WOOD BUFFALO AGE FRIENDLY WORK PLAN 2021-2024





Advisory Committee on Aging- RMWB ACoA@rmwb.ca

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What is an Age-Friendly Community?

Worldwide, governments have recognized the need to make communities more Age-Friendly to the increasing aging population. Population aging and urbanization are two global trends that together comprise major forces shaping the 21st century. Simultaneously, as cities are growing, their share of residents aged 60 years and over is increasing. World Health Organization (WHO) regards active aging as a lifelong process shaped by several factors that, alone and acting together, increase health, participation, and security in older adult life[1].

An Age-Friendly community encourages active aging by optimizing health, participation, and security opportunities to enhance the quality of life as people age. In practical terms, an Age-Friendly community adapts its structures and services to be accessible to and inclusive of older people with varying needs and capacities.

Who is the Lead?

The Advisory Committee on Aging (ACoA) is taking a strong role in shaping an Age-Friendly Wood Buffalo Region. The ACoA recommended that an Age-Friendly Needs Assessment be undertaken by the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) in 2017 to help assess and identify gaps, needs, and standards to meet an Age-Friendly Community. The assessment was completed by the RMWB through a consultant and was guided by the eight domains of WHO Age-Friendly Communities (WHO 2007). ACoA will work with the RMWB to advise and monitor the Work Plan's implementation progress. ACoA will provide an annual update to Council and the community regarding the progress, next steps and re-assessment.

The 2018-2021 Municipal Strategic Plan priority #1 (strategy and initiative #1f) supports the adoption of practices of aging with dignity and to track the implementation of the guidelines set out by the World Health Organization Age-Friendly Cities designation. The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo-Culture and Social Development (RMWB-CSD) will take on the leadership role to support, monitor and implement the Age-Friendly Work Plan. The RWMB will provide a quarterly progress report to the ACOA.

RMWB-CSD will engage and coordinate with strategic and community partners, support the implementation of Work Plan, and coordinate the development of a shared progress and evaluation process. With the advice of the ACoA, RMWB-CSD will further the Wood Buffalo Age-Friendly recognition application process from the Government of Alberta and the World Health Organization. Lastly, strategic partners and Community stakeholders are agencies/ organizations with expertise in delivering Older Adults' services and have a key role in implementing the proposed actions.

Local Priorities

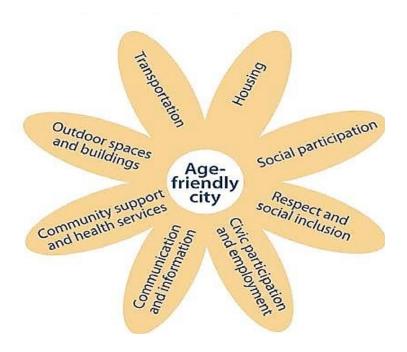
"We don't have access to home care in rural areas. A public nurse will come to visit, but we cannot access services that will allow us to stay in our homes."

Age-Friendly Needs assessment-RMWB (2017)

The Age-Friendly assessment identified needs and gaps based on the eight domains within the World Health Organization's Global Age-Friendly Cities framework. Based on the input received from community

stakeholders and public working groups, the WHO's eight domains were refined in terms of local priorities. Residents, community stakeholders, and the ACoA have a keen interest in ensuring older people are able to age and live in Wood Buffalo and have supportive policies, services, and programs that are required to enable them to do so.

