

NO: R219

COUNCIL DATE: October 23, 2017

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **October 17, 2017**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **01-2017**
General Manager, Planning & Development
General Manager, Engineering

SUBJECT: **Declaration - Provincial Summit on Aging**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department, Planning & Development Department and Engineering Department recommend that Council:

1. Receive this Report as information;
2. Approve the Declaration of the Community-based Seniors' Services Sector in B.C. attached as Appendix "I"; and
3. Forward this Report to the Seniors Advisory and Accessibility Committee, for their information.

INTENT

On November 2 and 3, 2017, the City of Surrey will be the host community for the *Provincial Summit on Aging* (the "Summit"). The purpose of this Report is to provide Council with background on the Summit, and a recommendation to support a Declaration of the Community-based Seniors Services Sector in B.C. that is a result of the research and planning that has led up to the Summit. The Declaration is a commitment to support community based services for seniors as a priority, and is supported by all levels of government and not for profit equitably and collaboratively.

BACKGROUND

The City of Surrey in partnership with the Raising The Profile Project, BC Ministry of Health, the Active Aging Research Team at the Centre for Active Aging (formally BC Centre for Hip Health and Mobility), United Way of the Lower Mainland, United Way's Better at Home Program and the BC Recreation and Parks Association will host the first Provincial Summit on Aging, to be held at Surrey City Hall.

The Raising the Profile Project is a provincial network started in 2016 whose goal is to highlight the key role played by non-profit and municipal community-based seniors' services in supporting seniors to build new social connections, remain physically and mentally active, and retain their independence for as long as possible.

The 'Declaration of the Community-based Seniors Services Sector in B.C.' is the result of a collaboration of leaders from community based seniors organizations, academia and all three levels of government, who are committed to identifying and building strategies that will address the growing needs of an aging population. As the host City of the Summit, Surrey is well positioned as a leader for Age Friendly Cities and to support the Declaration.

The concept of hosting a Provincial Summit on Aging is the result of the Raising the Profile Project. This project evolved through the leadership of individuals who initiated contacts with key stakeholders, and initiated building capacity of the sector to address the growing needs of an aging population. Initial funding and resource support from United Way of Lower Mainland, Seniors Advocate of BC, Van City, Centre for Non-Profit Management and Sustainability & Ministry of Health, enabled the development of a more formal approach to address the emerging issues affecting seniors, and how to leverage a more cohesive, collaborative and equitable distribution of community-based support systems for seniors.

The City of Surrey and non-profit agencies are successfully addressing the needs of seniors through a collaborative partnership approach. The City was also host to one of the seven focus groups that were delivered throughout the Province.

DISCUSSION

The '*Raising the Profile for Community-based Seniors' Services Sector in B.C.*' report identifies the wide inequity of funding and resources throughout the Province. In particular the statistics reflect in "*a 2013 United Way report that 36% of services in the lower mainland are located in Vancouver compared to only 11% in Surrey, whereas the senior' population of these two cities was 90,593 for Vancouver and 69,297 for Surrey.*" (Raising the Profile of the Community-based Seniors' Services Sector in B.C.: A Review of the Literature, Full Report March 2017, pg. 6 PP2)

The research acknowledges the important role that municipal recreation services and the community-based seniors sector has in building the resilience and supporting independence of the aging population. There are six key areas identified in the report; nutritional support, health and wellness, physical activity, cultural, educational and recreational programs, information, referral and advocacy and transportation. In 2014, Council adopted Corporate Report R093; 2014 *Age-Friendly Strategy for Seniors*, to further support the framework for an age-friendly city.

The approval of the Declaration of the Community-based Seniors' Services Sector in B.C. demonstrates the City of Surrey's commitment to ensuring seniors programs and services are a priority.

Community-based seniors' services are formally recognized as a Sector that plays an essential role in supporting seniors' independence, resilience and social connectedness.

The definition of the Community-based Seniors' Services Sector include all municipal and not-for-profit organizations that provide services and programming for older adults at the local level –at community centres, single and multi-service agencies, seniors' centres, community coalitions and neighbourhood houses –throughout our Province.

The seven core programs and services offered by the Sector reflect the diversity of British Columbia's geography and seniors' population and include: Nutritional Supports; Wellness Programs; Physical Activity; Recreation; Education and Arts Programming; Information and Referral; Transportation; and Affordable Housing.

This declaration is intended as a demonstration of our commitment to the seniors of British Columbia and to ensure that community-based seniors' services are a priority for all stakeholders who serve the people of British Columbia.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The City of Surrey is a leader in innovation and sustainability, and recognizes that building strong partnerships within the non-profit and private sector is a successful approach to meet the interests and needs of the citizens of Surrey. Hosting the first Provincial Summit on Aging and supporting the Declaration of the Community-based Seniors' Services Sector in B.C. reflects the City of Surrey's Sustainability Charter, in particular Health and Wellness, Inclusion, Public Safety and Education and Culture.

CONCLUSION

The proposed Declaration of the Community-based Seniors' Services Sector in B.C. is supported by the City of Surrey's Sustainability Charter and the City's Age Friendly Strategy and is intended as an act of commitment to ensure community-based seniors services are a priority. Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council endorse the Declaration attached as Appendix "1".

Laurie Cavan
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Appendix "1" - Declaration of the Community-based Seniors' Services Sector in B.C.



Provincial Summit on Aging

An Initiative of the Raising the Profile Project

November 2 & 3, 2017

[Surrey City Hall – 13450 104 Avenue, Surrey, BC](#)

Declaration of the Community-based Seniors' Services Sector in B.C.

As the participants at the 2017 inaugural Summit on Aging from the federal, provincial and municipal governments, leaders from the community-based seniors' services sector, leaders from community foundations and allies of the sector, we recognize the important role played by the many programs and services offered by municipal governments and not-for-profit organizations to the overall health, well-being and quality of life of the older residents of this Province (<http://www.seniorsraisingtheprofile.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/RPP-Literature-Review.pdf>).

At the same time, we acknowledge that the capacity of the community-based seniors' service sector to deliver programs and services will need to be enhanced if, as a province, we are to maximize the potential for older adults to have the choice to "age in place" and remain in their own homes and communities for as long as possible. We also acknowledge that this will require closer collaboration between the not-for-profit organizations, municipalities and the provincial health system.

We, therefore, call on all those involved in the Community-based Seniors' Service Sector – as funders, policy makers, decision makers, seniors, families, friends, caregivers, service providers, organizations, leaders, and volunteers – to sign on to this declaration to ensure that:

Community-based seniors' services are formally recognized as a Sector that plays an essential role in supporting seniors' independence, resilience and social connectedness.

The definition of the Community-based Seniors' Services (or CBSS) Sector include all municipal and not-for-profit organizations that provide services and programming for older adults at the local level -- at community centres, single-and multi-service agencies, seniors' centres, community coalitions and neighbourhood houses -- throughout our province.

The seven core programs and services offered by the Sector reflect the diversity of British Columbia's geography and seniors' population and include: Nutritional Supports; Wellness Programs; Physical Activity; Recreation, Education and Arts Programming; Information and Referral; Transportation; and Affordable Housing.

This declaration is intended as a demonstration of our commitment to the seniors of British Columbia and to ensure that community-based seniors' services are a priority for all stakeholders who serve the people of British Columbia.