

January 25, 2022

World Health Organization

To Whom it May Concern:

The Seniors Advisory Committee of the City of St. John's, Newfoundland Labrador, Canada, provides information and advice to City Council and Executive Management on matters related to seniors that intersect City policies and programs. Specifically, the committee:

- Provides the perspective of seniors on civic matters that affect their daily lives, i.e., transportation, parks, and open spaces, etc.
- Provides advice and perspective to the City on its policies, services and programs that pertain to seniors, e.g., housing, recreation, taxes, etc.
- Identifies gaps/barriers and suggests solutions to participation of seniors in all aspects of city programs and services.
- Provides a forum for dialogue amongst seniors, seniors' organizations, and the City on matters relevant to the three parties.

I am thrilled to say that as of December 9, 2021, our Municipal Council approved the Seniors Advisory Committee to move forward with their actions to engage our city to become more age friendly. It was evident through the presentation and cross-sectional analysis that this Committee is committed to fostering healthy and active aging to the residents of St John's. The Seniors Advisory Committee and City Council are committed to making our city more age-friendly through the following actions:

- **Development of Age-Friendly Policy** - to help guide city decision making at all department levels.
- **Improved Communication** - to assess, determine and implement best practices with regards to communication with the senior population in the city.
- **Intergenerational Programming** - to bridge the gap between children, youth, and seniors by supporting opportunities for intergenerational activities within our city.
- **Housing** – as the demand for affordable housing is rising for our older adult population, to ensure that the City's Affordable Housing Strategy is communicated to all residents.
- **Voice of Seniors** - the committee with guidance from City staff will continue to seek opportunities to engage with seniors on civic matters that enhance healthy aging within our city.
- **Diverse Representation** - to ensure that diverse populations within our city are represented in the overall Age-Friendly plan, including revising our committee terms of reference to engage the voice and representation of diverse populations.

# ST. JOHN'S

The Seniors Advisory Committee is, without doubt, one of the most engaged committees of our Council. They have a wide range of expertise in the membership, have fostered many community relationships with other like-directed organizations, have extended their outreach on seniors' issues to consult with expert community resource persons, and have elevated the focus on seniors' issues that recognizes the aging demographic of our citizens.

To reach the point of presenting their work to our City Council, the Committee has been involved in engagement sessions, hosted events and are liaisons with community partners that assess and evaluate issues such as housing, age-friendliness, transportation, and outdoor spaces. Seniors are making valuable contributions to our community and the City recognizes this throughout the year through awards, promotions and events.

They have now put forward their recommendations to Council and as these align with the City's Strategic Plan "Our City, Our Future." Our Council was very excited and energized to advance this work to the World Health Organization.

As we continue to work together toward improving the age-friendliness of our city, I look to the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities for your continued support and recognition of our work.

Sincerely,



Mayor Danny Breen  
City of St. John's

**ST. JOHN'S**