



Town of Whitby
Community and Marketing Services Department
575 Rossland Road East, Whitby, ON L1N 2M8
www.whitby.ca

November 1, 2016

Diane Wu and Alana Officer
WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC)
Department of Ageing and Life Course (ALC)
Main Building
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Re: Renewal of Membership in the WHO's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities

November 1, 2016

Dear Ms. Wu and Ms. Officer:

The Corporation of the Town of Whitby is pleased to submit this letter expressing our desire to maintain our membership in the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. We became members in December 2014, and wish to extend our participation in this important initiative.

The Town of Whitby sees great value in being a part of the WHO's Global Network and showing our commitment to our older adult population by being an Age-Friendly Community.

Since we first became a member, we have received a grant from the Province of Ontario to develop an Age-Friendly Whitby Action Plan. Members of Whitby Council approved the framework for this plan and an Age-Friendly Whitby Steering Committee including staff, community partners and seniors was created.

This committee has conducted a large amount of community consultation reviewing all of the eight dimensions plus an additional dimension focusing on Emergency Preparedness. Consultation included a community survey, stakeholder focus groups and public information meetings.

We received a large amount of input and are now developing and prioritizing recommendations to create our Age-Friendly Whitby Action Plan. We anticipate having Council endorsement and publication of the plan in early 2017.

As per the requirements to maintain our membership, we have submitted two Age-Friendly practices to the WHO's Age-Friendly Practices database:

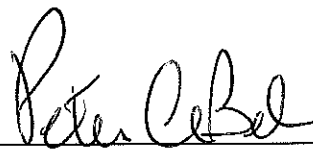
- 1) The Elder Abuse Awareness initiative in which six older adult volunteers were trained to reach out and educate the community on identifying the signs of elder abuse and how it can be prevented; and,
- 2) The establishment of Bicycle Visitor Information Centres as part of the Ontario By Bike Program to demonstrate our commitment to being an active and bicycle friendly community.

Please accept this letter of support demonstrating our commitment and desire to extend our membership in the World Health Organization's Global Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

Sincerely,



Don Mitchell
Mayor



Peter LeBel
Commissioner of Community and
Marketing Services