



**Council Member Motion**  
**For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 12, 2020**

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**Date:** November 5, 2020

**From:** Councillor Ben Isitt, Councillor Geoff Young and Seniors Task Force Members

**Subject:** City of Victoria Seniors' Action Plan 2020

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**Background:**

In July 2019 the City of Victoria established a Seniors' Task Force to develop a Seniors' Action Plan, enlisting the wisdom of community members, specialists, seniors-serving agencies and other stakeholders around the following question: "How can the City of Victoria promote healthy seniors and positive aging?" (see Attachment 1 – Terms of Reference).

Representatives from the following organizations participated in the work of the Seniors' Task Force:

- Cook Street Village Activity Centre
- Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria
- James Bay Community Project
- James Bay New Horizons Society
- Our Place Seniors' Group
- Silver Threads Service
- Vancouver Island Health Authority
- University of Victoria Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health
- Victoria Community Association Network
- Victoria Disability Resource Centre
- Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society
- Victoria Native Friendship Centre
- City of Victoria

In the autumn of 2019 members of the Seniors' Task Force developed a draft Seniors' Action Plan. The focus was guided by the eight topic areas identified by the World Health Organization as part of their Age-Friendly Communities/Cities initiatives.

1. Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
2. Transportation
3. Housing
4. Respect and Social Inclusion
5. Social Participation
6. Communication and Information
7. Civic Participation and Employment
8. Community Support and Health Services

A series of engagement events were convened in January and February 2020 including open houses at the James Bay New Horizons Centre, Cook Street Village Activity Centre, Victoria Silver Threads and the Victoria Native Friendship Centre. A Town Hall Meeting was convened at Victoria City Hall. Subsequently, members of the Task Force revised the recommendations based on public input as well as the experiences of seniors during the first phase of the Covid-19 pandemic in the spring and summer of 2020.

The City of Victoria Seniors' Action Plan 2020 is the product of this collaborative community process.

**Recommendations:**

That Council:

1. Adopt the City of Victoria Seniors' Action Plan 2020
2. Refer the plan for Council's consideration in the 2021 Financial Planning process
3. Direct staff to apply for the UBCM Age-Friendly grant to create a list of actions that overlap between the Seniors' Action Plan, the Accessibility Framework and other city programs, and create an age-friendly implementation plan
4. Approve the formation of a Seniors' Advisory Committee and direct staff to report back with draft Terms of Reference and resource requirements for this committee, and additionally on resources required to work with partner Seniors' Serving agencies in convening an annual Seniors' Summit.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Isitt



Councillor Young

Attachments:

1. Terms of Reference – City of Victoria Seniors' Task Force
2. City of Victoria Seniors' Action Plan 2020

**Concurrence:**

The following members of the Seniors' Task Force concur with the City of Victoria Seniors' Action Plan 2020 and the recommendations in this report:

Henry Au  
Kim Dixon  
Anne Logie  
Don Monsour  
Gail Snider  
Denise Cloutier

Kate Day  
Ron George  
Kaye Kennish  
Lynn Mullally  
Carol Turnbull  
Jo Ann Miller

Mavis DeGirolamo  
Bat-Ami Hensen  
Lisa Mercure  
Tracy Ryan  
Natasha Van Bentum  
Jade Yehia