

## **Application: WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities**

### **City/ Community Details**

- 1) Name of city/community: Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo
- 2) Region or state: Alberta
- 3) Country: Canada
- 4) Population : 116,407 (based on 2012 Census)
- 5) Percentage of residents 60+: 2.57% (2,994)
- 6) Geographic coordinates – To come

### **Political commitment towards becoming an age- friendly city or community**

- 1) Letter of commitment from the Mayor: To come
- 2) Mayor's name and title: Mayor Melissa Blake
- 3) Mayor's office address: Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, 9909 Franklin Ave., Fort McMurray Alberta, Canada T9H2K4

### **Designated contact for the Global Network**

- 1) Title : Seniors Coordinator
- 2) Name: Steve Andrejiw
- 3) Position: Seniors Coordinator, Neighbourhood and Community Development, Community Services Department
- 4) Role in city or community's age-friendly initiative: Lead
- 5) Email address: [steve.andrejiw@woodbuffalo.ab.ca](mailto:steve.andrejiw@woodbuffalo.ab.ca)
- 6) Telephone: (780) 799-8673

### **Age-friendly activities to date**

***Brief summary (500 words or less) of city/community's policies, programs and services targeted at older people and how are you planning to make your community more age-friendly.***

On June 24, 2014, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo adopted Bylaw 14/021, creating an Advisory Committee on Aging with the vision of "aging with dignity." The committee (appointed by Council) is seeking the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities designation to help the Municipality be proactive as residents age, especially considering the currently low percentage of seniors. This designation would help bring all senior-

related services under a united structure with an organized purpose – improving services for seniors and developing hard and soft infrastructure.

### **Engagement of older people**

***How are you engaging and involving older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly city or community?***

The Advisory Committee on Aging intends to conduct community engagements and town hall meetings with seniors, elders and other stakeholders within the first year. It is comprised of stakeholders representing seniors in one capacity or another. Functional engagement will also include stakeholders who sit on the Wood Buffalo Senior Resource Committee, which represents the various aspects of community senior life in the region. As well, the advisory committee will gather all relevant studies, surveys and engagement findings completed in the Municipality to extract and assess meaningful senior-related information. Seniors are also included in both the advisory and resource committees.

### **Cross-sector collaboration**

***What mechanisms have you/are you planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different departments of the local administration and across sectors?***

The Advisory Committee on Aging will have an executive director responsible for the necessary initiatives to make the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo an age-friendly community. It will also have a dedicated team of Municipal employees to ensure inter-departmental consultation about planning. Council's approval of the project mandates that Administration be responsive, collaborative and involved. Lastly, the non-profits dealing specifically with seniors will be at the table from the beginning, working together toward the common goal of achieving the age-friendly designation.

### **Participation in the WHO Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities**

***How do you hope to contribute to the Global Network?***

We will help contribute to the Global Network by sharing our strategy and best practices in implementing the various objectives of the designation, offering support, encouragement and collaboration. The intent of the designation, as we interpret it, is to enhance the lives of seniors by creating communities that view the development of hard and soft infrastructures from their perspective and to their benefit. By becoming a member of the Global Network, we can assist other communities with similar goals to improve seniors' lives worldwide. This prospect is as exciting as it will be rewarding.

***What motivated your city to become a member of the Global Network?***

This initiative was identified by a local senior (Dave Hodson), supported by the newly-created Advisory Committee on Aging, and by Council on Jan. 9, 2015. The motivation is simple – to connect to an existing infrastructure and network that is aligned with the Municipality’s goals and initiatives. Support and ideas from like-minded communities will make the project more effective and efficient.

DRAFT