



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MELISSA BLAKE

May 7, 2015

World Health Organization

**RE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION GLOBAL NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY
CITIES AND COMMUNITIES LETTER OF COMMITMENT**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to provide this letter of commitment to support the application by the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo to join the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

Recently, Regional Council unanimously approved a request by the Council-Appointed Advisory Committee on Aging (ACOA) to pursue the Age-Friendly designation. We recognize that across the globe the older population is increasing and that this demographic trend will have significant implications for the wellbeing of our residents and the sustainability of our community.

We want to ensure active and healthy lifestyles for every citizen, including older people and those with disabilities. We are dedicated to providing opportunities for all residents to participate in the community, share their experience and contribute their knowledge and skills.

Partnerships with and collaboration between the public and private sectors, non-profit organizations and the community at large are essential to the development of an age-friendly region. Building a community that is inclusive and meets the changing needs of residents as they age will improve the quality of life for all residents and their families.

On behalf of Regional Council, I endorse ACOA's vision and mandate, and wish the best for its members in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Melissa Blake
Mayor

May 7, 2015

World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

**RE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION GLOBAL NETWORK OF AGE-FRIENDLY
CITIES AND COMMUNITIES LETTER OF COMMITMENT**

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Administration, I am pleased to provide this letter of commitment to support the application by the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo to join the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Recently, the Council-Appointed Advisory Committee on Aging (ACOA) brought forward a request to pursue the WHO Age-Friendly designation and it was unanimously approved by Mayor and Councillors.

We want to ensure active and healthy lifestyles for every citizen, including older people and those with disabilities. We are dedicated to providing opportunities for all residents to participate in the community, share their experience and contribute their knowledge and skills.

In practical terms, an age-friendly community adapts its structures and services to include and be accessible to older people with varying needs and capacities. Cross-departmental engagements are underway to assess what is already taking place and what needs to happen as we move forward.

Partnerships and collaboration between the public and private sectors, non-profit organizations and the community at large are essential. Our dedication to building a community that is inclusive and meets the changing needs of residents as they age will certainly improve the quality of life for all residents and their families.

The WHO Age-Friendly designation will guide our region in improving and maintaining quality standards in the eight core areas:

- Outdoor spaces and buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Social participation
- Respect and social inclusion
- Civic participation and employment
- Communication and information
- Community support and health services

Administration is committed to working collaboratively within our organization and with other stakeholders to achieve the WHO Age-Friendly designation. Administration will continue to support ACOA's vision of a region where our citizens can "age with dignity" and call our Municipality "a great place to grow old."

Sincerely,



Bob Couture
Executive Director
Community and Protective Services