WHO-Eight Domains Identified as Local priorities



Needs Assessment Summary

Overall, the Age-Friendliness of the Wood Buffalo region showed several trends, needs, and gaps. Many of these needs/gaps were particularly highlighted in the rural communities, although some of them are also prevalent region wide:

- Streets and sidewalks accessibility
- Public washrooms not generally available, especially in outdoor spaces
- Rural areas have fewer transportation options and little information on existing options
- Older adults' housing availability issues and homecare services
- Less accessibility of information about events and activities
- There are few activities offered to older people and people with disabilities
- Challenges with social participation due to lack of transportation options and accessibility issues
- Need for more social inclusivity and respect opportunities
- More civic engagement and employment opportunities
- Need to amplify communication and information media

Wood Buffalo Older Adults – By the Numbers

In 1971, Older Adults accounted for 8% of Canada's population. By 2036, that number will rise to 25%. (*Age-Friendly Communication: Facts, Tips and Ideas, Public Health Agency of Canada, 2010*). Wood Buffalo population distribution has steadily increased from 16.3% since 2012 to 17% in 2018 among the 50-59 age group. This progression indicates a future increase in the population of Older Adults 65 years and above. Since 2012, the Older Adults' population increased by 1.2% to 3%. According to the 2018 Municipal Census[2], 11.6% of the Older Adults' population live the rural communities, it is widely acknowledged that a community that addresses its senior population's needs is a community that is friendlier to all ages (WHO 2007).

Our Work Plan

The Age-Friendly Wood Buffalo Work Plan highlights the ACoA's vision of aging with dignity in Wood Buffalo. It highlights goals, proposed actions, strategic partners, and community stakeholders for each identified local priority, implementation approach, the implementation structure, and the progress and evaluation framework.

Due to the broad scope and complexity of gaps and community needs identified, the Work Plan focuses on high-priority areas of needs in the region. This plan will require collaborative efforts between the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB), community stakeholders, associations, community groups, and other government levels. The timeline of actions may be short-term (up to two years), medium or long-term (within the initial three-year implementation cycle, or more than three years).

It should be noted that the actions are preliminary and require refinement through additional dialogue with broader groups of both internal and external stakeholders during the implementation phase. Subsequently, the implementation plans must be developed to ensure the actions are robust and measurable. Potentially more actions could be identified in the future to achieve the highlighted goals. This Work Plan highlights short-term goals, medium- and long-term goals, as well as on-going goals, which make it a "living" document and a list of partners and stakeholders highlighted is not exhaustively drawn. There will be opportunities through engagement sessions for more community partners and citizens to be involved in the implementation of this Work Plan.

"When we build for older adults, we are being an inclusive community"

- Community Partner

Work Plan Terms

Strategies: Ways that leaders and partners can act collectively to achieve the identified goal.

Proposed Action (s): Steps that must be taken by strategic partners or community stakeholders or in small collaborative teams. A detailed list of actions and activities will be highlighted in the implementation plan.

Measurement indicators: These are quantifiable measures of progress toward the identified goal.

Strategic Partner (SP): The strategic partner agency or organization will initiate/ facilitate a role in guiding the process of pursuing and achieving proposed actions.

Community Stakeholder (CS): These are agencies or organizations with an interest and/or expertise in delivering services to older adults and can contribute to achieving the Work Plan actions, priorities and goals.

Timeline: This is the implementation period for the identified priority areas, and each action highlighted. The timeline of actions may be short-term (one up to two years), medium (within two to three years), or long-term (within the initial three-year implementation cycle, or more than three years).

