

# Niagara Aging Strategy and Action Plan Implementation Project, 2017 – 2019

## Evaluation Summary Highlights

This two-page document summarizes both progress toward, and future opportunities for, implementing the Niagara Aging Strategy and Action Plan (NASAP). Final evaluation findings for the 2017-2019 NASAP Implementation Project are shared by the Age-Friendly Niagara Network (AFNN). The full project report, developed by evaluation specialists for the AFNN, is available at [www.agefriendlyniagara.com](http://www.agefriendlyniagara.com).

The AFNN includes 450 people with an interest in creating the conditions for everyone, regardless of age, ability, need or capacity, to be included in all aspects of community life. AFNN priority goals reflect the 100+ actions identified by 500 people who engaged in building the NASAP.

### Implementing the NASAP: Keys to Success

- Highly-engaged, knowledgeable older adult volunteers, using evidence to advocate for improved quality of life as people age.
- Three integrated Action Groups advancing the five NASAP Goals.
- Network mapping to identify likely new partners to help strengthen AFNN impact.
- Engagement of elected leaders in all 12 areas of Niagara, to encourage establishment of local municipal Seniors/Age-Friendly Advisory Committees (S/A-F AC's).
- A Niagara-wide Collaborative of local municipal S/A-F AC's, to share ideas, learn from each other's efforts, and collectively advocate on common issues of concern across our rural-urban mix community.
- Investment in skilled, neutral, locally-focused Backbone Support\*, to allow AFNN leaders to set the pace, build momentum, and keep people engaged and involved.

\*Collective Impact, Kania & Kramer, Stanford Social Innovation Review, Winter, 2011

### Suggested Action Steps to Advance the Age-Friendly Movement for Niagara

- Leverage AFNN membership in the newly-formed Ontario Association of Councils on Aging, to bring ideas, evidence and promising practices to Niagara, and to share successes.
- Evolve AFNN to act as a Council on Aging equivalent, with an intergenerational focus.
- Engage youth in AFNN planning and action.
- Strengthen the AFNN Niagara-wide Collaborative of local municipal Seniors/Age-Friendly advisory committees, through timely information-sharing and alignment to address topics of common concern.
- Advance AFNN advocacy on priority issues - health benefits of social inclusion; and access to: services (transportation, technology), a range of suitable housing options for people of all income levels, and opportunities to benefit from physical activity, recreation and learning activities.
- Expand AFNN's demonstrated success as a nimble framework for decision-makers to connect with what local older people are thinking; and for hosting Niagara-wide learning forums on timely topics.
- Continue to engage decision-makers in seeing the benefits of investing in the AFNN.



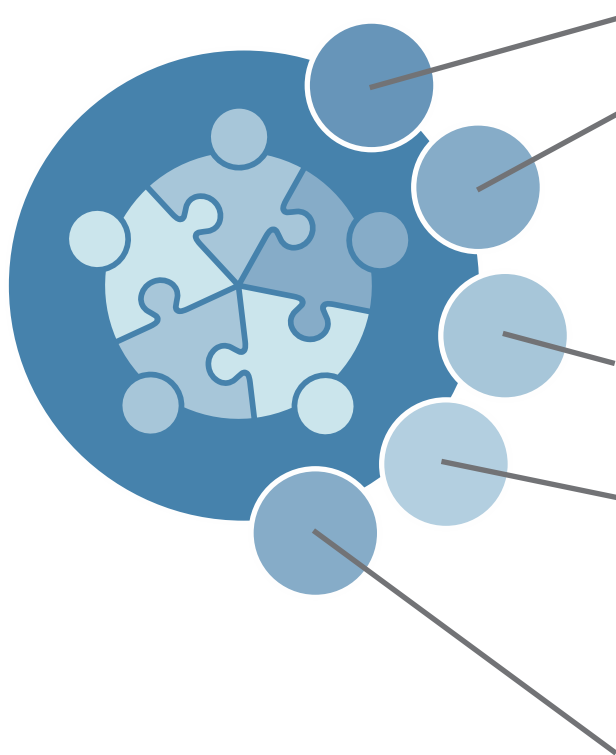
A Community for All Ages



Prepared by Niagara Connects for the Age-Friendly Niagara Network  
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# Working Together to Build a Caring Community as People Age

Working together to create an Age-Friendly community that “encourages active aging by optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age” (WHO, Global Age-Friendly Cities: A Guide, 2007)



## **Age-Friendly Niagara Network (AFNN)**

Includes 450 people with an interest in an age-friendly Niagara

## **Collaborative of Local Municipal Seniors/Age-Friendly Advisory Committees**

A total of 112 volunteers who work at the local municipal level to advocate for the interests of older people and age-friendly principles in their communities. Representatives of these committees meet regularly as a Niagara-wide group, to share information and align planning and action

## **AFNN Leadership Council**

Includes over 15 volunteers who oversee and plan network-level activities

## **Niagara Aging Strategy and Action Plan (NASAP) Implementation Action Groups**

Three Action Groups include people working together to advance strategies based on the five NASAP goals:

1. Community Engagement and Communication
2. Recreation, Learning and Leisure
3. Improved Services, Systems and Infrastructure

## **World Health Organization (WHO)**

### **Eight Dimensions of Age-Friendly Communities**

The AFNN is committed to increasing awareness of the eight dimensions through Action Group priorities, partnerships and activities to share learning, knowledge and planning. We do this in order to create an age-friendly community for everyone.

- Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Social Participation
- Respect and Social Inclusion
- Civic Participation and Employment
- Communication and Information
- Community Health and Support Services



**A Community for All Ages**

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**World Health Organization**

**Ontario Trillium Foundation**



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