Township of Langley

Est. 1873

SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 7:00pm
Via Zoom

A G E N D A

Welcome

Welcome and Introduction by Council Co-Chair

Code of Ethics Signing (pg. 1-6)

Members to sign the *"Code of Ethics, Confidentiality, and Conflict of Interest for Council Members and Appointees"* and submit electronically.

Election of Co-Chair

Staff to provide information on the role of the Community Co-Chair and ask for members to consider if they would like to take on this position. Election to be held at February meeting.

Page

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Seniors Advisory Committee – January 19, 2022

Recommendation that Seniors Advisory Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the January 19, 2022 meeting.

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

7-9 **1. Seniors Advisory Committee – December 15, 2021**

Recommendation that Seniors Advisory Committee adopt the Minutes of the December 15, 2021 meeting.

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

D. REPORTS

1. Council Co-Chair Report

Page

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

10-12 **1. 2022 Work Plan**

Orientation to the SAC and discussion regarding the 2022 Work Plan.

The 2021 Work Plan is attached for reference purposes. The SAC 2021 Annual Report indicated that work plan items for 2022 will be guided by recommended actions identified in the Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan (refer to item H.4).

2. Provincial Accessibility Legislation

Staff update.

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

13-15 **1. Terms of Reference**

Seniors Advisory Committee Terms of Reference provided for review.

16 **2. 2022 Meeting Schedule**

Provided for information.

3. 2022 Membership List

To be provided under separate cover if the committee agrees.

17-40 **4. Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan**

Provided for information.

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: February 16, 2022
Location: TBD
Time: 7:00 pm

J. TERMINATE

Township of Langley

Est. 1873

COUNCIL POLICY

Subject: Code of Ethics, Conduct, Confidentiality, and Conflict of Interest for Council Members and Appointees

Policy No:	**01-025**
Approved by Council:	**2011-11-07**
Revised by Council:	**2016-05-30**

1. Purpose

1.1. The residents and businesses of the Township of Langley (the Township) are entitled to have a fair, honest, and responsible local government that has earned the public's full confidence for integrity. Therefore, the purposes of this Code of Ethics, Conduct, Confidentiality, and Conflict of Interest (the Code) are to ensure that:

1.1.1. all members of Council (Members) and all persons appointed by Council to boards, committees, commissions, panels, or task forces, whether they are members of Council or not (Appointees) carry out their duties with integrity, impartiality and independence

1.1.2. Members and Appointees treat one another, Township officers and employees, and the public with respect

1.1.3. the conduct of Members and Appointees in the performance of their duties and responsibilities with the Township is above reproach

1.1.4. Members and Appointees respect and uphold confidentiality requirements

1.1.5. Members and Appointees avoid any conflict of interest

2. Application of the Code

2.1. The Code is applicable to all Members and Appointees. The bodies to which Council can appoint Appointees are referred to collectively as Committees throughout this Code.

3. Policies

3.1. Code of Ethics

3.1.1. Members and Appointees will adhere to the following Code of Ethics:

3.1.1.1. maintain the highest ideals of honour, integrity, and accountability and discharge public duties in a manner that is fair, honest, professional, and responsible

3.1.1.2. comply with all applicable federal, provincial, and local laws in the performance of public duties. These laws include, but are not limited to, the Local Government Act, Community Charter, Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Criminal Code, Human Rights Code, all laws pertaining to financial disclosures and employer responsibilities, and any other relevant Township bylaws and policies

3.1.1.3. base their decisions on the merit and substance of the matter at hand

3.1.1.4. refrain from abusive conduct, personal charge or verbal attacks upon the character or motives of other Members and Appointees, Township officers, and employees, or the public

3.1.1.5. respect and adhere to the structure of government as established in the Township. In this structure, the Council determines the policies of the Township with the advice, information, and analysis provided by Committees, staff, and the public. Members and Appointees, therefore, will not interfere with the administrative functions of the Township or with the professional duties of Township staff, nor will they impair the ability of staff to implement Council policy decisions.

3.1.1.6. not use public resources that are not available to the public in general, such as staff time, equipment, supplies or facilities, for private gain or personal purposes

3.1.1.7. not accept any gift, money, property, position or favour of any kind whether to be received at the present or in the future, from any person except as follows:

3.1.1.7.1. where such a gift or favour is authorized by law

3.1.1.7.2. where such contributions are lawful campaign contributions

3.1.1.7.3. where such gifts or favours are received as an incident of the protocol, social obligation, or common business hospitality that accompany the duties and responsibilities of the member, and then only in compliance with applicable laws

3.2. Confidentiality

3.2.1. Members and Appointees will adhere to the following requirements in relation to confidentiality:

3.2.1.1. unless otherwise authorized by Council or a Committee, keep in confidence any record held in confidence by the Township, until

the record is released to the public as lawfully authorized or required

3.2.1.2. unless otherwise authorized by Council or a Committee, keep in confidence information considered in any part of a Council meeting or Committee meeting that was lawfully closed to the public, until Council or the Committee discusses the information at a meeting that is open to the public

3.2.1.3. Members and Appointees will not use confidential information for the personal profit or gain of themselves or others

3.3. Conflict of Interest

3.3.1. Members and Appointees will adhere to the following requirements in relation to conflicts of interest:

3.3.1.1. be aware of and act in accordance with Division 6 of Part 4 of the *Community Charter* and the Oath of Office

3.3.1.2. be aware of and declare, in writing where necessary, any real or perceived conflicts of interest. A conflict of interest exists where:

3.3.1.2.1. a Member or Appointee is a director, member or employee of an organization seeking a benefit from he Township on which the decision making body will make a recommendation or decision

3.3.1.2.2. the Member or Appointee has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the outcome of deliberations

A conflict of interest does not exist if:

3.3.1.2.3. the pecuniary interest of the Member or Appointee is a pecuniary interest that is sufficiently in common with electors of the Township generally

3.3.1.2.4. the pecuniary interest is so remote or insignificant that it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to influence the Member or Appointee in relation to the matter

3.3.1.2.5. where a conflict of interest exists, Members and Appointees must not participate in the discussion of the matter or to vote on a question in respect of the matter, must declare to the body that a conflict exists, and must remove themselves from the meeting during consideration of the issue to which the conflict relates. The declaration of a conflict and the Member's or Appointee's exit from and return to the meeting will be noted in the minutes

3.3.1.2.6. where in the opinion of Council or a Committee, a Member or Appointee is in a conflict of interest and has not so declared, the body may ask for a review of the matter by the Township Clerk. The matter, if unresolved, may then be referred to legal counsel or to Council for review.

