

Age-Friendly Niagara Network (AFNN) 2018 Impact

Vision: A caring community that optimizes opportunities for overall well being to enhance quality of life as people age.



A Community for All Ages

www.agefriendlyniagara.com



Implementing the Niagara Aging Strategy and Action Plan (NASAP)

<h3>Goal #1</h3> <p>Elevate the profile, level of leadership and engagement of older people in the community</p>	<h3>Goal #2</h3> <p>Facilitate an active and positive lifestyle for all older people</p>	<h3>Goal #3</h3> <p>Optimize the health and wellness of older people</p>	<h3>Goal #4</h3> <p>Improve access and utilization of services and supports</p>	<h3>Goal #5</h3> <p>Improve and maintain a supportive infrastructure</p>
<h3>Action Group 1</h3> <p>Community Engagement and Communications</p>	<h3>Action Group 2</h3> <p>Recreation, Learning and Leisure</p>	<h3>Action Group 3</h3> <p>Improved Services, Systems and Infrastructure</p>		

Throughout 2018, 3 Action Groups gathered evidence to support advocacy on optimizing access to:

- a range of suitable housing options for older people of all income levels;
- health and human services for vulnerable people (transportation and technology);
- opportunities to increase physical literacy; and
- relevant information to support wellness and community belonging.

2018 MILESTONES

■ **May AFNN Forum** - Fifty-nine (59) people from across Niagara gathered in Welland to review and build on promising practices for sustaining community-driven Age-Friendly planning action across Niagara. A panel discussion examined Niagara-focused wellness research with older adults.

Participants collectively identified priorities for AFNN sustainability:

- Emphasize inter-generational scope
- Engage; collaborate; communicate; align strategically
- Build business case for investment in AFNN, to sustain momentum
- Continue to strengthen leadership, governance, infrastructure at both regional and local levels

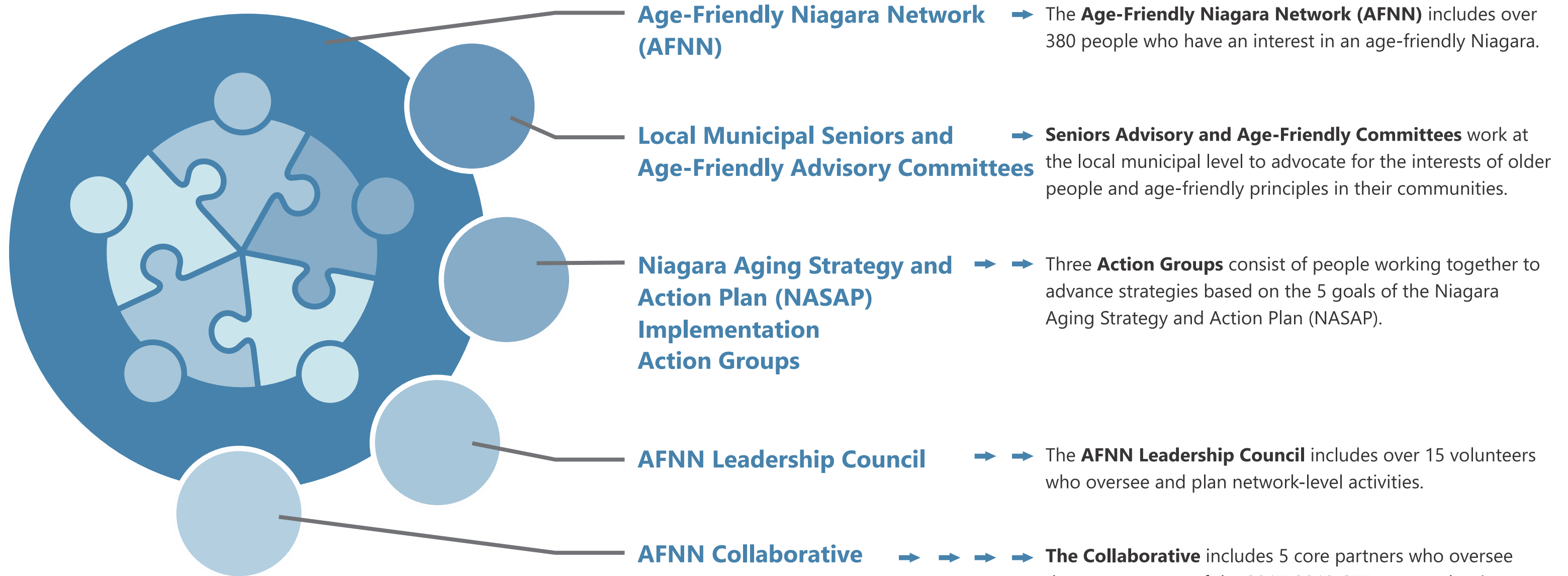
■ **June Niagara-wide Forum connected** local municipal Seniors and Age-Friendly Advisory groups - A total of 41 leaders from 9 local municipalities unanimously agreed to work together to increase impact. They agreed to meet, at least annually; and identified three (3) opportunities to work together:

- (1) Create a mechanism for information-sharing;
- (2) Advocate on issues of common concern; and
- (3) Collaborate to share and strengthen access to resources.

■ **September outreach to municipal election candidates** - AFNN distributed a 2-page Brief to all candidates in the October 2018 municipal election. It outlines the contributions older adults make to our community, the ways in which Niagara has already made progress toward becoming age-friendly, and what candidates can do to help champion this work.

■ **3rd Age volunteer leadership training** - First steps were taken to create a tool for enriching volunteer experience for older people in Niagara who want to contribute to the community in meaningful ways. Partners include Leadership Niagara, INCommunities and Niagara Health.

Working Together to Build a Caring Community as People Age



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