Wood Buffalo Age-Friendly Work Plan

Priority Area: Maintenance and Modifications	Strategy Develop programs and services for older adults that aid with costs related to home maintenance, modification, and
Adults. Strategy Proposed Action(s) Develop programs and services for older adults that aid with costs related to home maintenance, modification, and affordability Explore potential support for home maintenance and modification assistance and volunteer programs Adults. Measurement indicators Measurement indicators Strategic Partner/Stakeholder (s) Wof awareness campaigns Resource guide update RMWB older adults' webpage updated #discount/credits programs for older adults Other Partners TBD Shor Other Partners TBD	Strategy Develop programs and services for older adults that aid with costs related to home maintenance, modification, and
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and modification assistance and volunteer programs #of volunteers/contractors signed-up #of older adults served	
assistance and volunteer signed-up programs • #of older adults served	
programs • #of older adults served	
Develop and support a • Develop and implement the SP: RMWB (CSD)	
lawn care volunteer- program CS: St. Aidan's, Other	
based program for older • #of older adults signed up for the Partners TBD	
adults program	
• #of volunteers	
• #of service hours provided	
Priority Area: Housing Options	Priority Area:
Goal: There is a range of Age-Friendly affordable, and accessible housing options for older adults in	Goal:
region. (Lack of older adults' housing and housing option was most highlighted in the rural	
communities according to the 2017 Needs Assessment)	
Support the Advocate for sustainable • Letter of advocacy submitted to SP: WBHDC & RMWB Long	Support the
development of	development of
Age-Friendly development of new Council Other Partners TBD	Age-Friendly
affordable and affordable and accessible • #Acres of land acquired	affordable and
accessible housing older adults housing • Older Adults Housing Master Plan	accessible housing
options for older options (i.e., Older Adults' Developed	options for older
adults in Wood Housing Master Plan) • #of grants secured	
Buffalo • #of affordable housing units	Buffalo
available for Older Adults	

	#of older adults appropriately housed		
Promote and advertise available housing options, both digital and in print	#of in-person sessions, open houses, workshops, or forums	SP: St. Aidan's	Short- Term
Continuous collaboration with AHS with Willow Square facility to ensure that local needs are prioritized when placing clients	#older adults appropriately housed	SP: AHS CS: WHBDC, ACoA, Other Partners TBD	Short- Term

Domain#2: Transpor	tation					
Priority Area:	Health and Assisted Transportation Services					
Goal:	Accessible, safe, and afford	Accessible, safe, and affordable transportation services are available for older adults in the				
	region.					
Strategy	Proposed Action(s)	Measurement indicators	Strategic	Timeline		
			Partner/Stakeholder			
			(s)			
Develop and	SMART Bus curb to curb,	• #SMART Bus monthly data	SP: RMWB (Transit	Short-		
implement	priority "pick-up" and	• #of Age-Friendly designed	and Public Works, &	Term		
transportation	"drop-off" services to	businesses	CSD)			
strategies that are	older adults and those	#of senior designate parking	CS: St. Aidan's, Other			
responsive to	with mobility differences		Partners TBD			
senior's	Age Friendly training is	#of training sessions	SP: St. Aidan's	Short-		
transportation	provided for	#of training participants		Term		
needs	transportation service					
	providers and partners					
Priority Area:	Community Transportation	n Services				
Goal:	Community transport services are available and affordable for Older Adults .					
Ensure affordable,	Develop a continuum of	#of volunteer program drivers	CS: St. Aidan's	Long-		
safe, and accessible	affordable community	#of older adults' alternative	CS: Other Partners	Term		
community and	transportation services	transportation services available	TBD			
alternative						

transportations	Facilitate access to and	#SMART bus monthly data	SP: RMWB- (CSD,	Medium-
services for older	use available information	SMART bus handbook annual	Transit	Term
adults are available	and resources about	update	CS: St. Aidan's,	
in the community	senior's transportation	Older adults' resource guide	Other Partners TBD	
	services	updated		

Domain#3: Communi	Domain#3: Community Supports and Health Services				
Priority Area:	Diversity of Health Service	s			
Goal:	Older adults have access to a wide range of affordable in-home supports and health services.				
Strategy	Proposed Action(s)	Measurement indicators	Strategic Partner/Stakeholder (s)	Timeline	
Ensure that older	Promote existing services	#of new health care services for	SP: RMWB	Short-	
adults have access	and provide information	older adults.	(communications, &	Term	
to a wide range of	to older adults in	Maintain updated list of	CSD)		
services and	different formats	accessibility list of existing	CP: AHS, St. Aidan's,		
information about	including language	services	Other Partners TBD		
medical	translation				
professionals and	Advocate and lobby for	#of new specialist services		Medium	
specialists	required health services	available in town		Term	
	(i.e., specialist services in				
	town)				
Promote education	Support programs that	#of Elder care and abuse	SP: RMWB (ESS)	Short-	
and training specific	train and prepare older	awareness training sessions	CS: St. Aidan's,	Term	
to the needs of	adults, service providers	#of Age-Friendly training	Other Partners TBD		
older adults, for	for emergency disaster	sessions			
those providing	response	#of VPR-Info sessions			
community support		#of older adults registered			
and health services					
Priority Area:	In-home support and Com				
Goal:		d to maintain independence.			
Ensure that older	Promote older adults in-	#of older adults' healthy and	ST: AHS, St. Aidan's,	Medium-	
Adults in-home and	home support programs	community Services	Other Partners TBD	Term	
community	and community services	• #Home care visitations &			
supports, and	that support older adults	programs in the community			
services are	with range of and	#Check-in and drop-in programs			
available,	complex needs	Meals on wheels programs			
affordable, and are					
appropriate.					