3.4. Code of Conduct – Committee Appointees

3.4.1 Expressing Personal Opinions or Beliefs

In some circumstances and within certain programs, advisory committee members or board members may be required or requested to provide an opinion in regards to the nature of a program or service. It is extremely important that committee or board members use judgment before expressing specific opinions. Township advisory committee members and board members should refrain from expressing their personal convictions and ideals, such as religious or any other personal beliefs or philosophies, to fellow committee or board members or to the public

3.4.2 Representation to the Media

It is extremely important that only Council members or designated staff speak to the media in relation to Township issues. If at any time, advisory committee or board members are approached or contacted by a media representative, the member should contact the staff member coordinating the committee or board.

3.4.3 Comments

Advisory committee and board members will refrain from providing comments, either written or in an electronic format, to members of Council that do not advance or enhance the purpose of the committee/board.

4. Implementation of the Code of Ethics

4.1. This Code is intended to be self-enforcing. Members and Appointees should view the Code as a set of guidelines that expresses the standards of conduct expected of them. Implementation is most effective when Members and Appointees are thoroughly familiar with the Code and embrace its provisions. For this reason, the Code will be provided to candidates for Council and applicants to Committees.

4.2. Members and Appointees will be requested to sign the Statement, attached as Appendix A, affirming they have read and understood the Township of Langley Code. In addition, Council and Committees shall annually review the Code, and Council shall consider recommendations from Committees and update the Code as necessary.

5. Compliance and Enforcement

5.1. Members and Appointees themselves have the primary responsibility to ensure that the standards and requirements in this Code are understood and met, and that the public can continue to have full confidence in the integrity of the governance of the Township of Langley.

5.2. Council may impose sanctions on Members and Appointees whose conduct does not comply with the Township's Code. Council may:

5.2.1. impose a motion of censure on a Member

5.2.2. rescind the appointment of an Appointee to a Committee

5.2.3. take action under s. 117(2) of the *Community Charter* or under the *Offence Act*

5.2.4. control the Member's or Appointee's access to areas of the Township property or to officers and employees, including by phone or email

5.3. To ensure procedural and administrative fairness, a Member or Appointee who is alleged to have violated any provision of the Code shall have a minimum of one week or the time between two consecutive regular Council meetings, whichever is greater, to prepare his or her case, with legal counsel if the Member of Appointee so chooses, to respond to these allegations. Before considering a sanction, Council must ensure that a member has:

5.3.1. received a written copy of the case against him or her

5.3.2. a minimum of one week or the time between two consecutive regular Council meetings, whichever is greater, to prepare a defence against any allegations

5.3.3. a fair opportunity to be heard

6. Violation Not Cause to Challenge a Decision

6.1. A violation of this Code of Ethics shall not be considered a basis for challenging the validity of a Council or a Committee decision.

APPENDIX A:
MEMBER STATEMENT

Council of the Township of Langley and Council Appointees to Boards, Committees, Commissions and Task Forces

As a Member of the Township of Langley Council or an Appointee of a Township Committee or Board, I agree to uphold the Code of Ethics, Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest adopted by the Township and to conduct myself by the following model of excellence. I will:

- recognize the diversity of backgrounds, interests, and views in our community;
- help create an atmosphere of open and responsive government;
- conduct public affairs with integrity, in a fair, honest, and open manner;
- respect one another and the unique role and contribution each of us has in making the Township a better place to work and live;
- strive to keep the decision-making processes open, accessible, participatory, understandable, timely, just, and fair;
- avoid and discourage conduct which is not in the best interests of the Township;
- avoid any real or perceived conflict of interest and declare at the earliest opportunity, in writing, any interest that is or may be in conflict with the business of the body of the Township in which I am participating;
- respect and uphold confidentiality requirements; and
- treat all people with whom I come in contact in the way I wish to be treated.

I affirm that I have read and understood the Township of Langley Code of Ethics, Confidentiality, and Conflict of Interest.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name (please print): Office / Committee:

_____ _____

Township of Langley
Est. 1873

SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 7:00pm
Via Zoom

MINUTES

Present:
E. Brett, Community Co-Chair
Councillor P. Arnason, Council Co-Chair
Councillor S. Ferguson, Council Co-Chair

C. Eaton, L. Gates, L. George, S. Hedao, C. Martin, S. Martin and G. Wong

Staff:
C. Quin, Recording Secretary
P. Ward, Strategic/Social Planner

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Seniors Advisory Committee – December 15, 2021

Moved by L. Gates,
Seconded by G. Wong,
That the Seniors Advisory Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the December 15, 2021 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Seniors Advisory Committee Minutes – November 17, 2021

Moved by L. George,
Seconded by C. Eaton,
That the Seniors Advisory Committee adopt the Minutes of the November 17, 2021 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

D. REPORTS

1. Co-Chair Reports

Councillor Ferguson:

- Councillor Ferguson commended Mariam Larson's presentation regarding the Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan, which was endorsed by Council on December 13, 2021.
- Representing Metro Vancouver, Councillor Ferguson attended the Indigenous Rights and Legal Implications Conference.
- Councillor Ferguson commended and thanked Evan Brett for the dedication he has given to the Seniors Advisory Committee.

Councillor Arnason:

- Councillor Arnason commended Manjit Gill, Seniors Advisory Committee member for receiving the HD Stafford Citizen Award.
- Councillor Arnason thanked all members and staff for their dedication to the Seniors Advisory Committee.

E. Brett:

- E. Brett noted his term has expired as a Seniors Advisory Committee member, and wished everyone well and happy holidays.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Seniors Advisory Committee 2021 Annual Report

MOTION
Moved by L. George,
Seconded by G. Wong,
That the Seniors Advisory Committee receive and endorse the SAC 2021 Annual Report and ask staff to forward to Council.
CARRIED

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: January 19, 2021
Location: TBA
Time: 7:00pm

J. TERMINATE

Moved by C. Eaton,
Seconded by L. George,
That the meeting terminate at 7:45pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair

Endorsed by Township Council March 8, 2021

Seniors Advisory Committee
2021 Work Plan

This document outlines the projects that the Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC) intends to undertake in 2021, along with potential projects to be considered in the future. For projects that correspond to existing strategies identified in the Age-friendly Strategy (AFS), the theme, strategy number, and timeframe are noted.

