



Achieving “A Community for all Ages” across Niagara

Be informed | Celebrate 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 Network** has prepared this brief to help engage federal election 2019 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 37% of the Niagara population is 55 years and over, compared to 30% for the rest of Canada¹.
- Current population growth in Niagara is from commuters and retirees moving to Niagara².
- Most of today’s older adults are well and active, healthier and living longer to unprecedented levels, all of which provides for great opportunities.
- Older adults make up the bulk of the volunteer corps in many local community organizations.
- Baby Boomers control the bulk of wealth and spending; they spend 66% more on goods and services than millennial households³.

Celebrate Niagara’s Success

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

Globally, the [World Health Organization](#) has fostered the development of “age-friendly communities” by identifying the relevant domains ranging from social inclusion to appropriate housing. The Government of Canada has appointed a Minister of Seniors and the Province of



A Community for All Ages

Ontario has demonstrated leadership and support for age-friendly communities since 2013.

In Niagara, the [Age-Friendly Niagara Network](#) (AFNN) has engaged over 500 people in the community, to develop the Niagara Aging Strategy and Action Plan (NASAP). The AFNN is currently implementing [priority goals](#) from among the 100 NASAP actions identified by the community. The intent is to ensure that all people, regardless of age, ability, need or capacity, are included in all aspects of community life.

AFNN:

- Provides a framework for decision-makers to connect with what local older people 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

Three Niagara municipalities (St. Catharines, Thorold and Welland) have received provincial awards for their local age-friendly achievements.

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.

During the 2019-2023 term, the federal government has the opportunity to demonstrate leadership and be an age-friendly champion. To learn more about age-friendly priorities, visit the [Age-Friendly Niagara Network website](#).

Connect with the Age-Friendly Niagara Network:

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