

Age-Friendly Initiative in Windsor, Ontario

Windsor was accepted in June 2012, as a member of the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities culminating more than two years of effort by the Windsor Seniors Advisory Committee.

SAC is a Windsor City Council appointed Committee currently made up of six seniors, three senior's service providers, a City Councillor, and two resource persons from the City and Library. SAC was established in late 2007 with the 'mandate' to identify and report to Council on ways to enrich and enhance the health and quality of life of all seniors in this community.

SAC recognized Windsor as a typical Canadian city in that seniors are its fastest growing demographic. Those over 65 outnumber those under 15, for the first time in Canadian history and because we are living longer, seniors current almost 20% will increase within twenty years to more than 30% of our community. Indeed, Boomers will within many of our lifetimes represent almost half our population.

To assist Windsor address the social policy issues of our aging population SAC undertook the WHO AFC model which we consider promotes the principles of 'aging in place' and 'healthy and respectful living'.

SAC used a WHO AFC questionnaire to gather information about our community, more than 90 questions in eight different 'domains' like transportation, housing, community and health services...This 'environmental scan' was presented in a "Report to the Community" in mid-year and is available on SAC's web site www.windsorseniors.com

This Report was used as the resource for a "Senior's Forum" which SAC organized in October in conjunction with a number of other seniors related partner organizations. The outcomes of the 'Forum' will be the basis for preparing a multi - year Age – Friendly Windsor Action Plan.

SAC appreciates that the AFC Action Plan will be implemented within Windsor's budgetary framework and the continued cooperation of Windsor Council. SAC considers that Windsor's status as an Age-Friendly Community contributes to economic diversification, job creation, and its reputation as Canada's preferred retirement location.

Larry Duffield, Chair,
Windsor Seniors Advisory Committee.