2021 Projects

1. **Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan**
   Background: The Township has initiated a planning process to prepare an Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan (an update to the existing Age-friendly Strategy). A Dementia-friendly Task Force has been established to support the planning process.
   Proposed SAC role: Participate on the project Task Force, providing input and feedback at key points during the project (as per the project and task force terms of reference)
   Approximate timing: Early 2021 – Late 2021

2. **Hidden Mobility Disability Pilot Project**
   Background: In 2019, the SAC received a presentation on hidden mobility disability, which included suggestions for potential pilot projects.
   Proposed SAC role: As part of the development of the Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan (see project #1 above), consider the implementation of a hidden mobility disability pilot project such as benches, informal seating, and way-finding signage in partnership with local stakeholders.
   Approximate timing: Early 2021 – Late 2021

3. **Partnerships and Liaison with Local Seniors' Organizations**
   Background: There are various local organizations engaging in seniors' issues.
   Proposed SAC role: Develop a better understanding of the different seniors' organizations in the community and explore opportunities for collaboration.
   Approximate timing: Early 2021 – Late 2021

4. **Seniors Week**
   AFS: Respect & Social Inclusion – Strategy #3 (Medium Term)
   Background: The Township typically delivers various recreation and social programs and events during Seniors Week (the first week of June).
   Proposed SAC role: Consider an event or activity associated with Seniors Week that meets COVID-19 public health orders, recommendations, and guidelines.
   Approximate timing: Early 2021 – Mid 2021

5. **Pedestrian Safety**
   AFS: Transportation – Strategy #6 (Medium Term)
   Background: The AFS recommends a pedestrian safety evaluation.
   Proposed SAC role: Receive a presentation on pedestrian safety, and the "pedestrian delay model" for light signalization and "traffic refuge islands" as potential components of a pilot project in the Township.
   Approximate timing: Mid 2021 – Late 2021

6. **COVID-19 recovery**
   Background: The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted many vulnerable populations, including older adults.
   Proposed SAC role: Consider COVID-19 recovery initiatives related to older adults.
   Approximate timing: Mid 2021 – Late 2021

7. **Housing Action Plan update**
   AFS: Housing – Strategies #1 – #7 (Short, Medium and Long Term)
   Background: The Township has initiated a planning process to update the Housing Action Plan, and the AFS includes a number of housing-related strategies.
   Potential SAC role: Provide feedback on draft action ideas for the Housing Action Plan update.
   Approximate timing: Mid 2021 – Late 2021

8. **Transit Round Table**
   AFS: Transportation – Strategy #4 (Short Term)
   Background: The AFS recommends community outreach to identify underserved areas and services.
   Proposed SAC role: Engage in exploration of potentially hosting a "round table" (virtual if necessary) based on facilitated dialogue with TransLink to address, among other items, identified HandyDART gaps and concerns as expressed by SAC in 2019.
   Approximate timing: Late 2021

Potential Future Projects

1. **Community Health Care Model**
   AFS: Community Support & Health Services – Strategy #1 (Short Term)
   Background: The AFS recommends supporting Fraser Health and community service providers in addressing community health needs.
   Proposed SAC role: Liaise with Fraser Health, Healthier Community Partnership, Langley Division of Family Practice, and Township staff in order to identify opportunities for siting comprehensive interdisciplinary primary health care facilities within local communities in the Township.

2. **Micro-Transit Service and Ride Hailing Options**
   AFS: Transportation – Strategy #4 (Short Term)
   Background: The AFS includes recommendations regarding improved transit service.
   Potential SAC role: Co-ordinate a potential recommendation regarding community shuttle options and a multi-modal transportation approach.

3. **Inter-generational programs**
   AFS: Respect & Social Inclusion – Strategy #4 (Medium Term)
   Background: The AFS recommends the development of programs and initiatives that bring multiple generations together, and the Township has piloted such initiatives in the past.
   Potential SAC role: Review, identify and recommend appropriate programs and initiatives that can be implemented at established events, such as hot lunch days, reading to elementary / K-classrooms, PAC assistance (finance and accounting), field trips / crosswalks, and band / concert assistance.

4. **Mobility Transportation**
   AFS: Transportation – Strategy #8 (Long Term)
   Background: The AFS recommends considering the increased use of motorized scooters when reviewing road, sidewalk, and trail design standards.
   Potential SAC role: Incorporate scooters and the expanding use of other mobility devices for immediate analysis to accelerate the timeline for review in current Age-friendly Strategy. Township staff to coordinate with SAC on assessments and review of current standards for consideration of amendments to design standards in the Township to reflect an age-friendly "lens."

5. **Seniors Employment**
   AFS: Civic Participation & Employment – Strategy #7 (Long Term)
   Background: The AFS includes actions that encourage local businesses to identify employment positions for older adults.
   Potential SAC role: Consider sponsoring or co-hosting a workshop or job fair on senior employment opportunities by liaising with senior-service stakeholder agencies such as the Langley Seniors in Action, the Langley Seniors Resources Society and other identified senior-serving agencies.

6. **Redevelopment of Langley Memorial Hospital Site**
   AFS: Community Support & Health Services – Strategy #6 (Long Term – Ongoing)
   Background: The AFS recommends collaborating with Fraser Health in preparation of a Master Site Plan for the Langley Memorial Hospital.
   Potential SAC role: Liaise with Fraser Health, Langley Memorial Hospital Foundation, and Township staff in order to inform "age-friendly" values such as "aging in place" with respect to creating a viable and vibrant re-design of the existing hospital site to include housing and campus of care with focussed geriatric programmes and other complementary disciplines, further to the focus and interests of SAC.

Township of Langley
Est. 1873

TERMS OF REFERENCE

SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

Approved by Council:	**Dec. 2012**
Amended:	**May 2013**
Amended:	**Oct. 2019**

1.0 ESTABLISHMENT

The SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (the "Committee") is established pursuant to the Advisory Committee Establishment Bylaw 2008 No. 4700, including its amendments, and is an advisory committee subject to the specific scope and mandate outlined in this Bylaw and as supplemented by the provisions of this document.

2.0 PURPOSE

The Committee is established by Council to:

2.1 represent the Township of Langley seniors' perspectives on municipal and other key seniors' issues (i.e. transportation, affordable housing, parks, cultural, and recreation services, and geographical service delivery)

2.2 provide a voice for Township of Langley seniors, exchanging information about current issues and emerging concerns

2.3 provide input to Township staff as requested on an ongoing basis

2.4 work toward identified goals as outlined in an annual work plan (work plan may include hosting seniors discussion forums, support strategic planning for development of local senior services, public information, etc.)

