



John Tory

Mayor

October 19, 2015

Ageing and Life-Course
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Dear Dr. John Beard:

I am pleased to submit the City of Toronto's application to join the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

The City of Toronto is Canada's sixth largest government and the largest municipality. With almost 2.8 million people and more than 100 languages spoken, Toronto is one of the most diverse cities in the world.

Over the next two decades, the number of seniors living in Toronto is anticipated to rise by up to 60%. These older Torontonians are highly diverse, a factor which may intersect with and amplify the challenges of aging. In order to prepare for this demographic shift and ensure Toronto remains a safe, affordable and accessible city for everyone, City Council directed staff to work with community partners and experts to develop a plan for Toronto to become an Age-Friendly City in April 2011. After two years of public and stakeholder consultations, *The Toronto Seniors Strategy* was unanimously adopted by Council in May 2013.

The Toronto Seniors Strategy: Towards an Age-Friendly City, is a bold, achievable plan to create an Age-Friendly Toronto by supporting people of all ages, including older Torontonians, to be able to live independent, socially engaged, healthy and active lives. Each of the 91 recommended actions in the Strategy is aligned with the WHO age-friendly themes and has an identified City Lead, a time frame for completion (1, 2-3 or 5+ years), and a progress measure to measure implementation. Toronto's plan was developed in tandem with Dr. Samir K. Sinha, a national leader in aging and lead for the Ontario Seniors Strategy.

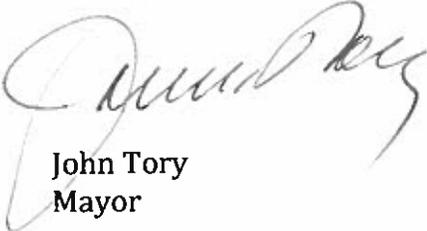
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Since October 2014, Toronto has taken a number of steps to put our plan into action. We have convened an inter-sectoral Accountability Table for the *Toronto Seniors Strategy*, with community leaders, provincial government partners, hospitals, advocacy organizations, funders, academic institutions, and the community sector, who work alongside City Agencies involved in managing and delivering services for seniors in Toronto. The Table ensures the City remains accountable and responsive to community needs. It is co-chaired by the Lead for the Toronto Seniors Strategy and the Lead for the Ontario Seniors Strategy.

During this term of Council, we have implemented approximately ninety percent of the Plan, including extensive staff training on how to recognize and provide effective customer service to vulnerable Torontonians, a new guide for programs and services for seniors, an expanded Community Paramedicine program to ensure residents are connected to the community support services they need, and many more detailed in the full application accompanying this letter.

The City of Toronto's Age-Friendly Strategy builds upon the global leadership of the World Health Organization by taking a collective impact approach to ensure seniors remain a vital part of Toronto's civic and community life and have the necessary supports to age in place in communities and contexts of their choosing with dignity, health and independence. We look forward to joining the WHO Age-friendly Cities and Communities Network, to bring what we have learned forward into the global arena.

Sincerely,



John Tory
Mayor