



Office of the Mayor

March 14, 2019

WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities
Avenue Appia 20
1202 Geneva
SWITZERLAND

Dear Selection Committee,

Re: City of Maple Ridge application to WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities

On behalf of the City of Maple Ridge, I am pleased to support the above referenced application to the World Health Organization Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities (WHO GNAFCC).

The City has been involved in Age-friendly planning since 2008 when extensive consultation began as part of the Age-friendly Communities Initiative. In collaboration with the Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows and Katzie Seniors Network planning table, the City brought together residents and stakeholders to look at optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life for aging residents. To achieve this, the City endorsed a comprehensive Age-friendly Communities Initiative report, an Action Plan and an Implementation Plan, with many of the action items now well underway or close to completion. City staff continue to research best practices and implement and advocate for programs and services that are inclusive and accessible for our citizens.

Maple Ridge is the third fastest growing city in the Metro Vancouver region. Based on 2016 Statistics Canada reports, it is anticipated that the senior population in Maple Ridge will grow by 62% in the next ten years, compared to 53% in the overall Fraser Health Region. By 2019, it is projected that 20% of residents will be over 65, 8% will be over 75, and 2% over 85. This demonstrates the importance of the work we are doing today to ensure that current and future citizens feel welcome and safe to participate fully in community life at any age.

Growing communities require municipalities to respond to diverse needs in a timely manner, and providing opportunities for healthy, active living is one of local governments' most important roles. The City of Maple Ridge is therefore committed to continuing our work in this area.

In closing, I thank you for the opportunity to submit this application to the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Morden
Mayor

cc: Dan Ruimy, MP, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows-Mission
Honourable Lisa Beare, MLA, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows
Bob D'Eith, MLA, Maple Ridge-Mission
City of Maple Ridge