2.5 make recommendations to Council on related matters

3.0 MANDATE

The Committee is interested in raising awareness of seniors needs for services in terms of outdoor spaces and places, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and inclusion, communication and information, and community support and health services in the community.

On May 13, 2013, Council designated the Seniors Advisory Committee as the "Age-Friendly Advisory Steering Committee", as per the Age-Friendly Status requirements.

4.0 COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE

4.1 Community Representatives

In making its appointments to the Seniors Advisory Committee, Council is requested to consider Langley's geographic diversity and public interest, and appoint applicants who possess knowledge and expertise in these areas.

4.2 Duration of Appointments

Terms will be two years duration. Appointments made after the date of adoption of Council Advisory Committee Establishment Bylaw 2008 No. 4700 Amendment Bylaw 2012 No. 4905 will serve as year one in the calculation of service for all Committee appointees, and it is recommended that when the first appointments are made in January 2013 that half of the appointees be appointed to serve a one-year term and half be appointed to serve a two-year term to ensure coverage.

4.3 Remuneration

A member may be reimbursed for incidental and out of pocket expenses incurred for work on behalf of and approved by the Committee upon prior approval of Council.

5.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 Responsibilities of Committee Members

5.1.1 Co-Chairs

Council Advisory Committees will be co-chaired by the Council representative appointed to the Committee (non-voting) and a community member appointee (voting) as elected by the Committee. The Co-Chairs facilitate the meetings of the Committee and work with staff on related tasks between meetings. The Co-Chairs will consult with staff and Committee members to appoint liaison representatives to support the work of affiliated committees. The Co-Chairs speak for community participation, infrastructure, and environment issues, and represent the views of the Committee in any external liaisons and Township meetings.

5.1.2 Committee Members

Committee members work together to contribute community knowledge, expertise, and advice in matters related to Township of Langley seniors.

6.0 MEETINGS

6.1 Staff Support

The General Manager, Engineering and Community Development, or designate shall attend and support Committee meetings.

7.0 SUBCOMMITTEES

When and as required by other levels of government, and in maintenance of professional standards, accreditations or best practices Council may consider and allow the formation of subcommittees with specific expertise and oversight. As these subcommittees are not ad hoc or task force specific, the establishment of a subcommittee must be by a resolution of Township Council on a yearly basis.

8.0 TASK FORCES

The Committee may establish a task force for a specific purpose with duration of up to a maximum of 180 days unless approved by Council, to undertake special projects which may require extended consultation, review and planning, subject to prior approval by Council.

SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022

January 19, 2022

February 16, 2022

March 16, 2022

April 20, 2022

May 18, 2022

June 15, 2022

TUESDAY September 20, 2022

October 19, 2022

November 16, 2022

December 21, 2022



Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan

Township of Langley
Est. 1873

Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan

Acknowledgments

We respectfully acknowledge that the Township of Langley is located on the traditional and unceded territories of the Katzie, Kwantlen, Matsqui, and Semiahmoo First Nations.

The Township would like to thank the individuals and organizations who provided their expertise and insight into the preparation of the Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan. A special thank you to the individuals that participated on the Dementia-friendly Task Force:

- Cassandra Eaton
- Chonna Munnalall
- Councillor Petrina Arnason
- Councillor Steve Ferguson
- Evan Brett
- Gabrielle Wong
- Kelly Brown
- Lisa George
- Lorraine Gates
- Manjit Gill
- Ramsey Oren
- Sana Aziz
- Shahin Soheili
- Shashank Hedao
- Sherri Martin

The preparation of this Action Plan was supported by the Alzheimer Society of B.C. and Mariam Larson Consulting.

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Introduction and Context

Our Vision: The Township of Langley is a community where older adults, people living with dementia, and their caregivers experience connection and inclusion.

Canadians are living longer and healthier than ever before and want to stay well and engaged with their communities in meaningful ways. The Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan is the second strategy focused on older adults prepared by the Township since 2014. This updated Plan was developed to help sustain Township actions, activities, and programs that help people age in the right place and be connected and active for as long as they choose. In recognition of the increasing number of people living with dementia due to population aging, this updated Plan includes a dementia-friendly perspective.

The Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan provides a framework for making Langley Township an even more welcoming and inclusive place for older adults, people living with dementia, and their caregivers. It builds on existing plans and programs, and emphasizes the importance of collaboration with others to achieve our vision.



Age-friendly communities

The World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Global Age-friendly Cities Project in 2006 in recognition that population aging—more people living longer—impacts a wide range of municipal policies, processes, programs, and infrastructure related to physical and social environments. WHO identified eight interconnected domains to help communities frame age-friendly initiatives. Canada joined the global effort in 2007, launching the Age-friendly Communities initiative; by 2011, over 560 communities committed to becoming age-friendly.

Age-friendly communities support and enable people to age in the right place with dignity, respect, and independence, and promote the participation of older adults in all areas of community life.

In addition to bringing an age-friendly lens to municipal services, local governments can play a role in bringing community partners together for a collaborative and coordinated approach to supporting older residents—as well as those who care for them. People of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds benefit from initiatives that increase safety, accessibility, social equity, and social inclusion.

Income inequality, urbanization, climate change, rapidly evolving technology, and other social trends significantly impact older adults. Lack of social supports, living on a fixed income, or having conditions that impact mobility are just a few of the many barriers that can reduce their safety, connectedness, and well-being.

Key terms:

Age in the right place: Age-friendly community work contributed to the idea of "aging in place", with a focus on planning for people to be able to stay in their home and community as they aged. The concept evolved to "aging in the right place" in recognition of the diversity of individual needs, preferences, capacity, and resources.

Social Equity: The fair distribution of resources among individuals and communities to facilitate full participation in community life, recognizing that different individuals and communities require different levels of support in order to thrive.

Social Inclusion: The right and opportunity for all individuals to celebrate their diversity and fully participate in all aspects of community life.

Community Profile

The Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan exists among a suite of Township plans and strategies, including the Housing Action Plan, Master Transportation Plan, and Official Community Plan. Priorities and actions in the Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan complement and are complemented by policies and actions in other Township plans and strategies. Collectively, these plans and strategies help make the Township a better place for older adults, people living with dementia, and their caregivers, and advance broader community goals related to social inclusion and sustainability.

