



MAYOR KEN SIM

January 7, 2026

To the WHO Secretariat of the Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities:

RE: Letter of Commitment for City of Vancouver's application to join the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC)

On behalf of the City of Vancouver in British Columbia, Canada, please accept this letter of commitment as part of our application to join the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC).

Vancouver has been recognized as an Age-Friendly Community by the Province of British Columbia since 2014, and with 30% of the population 55 years of age or older, the City is excited to apply to join the GNAFCC.

Vancouver's participatory approach to becoming more age-friendly is paired with the political commitment and staff resources to help realize this goal. The Older Persons Strategic Framework was passed by Vancouver City Council in February 2025, and 2025 actions identified and the development of 2026 actions are well underway. At the time the Framework was approved, Council also passed a motion directing staff to apply to join the GNAFCC.

Vancouver has reconfirmed its commitment to becoming more age-friendly through the following recent actions:

- Explicitly naming seniors as a [strategic priority](#) this Council term;
- Creating a new staff position, a strategic lead to help guide policy, planning and strategy for the City's aging population;
- Approving the City's first [Seniors Housing Strategy](#), which identifies the housing needs of the aging population and commits to corresponding actions.
- Approving a new [Older Persons Strategic Framework](#) grounded in the WHO Age-friendly Cities Framework and building on the City's previous [Age-Friendly Action Plan](#). This new Framework is structured with an annual action cycle that is aligned with the City's annual budget cycle and departmental workplans. It also includes the following foundational elements:
 - Diversity, equity and inclusion;
 - Cross-sectoral collaboration and advocacy; and,

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- Community connections, which recognizes the importance of intergenerational relationships and a life-course approach in making Vancouver more age-friendly.
 - Participating in regular meetings of the Pan-Canadian Age-Friendly Communities Reference Group hosted by the Public Health Agency of Canada Aging and Seniors Unit.

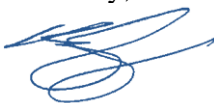
The City of Vancouver's [Older Persons and Elders Advisory Committee](#) (OPEAC) has a mandate to advise Council and staff on enhancing access and inclusion for older persons and elders to fully participate in City services and civic life. OPEAC advocated for the creation of the Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Persons role and informed the development of both the Seniors Housing Strategy and the Older Persons Strategic Framework. Ongoing engagement with OPEAC is also embedded in the Framework itself.

The City of Vancouver carried out comprehensive public engagement to develop its new Older Persons Strategic Framework and annual actions. Older persons, family and friend caregivers, staff and volunteers who work with older persons, older persons “in training” (individuals under 55 years of age), and representatives from aligned sectors all contributed to shaping this Framework. Engagement strategies included deliberate efforts to reach isolated older persons and those experiencing language, mobility, transportation and socioeconomic barriers.

The City of Vancouver already does much to engage and support the aging population, and is committed to becoming even more inclusive of older persons in the coming years. We look forward to both learning from and actively contributing to the GNAFCC to help advance work on age-friendly communities both locally and globally.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Anthony Kupferschmidt, Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Persons, at anthony.kupferschmidt@vancouver.ca.

Sincerely,



Mayor Ken Sim
City of Vancouver