



WINDSOR SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2018

The Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC) is a Council appointed committee whose prescribed terms of reference and mandate preface is: "all seniors should have a right to multiple opportunities for healthy aging and a full range of supports to assist them." By any measure that is an embracing and ambitious mandate Council has given to SAC and conversely for Council to support the work of SAC.

To remind, seniors over 65 outnumber residents under 14, are the only growing demographic in our city, and will by 2031 represent almost 25% of our population.

SAC was formed in 2008 by Council following an election campaign in which voters asked for a seniors committee. The first SAC quickly identified the World Health Organization (WHO) Age Friendly Community (AFC) model as its overarching focus to promote Council and Administration to look through a seniors' lens in its planning and budgeting.

Subsequently through a SAC directed consultation and planning process, WHO AFC membership was achieved in 2012 and the AFC Action Plan 2014-17 was successfully completed and submitted to WHO under the Mayor's signature in June 2017 (thereby committing Windsor to another five year AFC cycle). It is notable that Windsor's AFC has evolved to have profile in the province with a number of planning partners. We are active with:

The Southern Ontario Age Friendly Network (SOAFN)

- ''' The Ontario AFN Outreach Program which the Government of Ontario funds through the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility is administered by the University of Waterloo, Queen's University, Huntington/Laurentian University
- ''' The Ontario Interdisciplinary Council for Aging and Health (OICAH), and the Seniors Health Knowledge Network (SHKN).

As is prescribed, SAC completes its fourth term with the swearing in of the newly minted Council in December 2018. Our SAC tenure was capped by having achieved in March for Windsor an "Ontario Age Friendly Community Recognition Award" (only the second community to be so recognized).

To recognize Windsor's AFC achievements and hard earned status.

Building on the SAC AFC platform, a number of other SAC activities in 2018 include:

- utilizing our Council \$4000 to promote seniors in our communities
- by requesting the Mayor to issue related Proclamations celebrating
 - Seniors Month in June and
 - UN International Day of Elder Persons and Canada Seniors Day on October 1,
- placing ads in the Council of Aging calendar and the Parks and Rec Activities Guides,
- printing copies of the AFC Seniors Summit Report November 2017,
- updating, translating into seven languages our SAC pamphlet,
- supporting costs for the annual October 1 flag raising ceremony.

SAC was pleased to participate in two consultation processes over 2018:

- Federal Accessibility Act proposed amendments by Cheryl Hardcastle, Member of Parliament for Windsor-Tecumseh
- Transit Windsor Service Review.

SAC acknowledges and thanks to Administration for responding to our request for storage space for our display and informational materials.

SAC is hopeful that Windsor's seniors will be offered free of charge in 2019 a Financial Literacy Workshop for Seniors by the Canadian Foundation for Economic Education as was recommended previously.

In closing our term, SAC mourns the passing of sitting and former members Richard Woodall, Bruce Draper and Alex Gyemi during this term. SAC thanks Karen Demers and Sonya Vani for their time on SAC, acknowledges current citizen volunteers on SAC, Brian Cyncora, Sungee John and Celia Southward, and our Council member leader, Ed Sleiman. Gratitude is extended also to our Administration resources, Sandra Bradt, Karen Kadour, and Greg Rusk.

Finally SAC thanks Council for our appointment to SAC, Council support for our mandate and service on behalf of our City's seniors, and for Council continuing to make Windsor an Age Friendly City and a City for All Ages!

Respectively submitted,
Sally Bennett Olczak, Chair and Larry Duffield, Vice Chair
December 4, 2018.

SURVEY OF AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

The **Ontario Age-Friendly Communities (AFC) Outreach Program** invites you to complete this survey about your AFC development.

Purpose of the survey

The purpose of this annual survey is to continue to describe and build our collective understanding of AFC development in Ontario.

The survey covers seven topic areas:

1. Current AFC status
2. Funding and governance
3. Current activities
4. Use of AFC Outreach Program supports
5. Enablers, Challenges & Benefits
6. Sustainability
7. Engaging Diverse Populations
- 8.

Who should complete the survey?

The Lead (or leads) of an age-friendly community should submit **one** set of responses on behalf of their community.

Even if your community is no longer active, please answer the first survey questions so we can note your status in our records.

How long will the survey take?

The survey will take approximately 15-20 minutes for those communities still engaged in AFC activities. If your AFC work is on hold or discontinued, it will only take 5 minutes.

How will survey responses be used?

Survey results will be aggregated so that individual communities' responses will not be identifiable; however, results may be aggregated by region or population size.

Results will be shared with various stakeholders in a variety of formats (e.g. presentations, white papers, publications etc.) to inform future decision making, policy and funding opportunities.

