



Report to: General Committee

Date Report Authored: February 2, 2015

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**SUBJECT:** Age Friendly Community Grant  
**PREPARED BY:** Jason Tsien, Recreation Services, Ext. 7116

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. THAT the Age Friendly Community Grant report be received and;
2. THAT Council support the application of the Age Friendly Community Planning Grant and;
3. THAT Council endorse the development of a local age-friendly planning process and;
4. THAT Staff be authorized and directed to all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to receive support for the application of the Age Friendly Community Planning Grant and to obtain council's endorsement to develop a local age-friendly planning process in its Older Adult Strategy.

**BACKGROUND:**

The new Age-Friendly Community Planning Grant Program will offer a total of up to \$1.5 million over two years for short and longer-term projects that take place between **June 15, 2015 and March 31, 2017**. Funding will support local governments and community organizations to undertake strategic planning with a focus on seniors as outlined in the Age-Friendly Community Planning Guide and lead to the development of local aging plans that will eventually be implemented, evaluated and improved upon. The purpose of this funding is to help communities become age-friendly by ensuring that the needs of seniors are considered at every stage of community planning and development.

**OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:**

The Integrated Leisure Master Plan identifies the aging trend being experienced across Canada. Within the next 10 years, the municipality's older adult population (age 65 and over) will increase by 74%.

Within the ILMP recommendation #153 identifies the need to "Refresh the Older Adults Plan to address the changing needs of residents 55 years of age and over and the anticipated increased demand due to the aging population and the resultant impacts on resources and service delivery, including programs delivered by others.

To assist local communities anticipating this aging trend and its corresponding future demand for service, the Government of Ontario developed the Age-Friendly Community Planning guide. The purpose of this guide is support the establishments of local action

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plans that will support physical and social environments that enable older adults to live active, safe and meaningful lives. This way, older adults can continue to contribute in all areas of community life.

Older adults are an important part of the City of Markham. It is in the interest of both the municipality and the community that these citizens continue to live active lives and participate fully in the community.

The City of Markham Recreation Department accepted the invitation from the Government of Ontario to participate in the Age-Friendly Community Planning strategy and has submitted a grant request. The aim is to work closely with both the community and the commission to build a strategic plan that will adequately support the future demands from Markham's older adult population.

The World Health Organization's framework for Age-Friendly Communities identifies eight aspects of community life that overlap and interact to directly affect older adults. Markham aim to focus its Older Adult Strategy on the following dimensions:

1. Outdoor Spaces and Public Buildings;
2. Transportation;
3. Housing;
4. Social Participation;
5. Respect and Social inclusion;
6. Civic Participation and Employment;
7. Communication and Information;
8. Community Support and Health Services.

The Region of York has also submitted an Age-Friendly community Grant request. We will work in partnership with them in development of the aspects of community life that the World Health Organization includes in an Age-Friendly Community Criteria. A number of the aspects such as outdoor spaces and public buildings, we as the local municipality can directly influence, while other aspects such as transportation we can provide feedback and support but cannot directly influence. Collaboration with the Region will be essential.

Age Friendly Community Planning Grant application requires council support in the planning and delivery of a strategic plan that supports an age-friendly framework. Council resolution must reveal a commitment to support local age-friendly planning and the intention to develop a local action plan.

Social media outreach and print media to diverse older adults group will be used to generate public awareness. The establishment of a steering committee to create guiding principles will help promote an age-friendly community profile to the community.

The establishment of Markham's Older Adult Strategy will be a partnership with the Government of Ontario. The achievement of this recommendation will require an alignment to Markham's existing municipal priorities. Public support will be achieved through community consultations with Markham's diverse community members to help

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interpret the needs from the community. This strategy will also provide an opportunity for seniors to provide feedback towards Markham's action plan.

Application for the Age-Friendly Community grant was due on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015, staff has submitted. The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of application is to seek council approval of the grant request and their support for the initiation of the Older Adult Strategy.

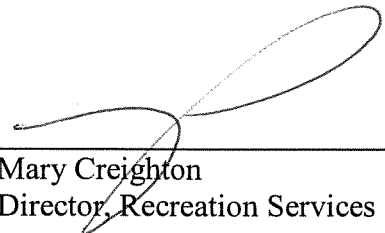
**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND TEMPLATE: (external link)**

Not applicable

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

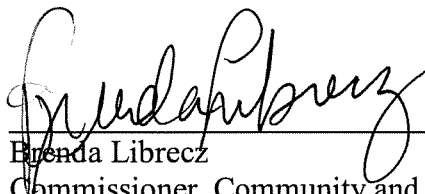
This project is in line with the City's strategic priorities derived from the Integrated Leisure Master Plan (i.e.: enhancement of service delivery systems) as outlined in Building Markham's Future Together.

Furthermore, this project will support the strategic priorities established by the Diversity Action Plan (DAP). The Older Adults Strategy will align its recommendations from the priorities established by DAP. More specifically, a focus will be on continual outreach, volunteerism and senior subsidies.

**RECOMMENDED BY:**

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Mary Creighton  
Director, Recreation Services



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Brenda Librecz  
Commissioner, Community and Fire  
Services

**ATTACHMENTS:**

N/A