

July 2023

World Health Organization (WHO) Avenue Appia 20 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland

RE: Town of Caledon's Letter of Commitment for WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities membership

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pride I pen this Letter of Commitment and humbly request the Town of Caledon join the WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC). As Mayor of the Town of Caledon, located in Ontario, Canada, I can assure you that we are committed to age-friendliness for our 55+ population. Together with residents, Town staff and Council, we have implemented policy and spearheaded initiatives that ensure Caledon is an age-friendly community where older residents can age well and age in place.

The Town of Caledon is just one hour north of Toronto and home to growing communities and charming villages, with a rich history and renowned natural beauty. Our population is forecasted to increase exponentially by 2033 and, with that, our population will age. In 2023, Caledon's population reached over 82,000 residents with an estimated 30% over the age of 55 and 15% over the age of 65. Our dedication to an age-friendly community is vital to keep our residents safe, happy and supported.

In 2021, Caledon adopted a 10-year <u>Age-Friendly Caledon (AFC) Action Plan</u> with the vision of Caledon being a safe, welcoming, and inclusive community that celebrates the diverse needs of all residents, regardless of age. The AFC Action Plan strives to connect Caledon's older adults to their friends, family and neighbours through a range of programs, services and accessible public spaces that promote active living, social engagement and life-long learning.

Age-Friendly Caledon is a collective effort to support the community as it ages. Although the municipality is taking the lead on initiatives outlined in this plan, it was developed in collaboration with residents, staff, volunteers and community partners to ensure Caledon's future as a place where residents want to live and age. The plan identifies several goals that will encourage healthy, inclusive and accessible lifestyles for older adults throughout the Town.

The Town of Caledon is always looking towards and preparing for the future. Since 2021, the Town has committed to building a community that encourages ageing well and ageing in place. As we continue to grow, our commitment to the wellbeing of older adults and age-friendly practices will ensure that we are a complete community. Over the years, we have participated in local and national age-friendly networks to share resources, best practices and to learn from others.

We are excited to contribute to the GNAFCC and look forward to building our engagement to a global scale. By joining the GNAFCC, we commit to continuing to work collaboratively towards an age-friendly world.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Annette Groves Mayor of Caledon

TOWN OF CALEDON