Ensure older adults are informed and aware of health and wellness activities that promote physical and mental wellbeing.	Promote and advocate for health and wellness initiatives that promote and inform older adults of educational opportunities/programm ing that allow them to live as independently as possible regardless of living situation	 #of health and wellness sessions Older adults have increased awareness of benefits of healthy living physically and mentally 	AHS St. Aidan's Other Partners TBD	Long Term
Older adults are safe from preventable injury in and around their homes	Support rural communities to develop and coordinate snow helper program Collaborate with partners to develop and	#of communities participating #of older adults supported #of snow helper volunteers • #of fall prevention sessions • #of older adults participating in	SP: RMWB (CSD, IRR, Communications) CS: Other Partners TBD SP: RMWB (ESS) CS: Other Partners	Medium- Term Medium- Term
	implement strategies to coordinate in-home safety check	home fire safety inspection	TBD	

Domain#4: Social Pa	Domain#4: Social Participation					
Priority Area:	Connection and Engagement					
Goal:	Older adults are socially and physically active and are connected to community.					
Strategy	Proposed Action(s)	Measurement indicators	Strategic Partner/Stakeholder (s)	Timeline		
There are opportunities for older adults to participate and interact with other people in the community both socially and physically.	Encourage and support community programs that engage older adults to enhance their social connections and mental well-being.	 #of programs offering check-in and drop-in services #of older adults' engagement and social programs Of older adults accessing services. 	SP: RMWB (ESS) CS: St. Aidan's, Other Partners TBD	Short- Term		
	Create and design affordable and accessible community activities and programs that promote physical and social well- being opportunities for older adults	 #of senior activities #community in-person or virtual programs #of participants 	CS: St. Aidan's Partners TBD	Short- Term		

Priority Area:	Continue to consult and engage senior citizens on community initiatives that affect their wellbeing. Affordability and Accessib	#of community older adults' consultation and engagement sessions ility	SP: RWMB (Communication & Engagement) CP: Other partners TBD	
Goal:	Establish accessible and uppractices	niversal design of programs and facili	ties as a framework of l	best
Ensure that information, programs, and facilities are accessible and are affordable for older adults and	Continue to support the implementation of barrier-free building design. Develop and promote universal and accessibility design	 Complete a comprehensive accessibility audit #of barrier-free/accessible and designated parking stalls #of policies supporting universal design 	SP: RMWB (CSD, & P&D), ACoA CP: Other partners TBD	Medium- Term Long- Term
older adults with disabilities	guide.	 Universal design guide Promotional practices #of new buildings adopting the guidelines 		