Age-friendly Langley Township

Nearly 24,000 people aged 65 or older are living in the Township of Langley, making up 16.8% of the total population. By 2030, this age group is projected to increase to 38,000 (21.6%); by 2046, it is expected to increase to 52,500 (23.9%).

	Total population	65+ population	% 65+
2021	140,194	23,616	16.8%
2030	175,400	37,843	21.6%
2046	219,400	52,540	23.9%

The Township has been preparing for this demographic shift through a number of planning and engagement initiatives. In 2008, Township Council adopted the Sustainability Charter. The Charter envisions a community that is socially, culturally, economically, and environmentally balanced, and includes an objective to monitor changes in community values, aspirations, and needs. As the Township's highest level policy document, the Charter is implemented through other Township plans and strategies, including the Age-friendly Strategy launched in 2014. Implementation of the Strategy contributed to the Seniors' Healthy Living Secretariat of the Provincial Ministry of Health formally recognizing the Township as an age-friendly community under the Age-friendly BC Recognition program in 2015.

The Age-friendly Strategy Progress Report (2019) highlighted completion of 15 strategies and progress on another 25 strategies. Completed work includes the Age-friendly Business Recognition Program, an age-friendly parking program pilot, market analysis of older adults' housing preferences, implementation of a campaign promoting multi-generational interactions and age-friendly values, and other initiatives.

Dementia-friendly Langley Township

There are approximately 1,800 people living with dementia in Langley; these numbers are projected to rise to an estimated 3,200 people in 2030. Most people with dementia live at home in the community.

Dementia is an overall term for a set of symptoms that are caused by disorders affecting the brain, including memory loss and difficulties with thinking, problem-solving or language, severe enough to reduce a person's ability to perform everyday activities.

Aging does not cause dementia. While mild changes in cognition may come with aging, dementia is not a normal part of the aging process. However, age is the strongest known risk factor for dementia, though some younger people, in their 40s or 50s, are diagnosed with early onset dementia.

> Dementia-friendly communities complement age-friendly initiatives by adding nuance and depth with respect to the needs of people living with dementia.

People living with dementia and their caregivers often experience stigma and difficulty accessing services. This can negatively impact their mental and physical health and contribute to social isolation. Reducing stigma can improve community understanding and support, which can contribute to the overall well-being of people living with dementia and their caregivers. Applying a dementia-friendly lens to policies, processes, programs, and infrastructure can help people living with dementia and their caregivers sustain connections and engagement for as long as possible.



Creating the Action Plan

In 2018, the Township's Seniors Advisory Committee (the "SAC") began exploring ways to bring a dementia-friendly lens to the Age-friendly Strategy. The Seniors Advisory Committee is established by Council to represent the Township of Langley seniors' perspectives on municipal and other key seniors' issues. Its current membership includes older adults, a youth representative, a Fraser Health Authority representative, and adults of varying ages.

The Township's SAC invited the Alzheimer Society of B.C. to provide an overview of its Dementia-friendly Communities initiative. With the Society's support and funding from a UBCM Age-friendly Communities Grant, the Township started work in 2019 to update age-friendly actions and expand the scope to specifically include people living with dementia.

A Dementia-friendly Task Force ("Task Force") was established to inform the project. Members included representatives from Council and the SAC, community service providers, older residents, the business sector, and the Alzheimer Society of B.C. Efforts to include someone living with dementia were unsuccessful, in part due to the impact of COVID-19 on the community. In 2020, the Township engaged a consulting gerontologist to facilitate the Task Force and action planning activities.

The Task Force crafted the project vision, prepared key engagement questions to support the vision, and developed an engagement strategy, activities, and tools. Their work was based on:

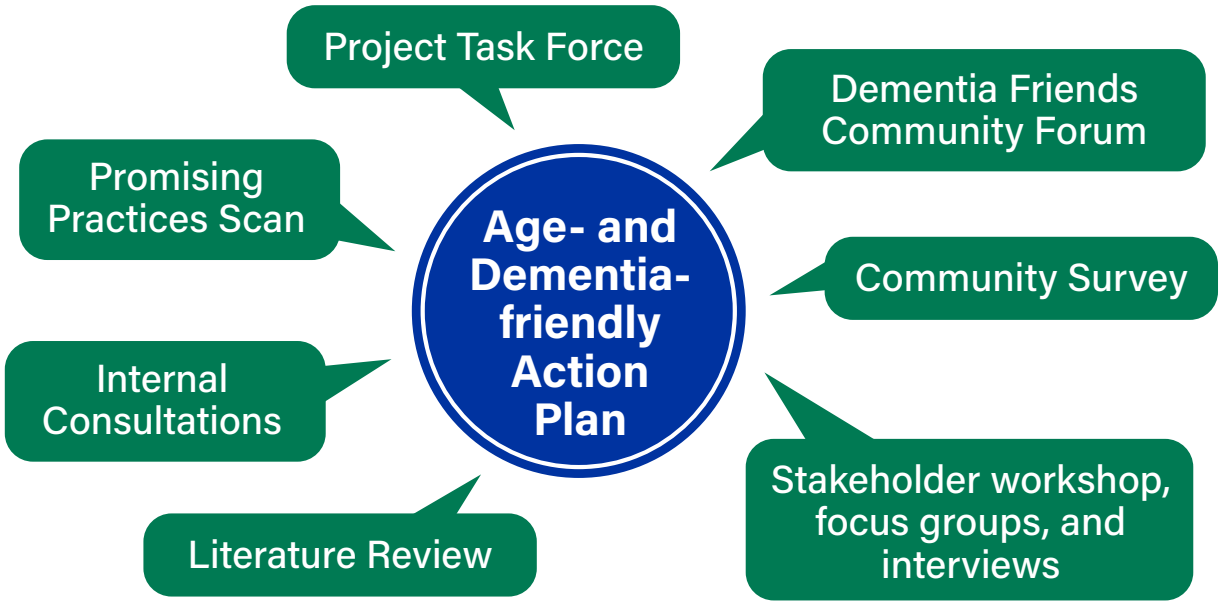
- a literature review;
- WHO age-friendly domains;
- learning from age- and dementia-friendly community initiatives conducted in other B.C. municipalities; and
- input from Township staff.

