

## **Background**

An Age-Friendly Community is defined as a Community that; recognizes that older adults have a wide range of skills/abilities; understands and meets age-related needs of older adults; respects the decisions and lifestyle choices of older adults; protects those whom are vulnerable; recognizes that older adults contribute value to the community; and recognizes the importance of inclusion of older adults in all areas of community life.

Age-Friendly Communities develop policies and maintain infrastructure to be safe and affordable for older adults. This is accomplished by providing - accessible outdoor spaces and public buildings, housing options, accessible roads/walkways, accessible public transportation, health and support services, opportunities to be socially active, volunteer and participate in the community.

The Age-Friendly Steering Committee (Committee) of the Seniors Advisory Panel, conducted a community survey and held public forums. The results were developed into an Age-Friendly Community Action Plan which was presented to Council on November 22, 2017.

<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&id=1137&itemid=13269&lang=en>

## **Age-Friendly Community Action Plan Movement**

This report is an update on the Age-Friendly activities undertaken since November 2017. The Age-Friendly Steering Committee meets monthly to further the Community's Action Plan. On January 24, 2018, the Committee invited community partners, local businesses, Community Action Networks (CANs) and individual older adults to participate in an Age-Friendly Community Planning Session. Over 60 participants provided information and feedback on the kind of actions that the City of Greater Sudbury (City) and other community partners could undertake in order to further the Age-Friendly Community Action Plan. Appendix A - Summary of Considerations provides some short term and long term considerations that were developed during the session.

## **Official Provincial Recognition from the Ministry of Senior Affairs**

On March 26, 2018, the City of Greater Sudbury was recognized by The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario and The Honourable Dipika Dameria, Minister of Senior Affairs with a Category 1- Age-Friendly Community Recognition Award. The inaugural Provincial award recognized the City's leadership in creating a welcoming community that enables seniors to live independent, active and healthy lives. Opportunities for further Category Awards are also available as the City moves through the various actions in obtaining formal Age-Friendly Community Designation.

## **Age-Friendly Presentation to City leadership**

On May 31st, 2018, Ms. Barbara Nott, Chairperson of Seniors' Advisory Panel along with Dr. Birgit Pianosi, Gerontology Professor, Huntington/Laurentian University, and Seniors' Advisory Panel Member, presented the summary of short and long term considerations to the City's Business Leadership Group.

City leaders were encouraged to disseminate the age-friendly information back to respective teams for review and consideration within departmental/sectional individual work plans.

Presenters were engaged by the event dialogue and have invited the Directors from Information Technology and Children and Citizen Services to attend a Seniors Advisory Panel meeting this fall to discuss possible opportunities to action the considerations developed by the Committee.

## **Population Health Community Forum**

On June 20, 2018, a community consultation session was held that included two facilitated World Café visioning sessions for an Age Friendly Strategy. The participants were invited to provide ideas on how ten years forward, Greater Sudbury has become a welcoming City for all ages. The outcomes of the Population Health Forum will be included in a report for Council in the Fall.

## **Next Steps**

Age-Friendly Community Designation and Action Plan status requires the continued support of Council. Through the collaboration of the City, community partners and older adults, the Age-Friendly Community Action Plan will move from a vision to a reality.

The following are the next steps which the City of Greater Sudbury could make towards the formal recognition of Age-Friendliness:

- Where feasible, take steps to seek Age-Friendly Status for the City of Greater Sudbury through implementation of short term considerations identified by the Seniors' Advisory Panel;
- Review of World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Checklist , attached as Appendix B to identify other areas of opportunity for possible implementation;
- Continue working towards actions required to obtain formal Age-Friendly Community Designation, and next level of recognition from the Province ; and
- Seniors' Advisory Panel will continue with community presentations to partners, local businesses and CANs in order to create community awareness of work being done.