Domain#5: Civic Par	Domain#5: Civic Participation and Employment Opportunities					
Priority Area:	Volunteer Opportunities					
Goal:	Older Adults ' skills are val	lued and respected as volunteers.				
Strategy	Proposed Action(s)	Measurement indicators	Strategic	Timeline		
			Partner/Stakeholder			
			(s)			
Ensure there is a	Raise awareness about	#of awareness campaigns	SP: RMWB(CSD)	Medium-		
range of volunteer	the benefit of Older	#of older adults volunteer	CS: ACoA, Other	Term		
opportunities	Adults' contribution and	opportunities	partners to be			
available and	participation on		identified			
supported for	boards/committees					
older adults to	Continue to support and	#of older adults recognized	SP: Other Partners	Short-		
participate.	enhance older adults	#of volunteer recognition events	TBD	Term		
	volunteer appreciation	#of partnership programs	Partner: RMWB			
	opportunities		(CSD)			
Priority Area:	Age-Friendly and Inclusive Workplace					
Goal:	Older Adults' skills are val	Older Adults' skills are valued and respected as employees.				

Strategy	Proposed Action(s)	Measurement indicators	Strategic Partner/Stakeholde r(s)	Timeline
Ensure that older adults 'skills and attributes are recognized and appreciated in the community.	Develop and promote an Age-Friendly business recognition program Collaborate with local businesses to adopt age-friendly business practices	 Age-Friendly Business Recognition program completed #of businesses participating #of older adults supported through the program increased Older Adults' priority parking #of Age-Friendly businesses #of staff trained 	CS: ACoA, Other Partners TBD SP: Other Partners TBD	Long- term Long- Term
Priority Area:	Civic Participation			<u> </u>
Goal:	Older Adults are well represented in both public and support organizations, and Older Adults have a voice in the decisions that affect their community.			
Strategy	Proposed Action(s)	Measurement indicators	Strategic Partner/Stakeholder (s)	Timeline
Encourage public and support organizations to	Engage and consult older adults on the community development initiatives	#engagement sessions#of consultation sessions	SP: RMWB, ACoA CS: Other Partners TBD	Short- Term
engage and involve older adults in the community decisions and initiatives.	Conduct awareness workshops and Age- Friendly training to public and support organizations	#of sessions conducted#of organizations#of participants	SP: St. Aidan's, Others CS: RMWB (CSD & Communications), TBD	Short- Term
	Promote existing opportunities and increase older adults' representation in both public and support organizations	 #of civic engagement opportunities ACoA By-law amendment 		Short- Term

Domain#6: Respect and Social Inclusion				
Priority Area:	Intergenerational Respect	and Interactions		
Goal:	Older adults are valued an	d are treated with respect.		
Strategy	Proposed Action(s)	Measurement indicators	Strategic Partner/Stakeholder(s)	Timeline
Establish opportunities, and programs that supports intergenerational interactions, mental health and social connection.	Facilitate and promote community wide education and awareness campaign to combat ageism and stereotypes Establish a recognition program for the contributors/champions of older adults' quality of life in Wood Buffalo	 #of Age-Friendly training sessions #of participants #of older adult activities/ events #of intergenerational Programs and activities #of specific campaigns #of annual events #of community contributors/champions #of older adults' week events 	SP: St. Aidan's, RMWB (CSD) CP: AHS, Other Partners TBD SP: Other Partners TBD CP: Other Partners TBD	Medium- Term Long- Term
Priority Area:	Social Inclusion			
Goal:	Older adults have access to	o opportunities to participate and	contribute to the commur	nity.
Ensure that community activities, events, programs and facilities are accessible, affordable and are inclusive.	Create and foster cultural, social, and recreational educational programs and activities	 #of cultural activities for older adults #of participating community organizations #of senior inclusive programs 	CP: St. Aidan's, Other Partners TBD	Short- Term

Domain#7: Communication and Information							
Priority Area:	Accessible Information						
Goal:	Information is accessible, reliable, and available for Older Adults, caregivers, and support						
	providers.						
Strategy	Proposed Action(s)	Measurement indicators	Strategic	Timeline			
			Partner/Stakeholder(s)				
Ensure older	Promote and maintain	#of resource guides	SP: RMWB (CSD &	Short-Term			
adults have	existing information	distributed	Communications)				

