

Mayor Jim Diodati



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World Health Organization
Regional Office for the Americas
Age Friendly Community
525- 23rd Street NW, Washington, DC 20037
USA

February 11, 2025

Dear Age Friendly Community Selection Committee:

RE: Age Friendly World Health Organization Designation, Niagara Falls

The Niagara Region has a higher ageing population than the Canadian national average in and it is growing. We know how important it is that our community not only embraces best practices, but that we lead the way in Age-Friendly living. That is why it is my distinct pleasure to write in support of our City's application to the World Health Organization for an *Age-Friendly Community* designation. We recognize the importance of creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment that encourages older adults to remain active, engaged and empowered.

Since 2018, members of the Niagara Falls Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC) have demonstrated unwavering dedication to the enrichment of seniors in Niagara Falls. With a clear vision and strategic objectives, the committee continues to lead initiatives that enhance the quality of life for seniors with innovative and accessible programming and versatile opportunities to engage in the community. The committee has hosted educational talks, community events, spearheaded the creation of a seniors focused television show, conducts ongoing research and utilizes the Age-Friendly Framework's recommended steps to ensure our City remains accessible for residents of all ages. We have recently done a strategic renovation of our City-wide community centre to enhance the inclusive space for older adults who represent a high number of users of our world-class amenities there, including the aquatics centre, pickleball courts, exercise gyms, gathering and game facilities, library, café, outdoor trails and park, just to name a few.

City Council recognizes the importance of looking ahead and planning for the evolving needs of our senior population and has taken meaningful steps to support this initiative. This is why we are passionate about our submission to join the World Health Organization's global network of Age-Friendly cities and communities. We want to build on our momentum.

The achievements of the Niagara Falls Seniors Advisory Committee coupled with our growing senior population make our City ideal for this designation. Your support to recognize Niagara Falls as an *Age-Friendly Community* will further solidify our commitment to making the engagement and well-being of seniors a priority—not just for our City, but as a model for all Canadians. Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your positive response.

Yours truly,

James M. Diodati
Mayor