

BACKGROUND:

On October 18, 2016, the Seniors Advisory Panel (Panel) updated Council on the Panel's work towards making the City of Greater Sudbury a more Age-Friendly Community. An Age-Friendly Steering Committee was formed as a subcommittee of the Panel and they conducted a community survey and held eleven public forums.

Over 1200 residents of the City of Greater Sudbury completed the survey with respondents ranging in age from 18 to 95. The results from the survey and public forums were developed into an action plan report by the Steering Committee, Appendix 1- City of Greater Sudbury Age-Friendly Community (AFC) Action Plan.

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

The population is aging and therefore it is increasingly more important for communities to establish policies and services that support the health and well-being of older citizens. An Age-Friendly community helps seniors to age actively, live safely enjoy good health and stay involved.

An Age-Friendly community is a community that:

- 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
- recognizes how important it is to include seniors in all areas of community life.

Age-Friendly communities develop policies and maintain infrastructure to be safe and affordable. Age-Friendly communities provide:

- accessible outdoor spaces and public buildings
- safe and affordable housing options for seniors
- accessible roads and walkways
- affordable and accessible public transportation
- health and support services for seniors
- opportunities for seniors to be socially active, volunteer and participate in the community.

PAN-CANADIAN AGE-FRIENDLY PROCESS:

- Establish an advisory committee that includes the active engagement of older adults.
- Secure a local municipal council resolution to actively support, promote and work towards becoming age-friendly.

- Establish a robust and concrete plan of action that responds to the needs identified by older adults in the community.
- Demonstrate commitment to action by publicly posting the action plan.
- Commit to measuring activities, reviewing action plan outcomes and reporting on them publicly.

RECOMENDATIONS BY SENIORS ADVISORY PANEL:

The following items are recommended as action items Seniors Advisory Panel:

1. Move forward in seeking Age Friendly status for the City of Greater Sudbury by using information obtained through the community survey and public consultation sessions as the framework to develop an action plan.
2. That Council continues to provide leadership, support and stewardship through the Seniors Advisory Panel to Mayor & Council for the Pan-Canadian Age Friendly Process as listed above and continue support for the next steps with this initiative.

NEXT STEPS:

1. The upcoming review of the Health Impact Assessment Tool will include the addition of an Age-Friendly lens. The Health Impact Assessment is currently considered on all reports to Council.
2. Members of the Seniors Advisory Panel and its Age-Friendly Steering Committee will be invited to present to City of Greater Sudbury General Managers and their Directors regarding potential action items for consideration in their respective areas.
3. An action plan status report will be prepared in the spring of 2018 regarding short and long term initiatives undertaken for Sudbury to become a more Age-Friendly Community.

CONCLUSION:

Age Friendly status requires the support of Council. This initiative needs to go from a vision to a reality through the development and implementation of action plans. It is through the collaboration of the City, community partners and older adults at large, that the Age Friendly Initiative will contribute to the quality of life and place for all residents.