			T	T
access to	media/channels (Such as	• #of media	CS: St. Aidan's	
information,	MAC Calendar, Older	engagement/visits		
resources, and	Adults' Resources Guide)	#languages translated		
services	Enhance and continue	active information	SP: St. Aidan's	Short-Term
available in the	support of information-	sharing networks	(Interagency Meeting),	
community to	sharing network for older	• #of support	Other Partners TBD	
	adult service providers	organizations		
		participating		
	Gaps and barriers to	• # programs supporting	SPs: St. Aidan's AHS	Short-Term
	COVID-19 information and	Older Adults with		
	resources are identified	COVID-19 Information	RMWB	
	and addressed.	• #COVID-19 resources		
		provided to older adults		
		• # of older adults		
		supported		
Enhance	Promote collaboration	 #of technology literacy 	SP: TBD	Short &
opportunities	among community	classes for older adults	CS: TBD	Medium-
for digital	organization to improve	• #of community		Term
access,	technology literacy and	organizations with tech		
information and	ensure that internet and	literacy classes		
technology	computer services are	• #of older adults signed-		
literacy for older	accessible, affordable and	up and supported		
adults	available for older adults			
Priority Area:	Widespread Communication	1		
Goal:	Older Adults have access to	information in all desirable f	ormats of communication.	
Ensure that	Use Age-Friendly	Update older adults	SP:	Short-Time
information is	formatting and designing	web page	RMWB(Communications)	
available in a	practices for website	 easy access tab for 	CS: Other Partners TBD	
variety of	information and other	older adult resources		
formats and in	publications.			
contexts that	Support and provide	Closed Captioning	SP: RMWB (CDS,	Long-Term
are inclusive of	alternative accessible	Services available for	Legislative Services &	
older adults'	communication and	Council meetings and	Communications)	
interests and it	information sharing (i.e.,	other municipal virtual	CS: Other partners TBD	
is easily	Closed Captioning Service,	events.		
accessible.	Sign Language and	Sign language and		
	Interpretation Services)	interpretation during		
	,	council meetings		
	l	3555		<u> </u>

Domain#8: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings							
Priority Area:	Accessible Buildings, Public Restrooms and Rest Areas						
Goal:	Outdoor spaces and community buildings are designed and maintained to be Age-Friendly safe,						
	and accessible.						
Strategy	Proposed Action(s)	Measurement indicators	Strategic	Timeline			
			Partner/Stakeholder(s)				
Ensure that	Support and promote	 universal design guide 	SP: RMWB (P&D, CSD)	Long-			
public	the development of	developed and promoted	Partners: ACoA, Other	Term			
washrooms and	universal and	#of accessible universal	Partners TBD				
rest areas	accessibility design	designed facilities, and indoor					
around public		and outdoor spaces					
spaces, parks,	Increase number of	• #of age-friendly seat/benches		Long-			
and trails are	accessible rest areas	installed in public spaces,		Term			
available.	and accessible public	parks, and trails					
	restrooms	#of accessible restrooms					
		available					
Priority Area:	Sidewalks, Parks and Tr	ails					
Goal:	Parks, Pathways, trails	are maintained to be safe, clear, ar	nd are accessible.				
Ensure that	Follow the Age-	#of new curb cuts completed	SP: RMWB (Public	Short-			
sidewalks, parks,	Friendly standards	#of repaired and maintained	works, Parks)	Term			
and trails in most	and universal design	sidewalks and trails					
or all areas of	practices repairing	Barrier free designed outdoor					
the community	and installing curb	spaces					
are well-	cuts, sidewalks and						
maintained and	designing outdoor						
are accessible	spaces						
	C	• #of snow angel volunteers	SP: RMWB (CSD)	Medium-			
	Support rural						
	communities to	• Communities signed up for the		Term			
				Term			
	communities to	Communities signed up for the		Term			
	communities to develop, adopt and	Communities signed up for the Snow Angel Program		Term			

