

Achieving “A Community for all Ages” across Niagara **Be informed | Contribute to Niagara’s Success | Become a Champion**

All of us have a stake in ensuring our community is responsive to the needs of everyone as we age. The volunteer-led **Age-Friendly Niagara Council (AFNC)** provides this 2-page brief to help engage 2022 municipal election candidates in issues affecting everyone in our community.

Be Informed

Today’s older adults make valuable contributions to the community, ranging from countless hours of volunteer work to their economic impact as consumers.

- Approximately 38% of the Niagara population is 55 years and over, compared to 33% for the rest of Canada¹.
- Current Niagara population growth is from commuters and retirees moving to Niagara².
- Most of today’s older adults are well, active, healthier and living longer to unprecedented levels, all of which provides for great opportunities.
- Older adults make up many of the volunteers for, and donors to local causes.
- Baby Boomers control the bulk of wealth and spending; they spend 66% more on goods and services than millennial households³.

Contribute to Niagara’s Success

There is a global movement toward age-friendly community planning and Niagara is making good progress toward this goal.

The [World Health Organization](#) fosters development of “age-friendly communities” by identifying 8 domains – most of which fall under municipal jurisdiction, such as transportation, housing, civic and social participation, outdoor spaces, and community health. Both the federal and provincial governments have appointed a Minister of Seniors. Since 2013, the Ontario government has demonstrated leadership and support for age-friendly communities.

In Niagara, the [Age-Friendly Niagara Council](#) (AFNC) has engaged over 500 people in the community, to develop the [Niagara Aging Strategy and Action Plan \(NASAP\)](#) and implement priority actions; [identified COVID-19 impacts on older adults](#); has

partnered to build [Older Adult Infolink](#) which allows for easier, enhanced and more centralized access to information about community services for older adults; and is an active member of the [Ontario Association of Councils on Aging](#).

The AFNC has fostered establishment of the Niagara Older Adult Alliance (NOAA), including more than 100 volunteers across Niagara who serve on local municipal advisory committees which advocate for the interests of older people and age-friendly actions. NOAA members share information to align planning and action, with a focus on ensuring that all people, regardless of age, ability, need or capacity, are included in all aspects of community life.

Age-Friendly Niagara:

- Provides a nimble framework for decision-makers to connect with what local older adults are thinking
- Reflects strong, Niagara-wide community leadership and volunteer commitment
- Brings diverse perspectives of people, organizations, institutions, municipalities and businesses together, to focus on community belonging for people of all ages in Niagara

In 2022, the AFNC engaged more than 1200 individuals aged 50+ from across the region in completing the '[Empowering Older Adults in Niagara Survey](#)'. Watch for survey results, which will provide decision-makers and planners with insights into issues of interest and concern to older adults who live in Niagara's communities.

Become a Champion

There is an unprecedented opportunity for political and community champions to take up the age-friendly communities cause, and for candidates to make it part of their platform.

Following the October, 2022 election, municipal governments across Niagara will have an opportunity to demonstrate leadership and champion age-friendly planning for the benefit of all.

[Click here](#) to learn more about engaged and empowered older adults in Niagara.

Contact the Age-Friendly Niagara Council: afn@agefriendlyniagara.com