

Letter of Support for Memorandum 2022 -0028
Age-Friendly Caledon Action Plan - Annual Progress Report - 2021

February 15, 2022

Dear Members of Council,

We, the members of the Seniors Task Force, have provided this letter in support of memorandum number 2022-0028, the Age-Friendly Caledon Action Plan Annual Progress Report for the Town of Caledon, provided at the General Committee meeting on February 15, 2022. We believe that the adoption of the Age-Friendly Caledon Action Plan (the plan) by Town Council in the spring of 2021 was a pivotal moment not only for older adults but for all Caledon residents.

One of the key strengths of the plan is its holistic and comprehensive approach as evidenced by the eight dimensions of healthy ageing which provide the framework for the document. The many specific action items that were developed based on these dimensions were established through extensive community consultation and engagement. We are confident that following the recommendations outlined in the plan will bring us to the creation of a better community for all.

Having such an all-inclusive framework necessitates a collaborative approach by those responsible for implementing the plan. All town departments and services are integral players in achieving the overall goals of the plan. As you peruse the accomplishments outlined in the 2021 report, you will see what can be accomplished when we all work together and support each other with our concrete efforts and ideas.

Not only do we succeed due to local collaboration, Age-Friendly Action Plans also benefit from the innovative ideas that have emerged around the world. Such is the advantage of being part of a global initiative. There are more than a thousand cities and communities world-wide that have developed Age-Friendly Action Plans. We are part of a network which shares ideas, knowledge and expertise. Our chances of success are enhanced by being connected to a movement that is diverse and covers well over 200 million people all with the same goals of promoting healthy and active ageing.

Perhaps the pillar which has garnered the most attention from our group is Housing. This goal deserves specific mention because there are so many people who struggle to find adequate and affordable housing. With a projected population growth of 300 percent by 2050, this situation can only become even more serious. The problem for the older population in Caledon is the lack of smaller accessible houses or apartments as our seniors attempt to downsize from the



homes in which they raised their families. Nowhere more than in housing are the endeavours of those tasked with implementing the action plan more critical, and more promising. Creative and timely ideas have been put forward to achieve the goal of advancing “policies and programs that expedite a full range of affordable housing options suitable to the needs of older adults across Caledon.”

As a Council Committee, the role of the Senior’s Task Force is to articulate the needs of the community as we experience them firsthand and to provide input as to the solutions. We are the living memories of the community, and we remind our citizens and decision-makers that all of us hold the welfare of the future generations in our hands. We are fortunate to be guided in our efforts by the Town of Caledon Age-Friendly Action Plan and we celebrate the accomplishments to date.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

Members of the Seniors Task Force | Council Committee of the Town of Caledon

Louise Pietrzyk, James Crease, Diane Delaney, Niki Gallo, Alex Rodrigues, Margaret Morrison, Nora Martin, Carmelina Cicuto, Geraldine Aguiar