Key community engagement questions:

- What could be done to make the community more friendly and inclusive for older adults?
- What could be done to make the community more friendly and inclusive for people living with dementia?
- What could be done to better support unpaid or family caregivers?

Community engagement activities

The Township of Langley used a variety of methods to engage community members, stakeholders, and staff to learn what makes Langley Township age- and dementia-friendly—and what might make it more so.



Engagement activities included a virtual community forum, survey, focus groups with community groups and staff, and individual interviews with key stakeholders. Due to COVID-19 safety requirements, engagement options were limited to virtual approaches, which impacted participation rates, particularly by people living with or caring for people with dementia, and for those without access to—or familiarity with—technology. Health authority participation was also constrained by pandemic responsibilities restricting staff availability.

Nearly 250 people participated in activities, providing diverse perspectives on aging and/or living with dementia, or caregiving in our community. Responses collected through all activities were categorized into the 8 WHO age-friendly domains. Because many of the recommended actions fit in more than one domain, they were consolidated into five priority areas.

Township Age- and Dementia-friendly Community Priority Areas

Civic Participation and Employment: Everyone has opportunities to participate in community decision-making. Older adults also have opportunities to share their experiences and skills with the community through paid and volunteer work.

Communication and Information: Communication tools, content, and activities are respectful and accessible. Information about programs and resources to help people meet their needs is available, appropriately designed, and effectively delivered.

Community Support and Health: Older adults have access to the social and health services they need to stay healthy and independent, with appropriate, affordable support as needs change.

Places and Mobility: Outdoor and indoor environments are designed to help people get around safely and easily, encourage active healthy living, and provide opportunities for social interaction. Housing and transportation options allow older adults to age in the right place.

Social Connection and Participation: Older adults have opportunities to develop and maintain their social networks. Programs and services are developed with consideration of their needs and preferences.



Community engagement results and recommendations

From a broad perspective, participants provided insight about strengths, opportunities and challenges that impact older people across Langley Township's rural and urban neighbourhoods. Stakeholders and residents share a vision for the Township to take a role in facilitating collaboration across health, transportation, and housing service providers. They also emphasized opportunities and challenges to engage older residents, people living with dementia, and caregivers early and throughout community planning and processes.

Strengths

What makes Langley Township a great community for older adults?

- Enjoyable parks and trails
- Accessible buildings and businesses
- Feeling safe
- Social connections with friends and family
- Community centres and libraries
- Recreation and fitness programs
- Feeling welcomed and respected



Opportunities

Responses highlighted broad action recommendations.

- Build on existing Township projects/strategies (e.g. park and trail signage, and accessibility features)
- Enhance awareness and training related to aging and dementia
- Expand intergenerational and multi-cultural approaches (e.g. internet buddies and diverse food and/or music events)
- Strengthen collaborative relationships to help address challenges beyond Township mandate (e.g. public transit, and healthcare services)
- Improve access to age- and dementia-friendly information and resources

Challenges

Responses identified critical areas that can create barriers to having age- and dementia-friendly communities, including the need to:

- Communicate age- and dementia-friendly information, resources, and program impact comprehensively, effectively, and equitably—and overcome significant technology divides
- Identify and address needs in rural and urban areas equitably (e.g. transportation access, meeting and gathering spaces and programs, support and connection including for caregivers, housing options)
- Deliver both systemic and ground-level solutions (e.g. integrating age- and dementia-friendly perspectives across all programs—while differentiating between municipal and health roles—and including social connection opportunities with programs by offering refreshments and facilitating conversation after sessions)
- Bridge departmental and regional silos, e.g. municipality with health, transportation, housing sectors
- Address the impact of growth and change on a sense of familiarity and connection to neighbourhoods and the larger community
- Address resource capacity (financial and staff)

Recommendations reflected a variety of opportunities for age- and dementia-friendly impact, including:

- The need for better communication and education across all five priority areas
- Emphasis on the needs of caregivers for people living with dementia, the need for more day programs, and limited support to address complex and urgent care needs, which can only be addressed through health authority leadership

> Seniors are a very diverse group. Equity must be considered when addressing barriers to inclusion, participation, and connection.

Financial considerations

Financial recommendations that are largely beyond municipal control include a need for caregiver compensation and affordable long-term care. Care-receiving and caregiving participants can experience a significant impact on finances due to a reduced ability to work and unexpected costs to meet care needs.

Potential actions within municipal control may include convening cross-sector stakeholders to address financial gaps and barriers to well-being, as well as reducing or waiving program fees for unpaid caregivers who are supporting care-recipients in activities.

The impacts of poverty and low income can be particularly severe for seniors who may be faced with impossible decisions about paying for food and care supplies, as well as for housing and essential transportation.

COVID-19 considerations

Responses related to the COVID-19 pandemic ranged from general wishes that the virus be gone to more specific requests that recreation sites re-open and programs resume. Respondents also asked that programs and services developed to address seniors' needs during the pandemic be considered for continued funding and delivery; though it was a very difficult time, COVID-19 provided a rare opportunity to try new approaches to connecting with and supporting older people that could address pre-existing gaps and barriers.



Roles and Responsibilities

Building an age- and dementia-friendly community is a shared responsibility of all levels of government and requires involvement from numerous organizations, groups, and individuals. As a local government, the Township's role includes delivering recreation and culture programs, managing public parks, trails, and streets, and convening diverse organizations to foster collaborative action. Notably, the Township is not responsible for delivering or funding public transit or healthcare services. Actions that require financial or staff resources must be monitored to bring forward requests to Council as needed.

The Township will take a leadership role in implementing the Action Plan. Essential partners will include community organizations, businesses, and service providers, including health, transit, and housing providers.

The Alzheimer Society of B.C. is working towards a dementia-friendly society, where people living with the disease are welcomed, acknowledged, and included. They provide a variety of education and support programs for people with all types of dementia.



Priorities and Actions

Age- and dementia-friendly actions are organized into five priority areas, which are presented in no order of significance. The actions build on and complement initiatives the Township has completed or initiated under the 2014 Age-friendly Strategy, as detailed in the 2019 Progress Report.

Given the broad scope of the Action Plan, some of the actions are more exploratory in nature, recognizing that additional research, community engagement, or prototyping may be needed as part of implementation. In some instances, initial ideas ("Here's an idea!") for these exploratory actions are included for illustrative purposes.

Recognizing new challenges and opportunities may emerge within the five-year timeframe of the Action Plan, the actions are subject to recalibration as part of the development of annual work plans. Similarly, the Township is not limited by the actions identified in the Action Plan.



