

City Receives Age-friendly award - December 2019

The City of Saskatoon is honored to accept the Age-Friendly Recognition Award from the Province of Saskatchewan, an award that recognizes success and encourages communities to take sustainable action towards becoming Age-friendly. We commend and thank the Saskatoon Council on Aging (SCOA) for its part in earning this award for the City of Saskatoon

The work that brought this about was a project called the Age-Friendly Saskatoon Initiative that was originated and led by the Saskatoon Council on Aging and aimed at community change intended to establish Saskatoon as an age-friendly city. The City was pleased to cooperate with the project and to implement some of its outcomes.

With the growing population of seniors, the City of Saskatoon recognizes the key role it plays in helping to establish clear policy directions for the programs and services required by older adult citizens.

As the provider of many programs, services and infrastructure for the residents of Saskatoon, the City works to ensure these structures are responsive to the needs of the residents. Fundamental to creating an age-friendly community is a shift in people's attitude toward a more positive view of aging and older adults. Enabling older adults to engage in social and community activities helps maintain their connections to other people and the community; all of which contribute to an improved overall quality of life.

A commitment to respect and to include older adults is a true measure of a society's support for the quality of life and social well-being of all of its citizens. To demonstrate the City's commitment to this great community work, the City of Saskatoon's Strategic Plan, 2013 – 2023, under the Strategic Goal of Quality of Life, identified as a priority, "the development of age-friendly initiatives to enhance quality of life as people age".

The Age-friendly Saskatoon Initiative achieved a significant level of success in its efforts to positively change community conversations about an aging population in Saskatoon. This was largely due to the enthusiasm and expertise that older adult volunteers provided and the thousands of hours that they dedicated over the 5 years of the Initiative to ensure the attainment of the project goals. In 2017, following the completion of the Initiative, the City of Saskatoon applied for and was granted full membership in the WHO Global Age-friendly Cities Network.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the Saskatoon Council on Aging to make Saskatoon a truly age-friendly city. Thank you once again for this award.

Age-Friendly Award Comes Home - January 2020

The second annual Age-Friendly Community Recognition Award was presented to the City of Saskatoon in council chambers on January 27th, 2019. Presented by Saskatoon Council on Aging [SCOA] Age-Friendly Co-chair Candace Skrapek, the award recognizes the city for its commitment to working to provide an inclusive environment for older adults and supporting age-friendly environments that help seniors age actively.

On December 3, 2019, the [City of Saskatoon received the award](#) from the Government of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism (SSM) in the provincial Legislature's fall sitting.

The work that brought this about was the Age-Friendly Saskatoon Initiative [AFSI] project. Led by SCOA, the multiyear project aimed at community change to establish Saskatoon as an age-friendly city. The City of Saskatoon plays a key role to establish clear policy directions for the programs and services needed by older adult citizens.

“By 2025, one-quarter of Saskatoon's population will be over the age of 65. Planning for this growing, older population is critical.”¹

The city collaborated with the project and implemented some of its outcomes.

To create an age-friendly community, society's attitudes must shift toward a positive view of aging and older adults. If older adults have opportunities to participate in social and community activities, they maintain connections to other people and the community which contributes to improved quality of life. Due to the enthusiasm, expertise and countless hours provided by older adult volunteers, the AFSI succeeded in its efforts to positively change community conversations about an aging population in Saskatoon.

The City of Saskatoon continues to demonstrate its commitment to this great community work. Following the completion of AFSI in 2017, the City of Saskatoon was granted full membership in the World Health Organization Global Age-friendly Cities Network.

The City of Saskatoon Strategic Plan, 2013 – 2023 identifies “development of age-friendly initiatives to enhance quality of life as people age”² as a priority under Quality of Life Strategic Goal.

SCOA looks forward to continuing collaboration to make Saskatoon a truly age-friendly city. **A commitment to respect and inclusion is a true measure of a society's support for the quality of life of all of its citizens.** This latest award marks one more achievement on the journey to an age-friendly Saskatoon.