



Randy R. Hope



Municipality of Chatham-Kent

July 13, 2015

World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Dear Madam/Sir:

RE: GLOBAL NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

At its meeting of June 15, 2015, Chatham-Kent Council received a presentation regarding the Age Friendly Chatham-Kent 2015 Community Action Plan and approved the following recommendations:

1. **The Age Friendly Chatham-Kent 2015 Action Plan be accepted as written.**
2. **Administration investigate the means by which each department can contribute toward meeting the goals and recommendations contained in the Action Plan.**
3. **The Municipality register Chatham-Kent with the World Health Organization (WHO), and apply to join its "Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Network", at no cost, and commit to the obligations of membership.**
4. **It be a priority of Council for Chatham-Kent to become an age-friendly community, as required by the WHO, and that administration submit a letter with the application to join the WHO's Network stating this priority.**
5. **Administration prepare a Report to Council to facilitate and support a permanent Age Friendly Advisory Committee responsible for coordinating and promoting Age Friendly Initiatives and evaluation activities.**

According to WHO, the "obligations of membership" include:

- a) Submitting an application
- b) Submitting along with the application, a letter from the Mayor and Administration indicating their commitment to the Network cycle of continual improvement
- c) Commence the Network cycle of four steps:
 1. Establish mechanisms to involve older people throughout the Age Friendly cycle of improvement;

- 2. Develop a baseline assessment of age-friendliness of the community;**
- 3. Develop a three year community wide action plan based on the findings of this assessment; and**
- 4. Identify indicators to monitor progress against this plan.**

The Age Friendly Chatham-Kent Action Plan was created by the Chatham-Kent Senior Advisory Committee following extensive input from the general public and in consultation with experts and service providers at all levels of community and from all regions of the Municipality.

Planning is already underway to establish an Age Friendly Advisory Committee. As noted in the recommendations, the Committee will be responsible for coordinating and promoting Age Friendly Initiatives, and utilizing the Network cycle of four steps, work to engage private business, the not-for-profit sector, the faith community, and families within Chatham-Kent to make the community welcoming, inclusive, accessible, and respectful of persons of all ages and abilities.

As noted in the Plan, the Plan is a call to action. Council is cognizant that this is not a short-term project with a defined end point, but an evolutionary process. It is designed to be evaluated and updated in three or five year increments so that it can grow with the community and keep pace with social and technological change.

On behalf of Council, we are pleased to commit to having Chatham-Kent become an Age Friendly community and part of an international program that aims to foster healthy, active and inclusive aging for all people, at all stages of life.

Sincerely,



Randy R. Hope
Mayor/CEO
Municipality of Chatham-Kent



Don Shropshire
Chief Administrative Officer
Municipality of Chatham-Kent