Priority 1: Civic Participation and Employment

Everyone has opportunities to participate in community decision-making. Older adults also have opportunities to share their experiences and skills with the community through paid and volunteer work.

Ongoing Actions:

a. Continue to engage older adults early and throughout community engagement and planning processes, and support inclusion of those with diverse needs.
b. Continue to provide leadership and volunteer opportunities for all ages and abilities.
c. Continue to administer and promote the Age-friendly Business Recognition Program.

2022 – 2026 Actions:

d. Facilitate connections among volunteers to address barriers to participation, such as transportation.
e. Seek opportunities to strengthen dementia-friendly components of the Age-friendly Business Recognition Program.
f. Explore ways to recognize and support older adults who continue to work.

> **Here's an idea!** Help educate business and community groups about the benefits of older people in the workplace (e.g. business stability and access to diverse expertise), and the reasons why older people keep working (e.g. longer lifespan and the health benefits of staying active and engaged).

g. Strengthen the use of an age- and dementia-friendly lens throughout policy development, planning, and service delivery.
h. Explore additional opportunities to share skills and stories across generations.

> **Here's an idea!** Include how-to skill sharing activities at community gathering places and community events (e.g. small appliance repair; basic carpentry; canning and preserves; crochet, knitting, embroidery, and sewing). Host story events at libraries for long-timers and newcomers to share neighbourhood experiences.

Age-Friendly Business Recognition Program

This Township program recognizes local business that are committed to age-friendly practices. Age-friendly businesses are committed to serving people of all ages and abilities with dignity and respect.

Priority 2: Communication and Information

Communication tools, content, and activities are respectful and accessible. Information about programs and resources to help people meet their needs is available, appropriately designed, and effectively delivered.

Ongoing Actions:

a. Continue to promote community service and health service resources for older adults and update the Township's seniors website.

b. Continue to liaise and work with organizations and groups that support older adults through participation on various community groups and committees.

c. Continue to review and explore additional opportunities to enhance accessibility features for accessing digital resources.

2022 – 2026 Actions:

d. Work with community partners to expand cross-sector collaboration for communication, education, and training.

e. Help reduce stereotypes, myths, and stigma related to aging and dementia and reinforce diversity, capacity, and value of older adults' lifelong contribution to community.

> **Here's an idea!** Public service campaigns to identify and counter misperceptions of aging and dementia.

f. Promote dementia-friendly resources, services, and programs, such as the Alzheimer Society of B.C.

g. Develop processes with community partners to ensure BC211 is regularly updated.

h. Train staff and volunteers on age- and dementia-friendly, integrated with existing initiatives, where possible.

i. In collaboration with community partners, address technology barriers through training and support and by offering non-digital communication (e.g. use of print resources, where appropriate).

j. Convene community partners to explore opportunities to enhance the promotion of low-cost local events.

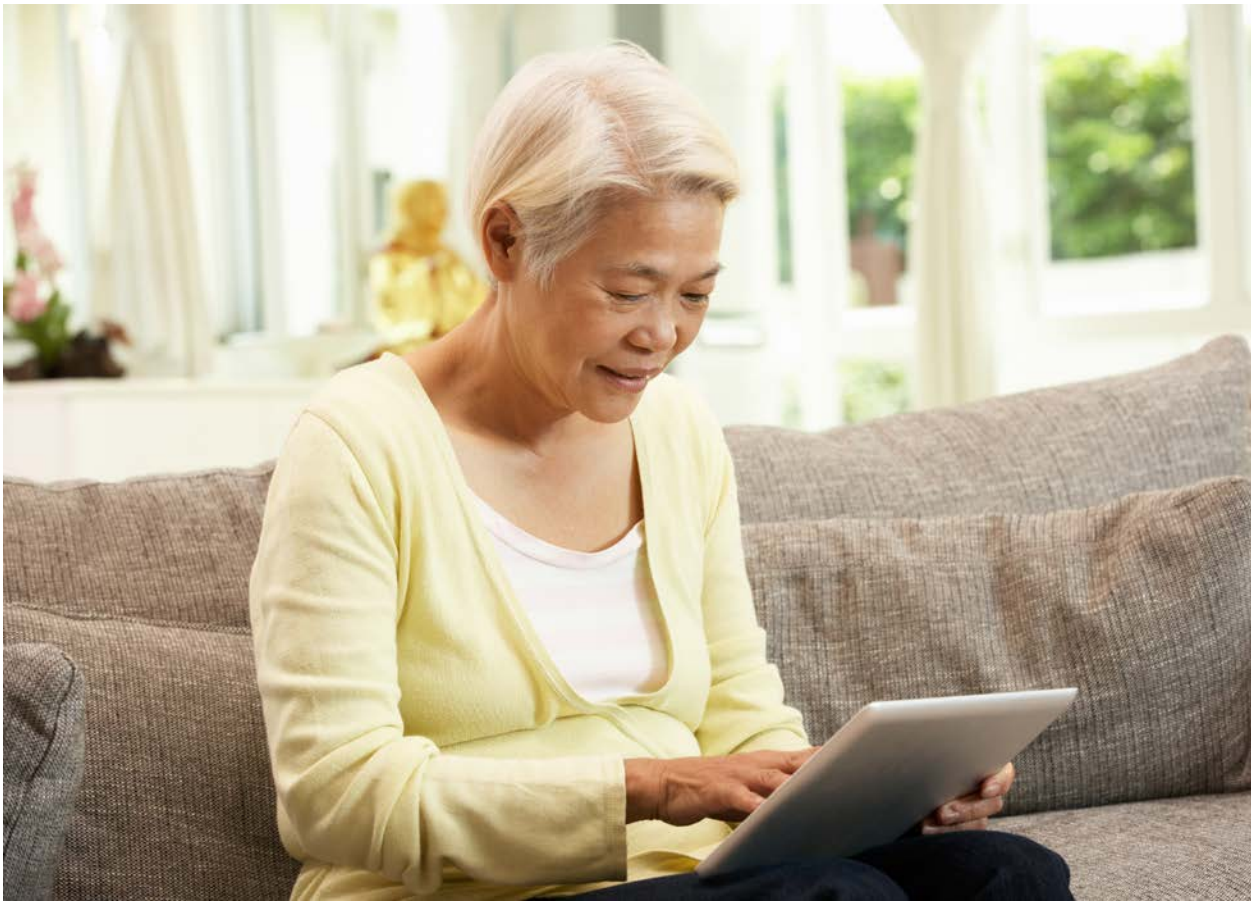
k. Review signage standards and implement consistent age- and dementia-friendly symbols/icons (e.g. facility and parks signage).

l. Explore opportunities to strengthen promotion of parks, trails, and navigation resources.

m. Seek ways to further engage older adults, people living with dementia, and caregivers in emergency preparedness programs, and ensure updates to emergency response guidelines are inclusive of the full diversity of residents.

