

**Community Development Department
Recreation and Culture Division**
The City of Cambridge
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September 1, 2022

World Health Organization
Global Network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities

Re: Letter of Support

On behalf of the City of Cambridge, I am pleased to offer this letter of commitment to our ongoing effort toward creating an inclusive community and respectfully request membership to the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities.

The City of Cambridge recognizes the importance of encouraging and implementing age-friendly planning and policies that will promote independent and purposeful living, support active, healthy lifestyles and sustain economic and social vitality. We intend to ensure that Cambridge is advancing public and aging policy goals of the World Health Organization's eight domains. We take pride in the current initiatives and support systems already established in our community and look forward to developing our own Age-Friendly strategy to meet the needs of the changing demographics.

Our current strategic plan was based on extensive community engagement beginning in early 2020 and was approved by Council in January 2021. It identified our interconnected goals of People, Place, Prosperity and includes an enhanced focus on the theme of Public Value.

Our Goals

People: Foster a community with heart, where everyone belongs and is cared for

Place: Embrace and celebrate our city’s unique character while enhancing the spaces where people connect

Prosperity: Build a vibrant and resilient city where current and future generations will live well

Our Commitment to Public Value

We will emphasize the importance of sustainability, leadership, collaboration, transparency and engagement as we deliver service excellence and promote pride of place.

For more detailed descriptions of these principles and how they relate to our work, review the full strategic plan document.

Our Actions

In October 2021 Cambridge City Council considered a staff report to apply to the World Health Organization for the City to become recognized as an Age Friendly Community. Council heard significant public input in support of the application and approved the motion.

In May 2021 Cambridge City Council approved thirteen new strategic actions that will guide the City’s work over the next several years. One of those actions was a commitment to provide age-friendly services that are accessible to all.

The City of Cambridge is committed to making sure that older adults in our community are able to remain healthy and age in place successfully; participating in initiatives that aim to address all of the dimensions of wellness as we continue our work toward ensuring social participation and inclusion

We are committed to providing the necessary infrastructure to allow our citizens to age with dignity. We look forward to working with the Cambridge Council on Aging, and the Waterloo Region Age-Friendly Committee, volunteers, and stakeholders to create a plan of action for the Corporation that reflects the needs of our community.

Yours truly,



Kathryn McGarry
Mayor