Questions?

Thank you for your time and continued contributions to our collective understanding of AFC development in Ontario.

If you have any questions about this survey or the intended use of the data, please contact Sarah Webster: swebster@seniorshealthknowledgegenetwork.com

THE ONTARIO AFC OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Government of Ontario funds the AFC Outreach Program through the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility. The AFC Outreach Program is administered by the University of Waterloo, Queen's University, Huntington/Laurentian University, the Ontario Interdisciplinary Council for Aging and Health (OICAH), and the Seniors Health Knowledge Network (SHKN).

Proposed Accessible Canada Act - Summary of the Bill C-81

The purpose of the bill is to make Canada barrier-free in areas under federal jurisdiction.

To improve accessibility for all Canadians and would apply to matters under federal authority it would lead to more consistent accessibility in areas within federal jurisdiction across Canada and would ensure that the Government of Canada leads by example. The Act would add to the existing rights and protections for people with disabilities, including the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Canadian Human Rights Act and Canada's approval of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The bill outlines how to identify and remove accessibility barriers and prevent new barriers, under federal rule, including in:

- built environments (buildings and public spaces);
- employment Job opportunities and employment policies and practices);
- information and communication technologies (digital content and technologies used to access it);
- procurement of goods and services;
- delivering programs and services; and
- Transportation (by air as well as by rail, ferry and bus carriers that operate across a provincial or international border).

The Act would apply broadly to organizations under federal responsibility ("regulated entities"):

- Parliament, including the Senate, the House of Commons, the Library of Parliament and the Parliamentary Protective Service (with some tailoring of compliance and enforcement provisions to respect parliamentary privilege);
- The Government of Canada, including government departments, Crown Corporations and agencies;
- The federally regulated private sector, including organizations in the transportation sectors, broadcasting and telecommunications services, and the banking and financial sectors; and
- The Canadian Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), while allowing for considerations related to bona fide occupational requirements, such as certain physical requirements necessary in order to carry out certain jobs.

The Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities would also be responsible for launching periodic independent reviews of the Act and reporting on those reviews to Parliament.

In addition, the Government of Canada will appoint, by Order in Council, an independent Chief Accessibility Officer who will be responsible for monitoring and reporting to the Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities on the implementation of this Act across all sectors. The independent Chief Accessibility Officer will also be responsible for reporting and providing advice to the Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities on emerging and systemic issues

To make sure regulated entities meet their obligations, the bill proposes that a mix of proactive compliance activities be used. These activities include:

- **Inspections:** Officers would carry out inspections to make sure regulated entities are following the requirements of the Act and its regulations.
- **Compliance audits:** Officers could examine records and other relevant information from regulated entities to make sure they are following the Act and its regulations.
- **Compliance orders:** If an officer thinks that a regulated entity is not meeting its responsibilities, they could issue an order to the regulated entity to stop or start any activity to meet the responsibilities.
- **Notice of violation with warning:** If there is good reason to believe that a regulated entity has violated the law, officers could issue this notice with a warning to comply with the Act and its regulations.

- **Notice of violation with penalty:** If there is good reason to believe that a regulated entity has violated the law, officers could issue this notice and a fine.
- **Administrative monetary penalties:** Depending on the nature and severity of non-compliance, an officer could require that the regulated entity pay a fine (up to \$250,000).

The bill defines key terms used in the law. The terms "disability" and "barrier" are important because they describe who the Act is directly intended to benefit and how the Act would be successful.

Key Definitions

Barrier

- Means anything - including anything physical, architectural, technological or attitudinal, anything that is based on information or communications or anything that is the result of a policy or a practice - that hinders the full and equal participation in society of persons with a physical, mental, intellectual, learning, communication or sensory impairment or a functional limitation.

Disability

- Means a physical, mental, intellectual, learning, communication or sensory impairment-or a functional limitation-whether permanent, temporary or episodic in nature that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person's full and equal participation in society.

Meeting Observations

MP Cheryl Hardcastle explained her concerns about the proposed act. Her concerns dealt with omissions and enforcements since she had proposed amendments to improve her viewed deficiencies in the proposed language. The bill has passed second reading and now is in the Senate for review. The Government agenda is to have the act in force this spring. She is looking for support to have the senate committee accept amendments to improve the act.

Mainly the act has no monetary penalties for non-compliance, exempts the CRTC and CTA and limits the enforcement of the proposed actions in the bill.

Summary

The role of SAC is limited in assisting any changes to the proposed act. The SAC could reach out to affiliated organizations in their network such as CARP and support their efforts if the committee wishes. My personal opinion is that this proposed act is better than no legislation.

Respectfully Submitted

Lynne Adams