

Progress on the Toronto Seniors Strategy Version 1.0

Date: February 14, 2018

To: Community Development and Recreation Committee

From: Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration

Wards: All

SUMMARY

There are now more seniors living in Toronto than children. The growth in the seniors population is expected to accelerate in coming years. By 2031, one quarter of the City's population will be over the age of 60. The City recognizes that there are policy, service and resource implications to this significant demographic shift. At the same time, the increased life expectancy is a triumph and we all benefit from the energy, resilience and contribution of Toronto seniors.

In 2013, City Council approved the Toronto Seniors Strategy Version 1.0. As a result of Version 1.0 and the progress of implementation, in 2016 Toronto was recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a Global Age-Friendly City.

Version 1.0 of the Toronto Seniors Strategy set out 91 recommended actions across the eight WHO age-friendly domains. It included recommendations for many new programs, services and facilities to support the growing senior population. To date, 90 of the 91 recommended actions have been implemented.

Building on the success and momentum of Version 1.0, the City is working with seniors, caregivers, the Toronto Seniors Forum, community service providers, academics and researchers, hospitals, local businesses, school boards, advocacy groups and federal and provincial partners and other constituents on Version 2.0 which will be submitted to Committee and Council in Spring 2018.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration recommends that:

1. Community Development and Recreation Committee receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

The Acting Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

On April 12, 2011, City Council directed the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for seniors in consultation with other levels of government, school boards, relevant community organizations and individuals, businesses and academia that is adequately funded, financially feasible and able to be implemented. City Council also requested that the strategy include helping seniors remain in their own homes longer.

(<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2011.CD2.4>)

On May 7, 2013, City Council unanimously adopted the Toronto Seniors Strategy: Towards an Age-Friendly City and directed the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Toronto Seniors Strategy and provide annual progress reports to the Community Development and Recreation Committee.

(<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.CD20.1>)

On December 9, 2015, City Council adopted the first Progress Report on the Toronto Seniors Strategy and appointed a Member of Council as Seniors Advocate for the City of Toronto. (<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.CD8.1>)

On November 29, 2016, Community Development and Recreation Committee adopted a Progress Report on the Implementation of Toronto Seniors Strategy 1.0

(<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.CD16.8>)

This is the third progress report on Toronto Seniors Strategy Version 1.0.

COMMENTS

Background

On May 7, 2013, City Council unanimously adopted the *Toronto Seniors Strategy: Towards an Age-Friendly City* ("Version 1.0") as the City's first integrated Age-Friendly Cities (AFC) Action Plan. It sets out 91 recommended actions across the eight World Health Organization age-friendly domains. Each recommendation clearly identifies the lead City Division or Agency responsible, the timeline for implementation and progress measure. This is part of an accountability mechanism that includes annual reports to the Community Development and Recreation Committee on the status of each recommended action - whether it is fully, partially or not implemented and why.

This is the third Progress Report. After four and a half years, 90 of the 91 recommended actions have been implemented – 67 are fully completed, 23 are partially completed and one is not completed. This is a 99% implementation rate.

This report highlights accomplishments to date and describes the work underway to co-create Version 2.0 with the Toronto Seniors Strategy Accountability Table of seniors, caregivers, the Toronto Seniors Forum, community service providers and funders, local businesses, school boards, academics and researchers, hospitals, long-term care homes and federal and provincial partners.

Version 1.0

In 2011, Council adopted a motion directing staff in Social Development, Finance and Administration to lead the development of a strategy to prepare for the demographic shift that was to be comprehensive, adequately funded, financially feasible and able to be implemented.

Social Development, Finance and Administration (SDFA) began the work by identifying seniors-specific recommendations that were adopted by Council since amalgamation. This process uncovered 246 seniors-related recommendations adopted by Council since amalgamation.

SDFA staff followed up to determine if these 246 recommendations were fully, partially or not implemented and found a strong negative correlation between implementation and distance from Council authority. Overall, recommendations directed at the City and falling within its direct jurisdictional authority to implement produced the highest level of implementation. For this reason, the Toronto Seniors Strategy focuses on issues that fall within the City's authority to plan, manage and deliver.

Version 1.0 also committed to redress these gaps by requiring that staff report to Community Development and Recreation Committee annually on the progress of implementation. This set a new standard of accountability and transparency at the City.