Implementation Approach

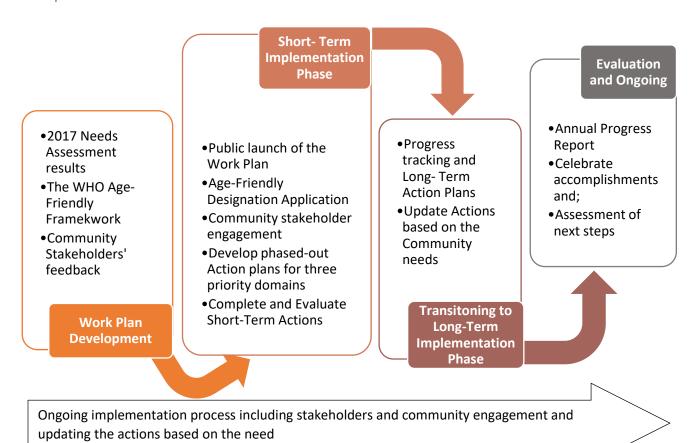
This Work Plan identifies strategies and measurement indicators for each goal and a series of actions to achieve those goals. This Plan requires collaborative efforts from both internal and external stakeholders to assist in carrying out the actions. The implementation approach outlines the implementation path, Work Plan leadership, and the implementation structure.

The implementation process will begin with a public launch of the Work Plan and a short-term transition phase. ACoA will pursue Wood Buffalo Age-Friendly recognition from the Government of Alberta and the World Health Organization; the implementation Plan will focus on high priority domains and short-term actions.

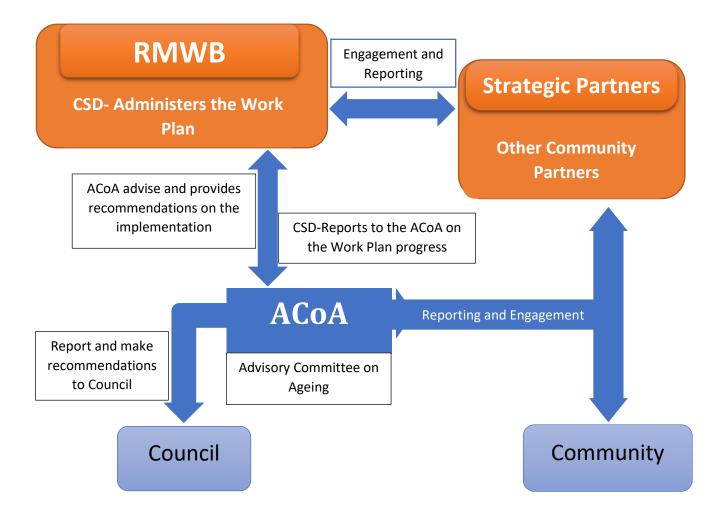
The strategic partners and community stakeholders will develop phased-out implementation action plans, and evaluation framework from the Work Plan proposed actions and measurement indicators. In the short term, ACoA is prioritizing the implementation of the Work Plan's three domains, including Housing, Community Supports and Health Services, and Social Inclusion. The Work Plan will transition to a Long-term implementation phase to achieve the remaining domains' medium- and long-term actions.

This Work Plan is a living document. It requires ongoing processes such as ongoing older adults, citizens, stakeholder engagement and evaluation processes, and an update to include new partners, actions, and emerging community needs.

Implementation Path



Wok Plan Implementation structure



Progress & Evaluation Framework

Strategic partners and community stakeholders will develop an evaluation framework for the proposed actions and measurement indicators. These should include both reporting process, outcome measurement, and progress tracking. Reporting process evaluation will focus on measuring and improving the effectiveness of implementation to support continuous improvement. Outcome measurement will evaluate positive impact change to words Age-Friendliness of the community and measures changes in older adults 'well-being

ACOA will provide an Annual Progress update. This will highlight progress made towards the Age-Friendly Work Plan proposed actions and measurement indicators. The report will be presented to Council and will be made available to the public.



For more information on Wood Buffalo Age- Friendly Work Plan, Contact:

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