

City of Waterloo



Mayor Brenda Halloran

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Dr. Charles Petitot
Ageing and Life Course (ALC)
Family and Community Health (FCH)
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland

April 26, 2011

Dear Dr Petitot

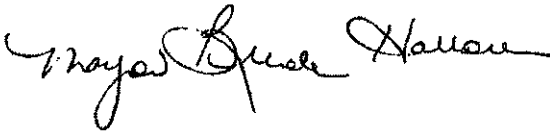
As Mayor of the City of Waterloo, it gives me great pleasure to write this letter that supports the process required for the City of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada to join the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities. Without hesitation, I can assure that we are strongly committed to the process of initiating, continually assessing and improving the age-friendliness of our city. On November 30, 2009, I proudly hosted the "Waterloo Becoming an Age Friendly City" forum. As a result of that well-attended forum, The Waterloo Mayor's Advisory committee on Age-Friendly Cities was established. This committee is comprised of city staff, university professors, health care professionals, representatives from seniors' groups, and other volunteers who are committed to making Waterloo age-friendly. Here is brief summary of our city's progress to date:

1. **Establishment of mechanisms to involve older people.** Our city has initiated committees comprised of community constituents that mirror the eight themes of the WHO's Global Age-friendly Cities Guide. These committees have developed their own terms of references for each theme and are beginning to develop and prioritize action plans.
2. **A baseline assessment of the age-friendliness of the city.** In concert with our senior city planner, an assessment tool based on the World Health Organization guide was developed to assess how age-friendly Waterloo is now. This was presented at a morning workshop for seniors. Data were collected and analyzed by our university representative.
3. **Development of a city-wide action plan based on the findings of this assessment.** Our advisory committee aims to create a city where all residents age safely, enjoy good health and participate fully in their community. The advisory committee guides and co-ordinates the process of Waterloo becoming an age-friendly city by engaging community members, including older adults. Inclusion of city staff and planners ensures that action plans will be viable and relevant to the community.

4. **Identification of indicators to monitor progress against this plan.** Working in partnership with Dr. John Lewis, University of Waterloo, we are working to translate the data from our survey to determine priorities to make Waterloo more age-friendly. It is our intention to develop a city wide action plan to address the priorities, and to secure funding for the evaluation of the age-friendly city projects. Our plan includes the development of outcome measures to continually assess and improve the age-friendliness of our city.

I am truly inspired and excited about the work being done by this committee and look forward to Waterloo joining the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mayor Brenda Halloran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brenda" being the most prominent part.

Mayor Brenda Halloran
City of Waterloo