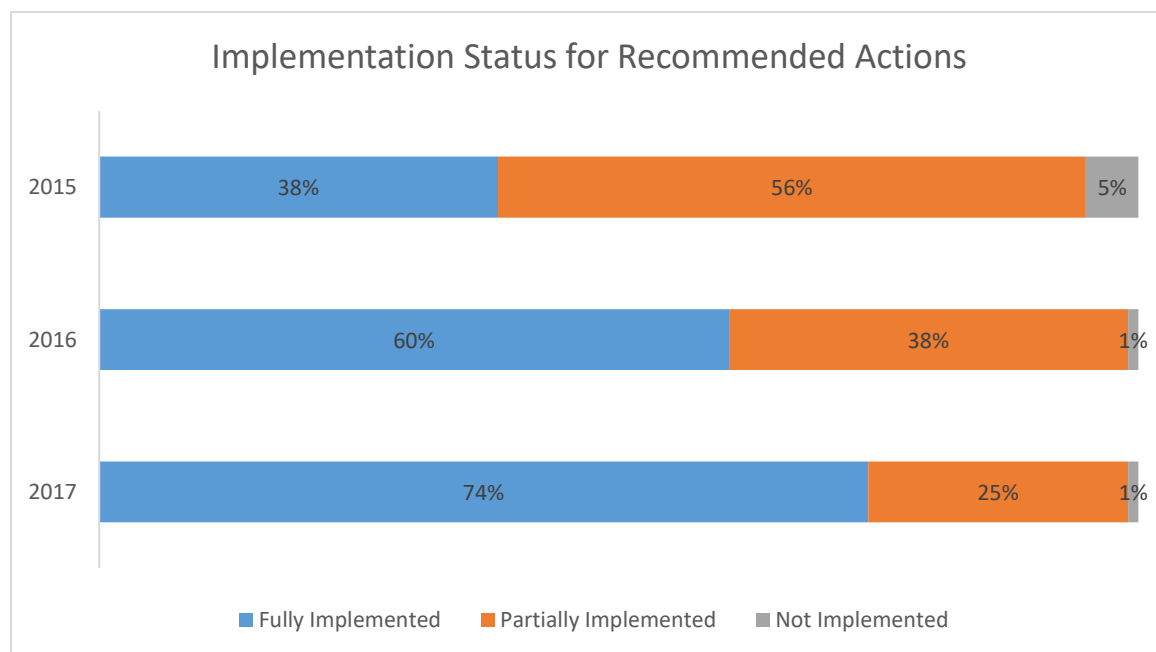
Version 1.0 was unanimously adopted by Council on May 7, 2013. It contained 91 recommended actions across eight World Health Organization age-friendly domains.

This is the third report on the progress of the Toronto Seniors Strategy Version 1.0 since Council adoption.

Version 1.0 – Successes

The following diagram illustrates the progress of implementation to date. As the chart illustrates, continued progress has been made on many of the recommended actions, with 74% now fully implemented and only 1% reporting no progress toward implementation.

Figure 1: Implementation Status for Recommended Actions



The following are some examples of actions taken as result of the Toronto Seniors Strategy that have made a demonstrable difference in the lives of older Torontonians:

- A Guide to Services for Seniors in Toronto directory.
- An action plan to address social isolation among Asian seniors in Kensington-Chinatown.
- Dedicated Community Paramedics to address the needs of frail, vulnerable and often homebound seniors living in Toronto Community Housing.
- A new table of seniors, City staff and community partners reporting directly to the Chief of Police on how to improve police service for seniors.
- Blue priority seating on all TTC buses, streetcars and subway trains to replace the former 'courtesy' seating.

- 500+ new benches in City parks.
- 1,200 new benches on City streets placed mostly around seniors residences and community centres.
- Digital life skills training for seniors at in Toronto libraries.
- Increased access to library reading materials in accessible formats like large print and audiobooks.
- Delivered 370 health and wellness programs for seniors at the Library, including senior targeted financial programming on such topics as Retirement Planning on a Low Income, identify theft and estate planning.
- 430 new affordable homes for low-income seniors.
- Through the Official Plan policies, secured or replaced over 3,500 affordable rental units.
- Increased education on fall prevention strategies to caregivers and allied health professionals working with seniors.
- Provided longer walk times at intersection crossings - re-timed 2,247 (96%) of the City's 2,325 traffic signals.
- An employment focused workshop specifically targeted to older workers.
- Redeveloped Kipling Acres, a 337 bed long-term care home with a convalescent care program, short-stay respite beds and community hub including an Adult Day Program, Early Learning & Child Care Centre and Seniors Centre
- Coordinated the annual Toronto Challenge run and walk helping 40+ non-profit organizations raise funds to improve the quality of life for Toronto seniors.

A detailed list of the 91 recommended actions, the City Division or Agency responsible, the status (fully, partially or not implemented), and a description of action taken to date is attached in Appendix A.

Version 2.0 Co-Creation with the Toronto Seniors Strategy Accountability Table

Following direction from Council in 2015 to develop Version 2.0, the internal Technical Working Group and external Seniors Expert Panel were combined to form the Seniors Strategy Accountability Table with an expanded role. The role of the Seniors Expert Panel in Version 1.0 was to provide advice and input to the staff leading its development. In contrast, the role of the Seniors Strategy Accountability Table in Version 2.0 is to co-create the recommendations with City staff on an equal footing.

The Toronto Seniors Strategy Accountability Table is made up of over 60 City staff and community members from all sectors related to ageing and seniors issues in Toronto including seniors, caregivers, community agencies serving seniors, advocacy, equity and diversity organizations, academic and research partners, local businesses, school boards, community funders, hospitals and relevant government partners all levels.

The Seniors Strategy Accountability Table membership is attached in Appendix B.

Over 10,000 seniors and caregivers in Toronto have been engaged as part of the extensive and inclusive community engagement process to inform the development of Version 2.0. In partnership with the Seniors Strategy Accountability Table the City

reached 3,000 people through 85 consultation meetings. Another 7,000 were engaged through a survey tool designed to better understand the needs and concerns of Toronto's seniors.

Version 2.0 will be submitted to Committee and Council in Spring 2018.

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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Progress on Toronto Seniors Strategy Version 1.0
Appendix B: Toronto Seniors Strategy Accountability Table Membership