.