

# Calgary Age-Friendly Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

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## Background:

Calgary is home to a rapidly growing aging population. In 2011, the first wave of baby boomers in Calgary turned 65. It is anticipated that over the next 30 years, the number of Calgarians aged 65 and over will triple from approximately 100,000 to over 300,000. In the early 2030s, for the first time in history, Calgary will be home to more older adults than children. The needs, interests and attitudes of baby boomers are expected to be different than previous generations.<sup>1</sup>

In July 2013, Council directed Administration to develop a community wide Seniors Age-Friendly Strategy and implementation plan. The Strategy will utilize the World Health Organization's *Global Age-friendly Cities: A Guide*<sup>2</sup>, which outlines a framework for assessing the age-friendliness of a city.

The guide identifies eight areas that need to be considered when developing an age-friendly city:

1. Outdoor spaces and 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 World Health Organization views aging as a positive process and emphasizes the importance of the active participation and engagement of older adults in community life. A core principle of the Age-friendly Cities initiative is that older adults be involved in the process from engagement and assessment to implementation. In recognition of this principle, the Calgary Age-Friendly Advisory Committee ("Advisory Committee") was created to regularly review all aspects of the development of the Seniors Age-Friendly Strategy and provide input to the Seniors Age-Friendly Strategy Steering Committee ("Steering Committee").

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<sup>1</sup> City of Calgary. (2012). *Older Adult Housing*. Retrieved on 24 March 2014 from <http://www.calgary.ca/PDA/pd/Pages/Current-studies-and-ongoing-activities/Older-adult-housing.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> World Health Organization, (2007), *Global Age-friendly Cities: A Guide*

### **Advisory Committee Vision:**

Older Adults are respected, valued and an integral part of building an age-friendly Calgary.

### **Advisory Committee Purpose:**

To assist in creating an age-friendly city.

### **Advisory Committee Principles:**

- Recognition that older adults are important contributors to our society and a resource, not a burden to society
- A commitment to the direct involvement of older adults in deciding priorities and shaping actions towards creating an age-friendly city
- An emphasis on improving the physical environment and the understanding that where we live greatly affects how we live
- An awareness that age-friendly principles and practices create environments and communities that benefit all age groups: not just older adults
- An understanding that older adults may have different needs, wants and abilities than people of younger ages and might need different supports
- A determination that Calgary will set standards and lead the way for other cities to follow<sup>3</sup>

### **Membership Criteria:**

Members are selected based on the following criteria:

- Live or work in Calgary and have some knowledge of local issues and trends related to older adults.
- Represent a diversity of older age (55 and over), gender, culture, language, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status, education and employment experience, and affiliation with community groups and organizations.
- Demonstrate relevant experience, knowledge, abilities and skills to address the issues as they pertain to the Seniors Age-Friendly Strategy.

Ability to speak a second language is an asset.

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<sup>3</sup> Principles adapted from Louth County, Age Friendly Strategy (2012)

## **Membership Role:**

The role of the members of the Advisory Committee is to carry out the following functions:

- Learn more about what it takes to become an age-friendly city.
- Act as a resource and provide advice on issues related to the eight key areas identified by the World Health Organization.
- Collect input from community contacts about concerns and interests related to Calgary's aging population to inform recommendations to the Steering Committee.

## **Membership Responsibility:**

Members are expected to:

- Attend monthly meetings with regularity and punctuality.
- Thoroughly familiarize themselves with the agenda materials in preparation for active participation in discussion.
- Raise any senior-related concerns which they have observed or which have been brought to their attention by community members.

## **Decision Making:**

Decisions will be made using a consensus model. Decisions will be considered final when all Advisory Committee members:

- Have been engaged.
- Have been listened to and heard.
- Can live with the results of the decision.

## **Meetings:**

The Advisory Committee will meet monthly from April 2014 to May 2015.