
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Tel: (807) 625-3600
Fax (807) 623-1164

July 25, 2011

Mrs. Charlotte Wristberg
World Health Organization
Department of Ageing and Life Course (ALC)
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva 27

Dear Mrs. Wristberg:

We are pleased to enclose the City of Thunder Bay's application to join the global network of age-friendly cities.

Over the past five years, Thunder Bay's Age-Friendly Project has formed a committee of dedicated stakeholders with the goal of ensuring that Thunder Bay will be a good place to grow old. The group has been working together to create a vision, communicate and educate, support research and information dissemination; establish priorities for action; provide advice to city and community partners and coordinate initiatives to optimize the use of resources.

They have succeeded in creating a vision and have formed a committee with close to 50% senior representation. The stakeholder committee membership includes Lakehead University research team at the Centre for Education and Research on Aging and Health; representatives from the Retired Teachers of Ontario, Aboriginal Health, the 55 Plus Centre, City of Thunder Bay, Police Services, Thunder Bay Public Library, Ontario Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, St. Joseph's Care Group, United Way, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, Canadian Red Cross, Lakehead Social Planning Council and others.

On May 10, 2010, City Council resolved: "With respect to the report of the Age Friendly Thunder Bay Stakeholder Committee we recommend that City Council endorse the Committee's efforts to have the City of Thunder Bay declared Age Friendly; and that the City of Thunder Bay join the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global network of Age-Friendly Cities and support community effort to develop a three year action plan that will set out goals and strategies for achieving international Age-Friendly status."

This group has accomplished a great deal, but there is a great deal more to be done. Some key elements of the draft Action Plan include submitting the attached application for recognition as a member of the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities. The Action Plan will also investigate securing funding from the Trillium Foundation to move the project forward. Additional actions include working on a housing strategy, seeking input from seniors in the City of Thunder Bay Transit Study, working with our local Crime Prevention Council and appointing an Older Adults Advocate to ensure a voice at the City Council table.

Thank you for your consideration of our application. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith P. Hobbs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Keith P. Hobbs, Mayor
City of Thunder Bay

Encl.