BC211

BC211 is a provincial non-profit that connects people to community, health, and government resources for help, where and when they need it. Township service providers can work to develop a way to ensure the program is up to date, so residents have a singular, centralized place to learn about programs and services when needed.



Priority 3: Places and Mobility

Outdoor and indoor environments are designed to help people get around safely and easily, encourage active healthy living, and provide opportunities for social interaction. Housing and transportation options allow older adults to age in the right place.

Ongoing Actions:

a. Continue to assess Township buildings for accessibility and integrate recommendations as part of facility planning and improvements.

b. Continue to develop and implement plans and policies, such as the Housing Action Plan, that support appropriate, affordable, and accessible housing.

c. Continue to advocate for better transit options and routes.

d. Continue to implement the Cycling Plan.

e. Continue to integrate or retain historical landmarks or references in new developments wherever possible.

2022 – 2026 Actions:

f. Integrate an age- and dementia-friendly lens as part of the development of a new Transportation and Mobility Strategy with a view of strengthening accessibility features throughout the community.

g. Convene residents, including youth, older adults, and people with disabilities, local businesses, and TransLink to share information and identify opportunities to improve transit services, including HandyDART.

h. Explore opportunities to consider cognitive needs and the provision of quiet spaces in Township buildings as part of facility planning and improvements.

i. Explore opportunities to enhance wayfinding resources and signage.

j. Assess the availability of public washrooms and seek opportunities to better promote the location of existing facilities (e.g. third party mapping applications).

Adaptable Housing

Adaptable homes have design features that facilitate easy retrofits to enable individuals with limited mobility, due to age or disability, to live in their homes with relative independence. The Township has required adaptable design features in many new housing developments for over a decade and, in 2016, updated its policy to require adaptable housing in a proportion of all new housing developments across the Township.

Priority 4: Community Support and Health

Older adults have access to the social and health services they need to stay healthy and independent, with appropriate, affordable support as needs change.

Ongoing Actions:

a. Continue to offer a wide range of recreation programs that promote health and wellness, including programs targeted at older adults.

b. Continue to support community partner efforts to draw more health care professionals to the community, including ongoing efforts to promote the liveability and diversity of recreational and cultural opportunities in the Township.

c. Continue to liaise with Fraser Health Authority and other community partners to support health care planning and delivery.

2022 – 2026 Actions:

d. Convene health authority, social service organizations, and community members to share information and explore opportunities for more effective referrals and access to appropriate healthcare and support services.

e. Explore opportunities to better include people living with dementia in recreation programs.

> **Here's an idea!** Pilot quieter or shorter program sessions; encourage and support people with changing skill levels to continue participating in familiar activities; and facilitate caregiver social opportunities when care-recipients are participating in an activity or program.

f. Advocate for affordable non-medical services (e.g. housecleaning, home, and yard maintenance).

g. Advocate for financial support for family or informal caregivers.

Community Partnerships

The Langley Seniors Resources Society provides health, recreational, outreach, and food services for seniors and adults of all abilities. They also host adult day programs in partnership with Fraser Health, which increases connections and support for participants and caregivers.

Priority 5: Social Connection and Participation

Older adults have opportunities to develop and maintain their social networks. Programs and services are developed with consideration of their needs and preferences.

Ongoing Actions:

a. Continue to make grants available to community non-profit groups that organize age-friendly events that strengthen social interaction and participation.

b. Continue to deliver and operate "hubs" of social connection and participation, like community centres, parks, the Langley Centennial Museum, and libraries through the Fraser Valley Regional Library.

2022 – 2026 Actions:

c. Explore opportunities to enhance rural area access to supports and services.

d. Map and inventory community gathering places with a view of identifying gaps and opportunities.

e. Increase opportunities and support for building and strengthening social connections, including intergenerational connection (e.g. through new community-based or recreation programs or integrated within existing programs).

Here's an idea! Include intergenerational elements in as many programs and events as possible; collaborate with community partners, like the Fraser Valley Regional Library, in developing multigenerational discussion topics (e.g. what technology most impacted your childhood and how?); provide social time with conversation starters/games before or after fitness classes, recreational, and cultural programs.

Aldergrove Community Station House

In early 2021, the Township leased the former Aldergrove Fire Hall on 272 Street to Langley Meals on Wheels to facilitate the development of a neighbourhood hub that will provide a variety of community programs and services. Planning for the hub includes a commercial kitchen, healthy food, a volunteer run internet café, and artisan displays.

Implementation

The Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan is designed to be implemented incrementally over five years. The Township will continually monitor priorities over the five years and refine the actions as needed. The Action Plan should be fully reviewed and updated in five years.

Actions will be integrated into annual departmental work plans to facilitate implementation. The implementation schedule will be informed by the availability of Township resources and external grant funding opportunities. Requests for additional resources to support this Action Plan will be submitted through the annual budget process, as needed. Successful implementation will require flexibility in response to evolving needs, changes in resources, and related funding opportunities.

Implementation Principles

All actions will be expected to consider the following principles:

a. Advance social equity: Work to remove systemic barriers that cause inequality.

b. Collaborate across sectors: Engage a range of organizations and service providers to reflect population diversity across the Township.

c. Use resources effectively: Build on existing initiatives and collaborative partnerships for efficiency and impact.

d. Engage local organizations and community members: Ensure older adults, people living with dementia, and family and informal caregivers have the support necessary for participation.

Progress on actions will be monitored in conjunction with departmental work plans. Partners will also be engaged to develop ways to measure and share the impact across our community. Opportunities to create a monitoring dashboard that provides real time progress updates will be explored.

Conclusion

The Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan is designed to support the Township of Langley in being a community where older adults, people living with dementia, and their caregivers experience connection and inclusion. It reflects the vision and recommendations shared through community engagement and reinforces a collective commitment to helping Township residents age in the right place and be connected and active for as long as they choose.

