

Outdoor Spaces & Buildings



Does the natural and built environment help older persons get around easily and safely in the community and encourage active community participation?

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Require wheelchair ramps to access privately owned commercial buildings and public facilities
2. Advocate to other levels of government to revisit Building Code for accessibility
3. Install benches that are easier to get out of (e.g. add armrests) and review placement for accessibility
4. Ensure lighting is adequate for accessibility and safety
5. Build new facilities and leverage existing facilities for inter-generational needs
6. Retrofit washrooms at City-funded seniors centres to accommodate mobility aids, gender neutrality and other accessibility needs
7. Provide more accessible public universal washrooms
8. Increase the number of accessible portable toilets at public events

Transportation



Can older persons travel where they want to go in the community, conveniently and safely?

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Repair and maintain sidewalks to reduce tripping hazards and remove mobility obstacles
2. Ensure sidewalks are the minimum accessible width
3. Create Sidewalk Mindfulness public outreach program
4. Build visual aids into sidewalks / textured surfaces to assist the visually impaired
5. Increase crossing time for timed crosswalks
6. Review streets for potholes in areas of new construction
7. Add medians in the middle of roads to provide safe space to wait where appropriate
8. Add shelters and seating at all bus stops
9. Create an awareness program for seniors transportation services - transit pass, Handy Dart, taxi vouchers etc.
10. Improve Handy Dart service
11. Advocate to the province to review eligibility requirements for low income seniors for transit passes. Add a second level income test for annual bus pass program
12. Enforce bicycle, skateboard and power scooter rules and create an education program to improve sidewalk safety
13. Create engaging handout using humour on being a responsible transit rider
14. Advocate to BC Transit to improve seating for lumbar support in the reserved seating section of the bus

Housing



Do older persons have housing that is safe and affordable and which allows them to stay independent as their needs change?

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Create more purpose-built affordable rentals for seniors
2. Review Housing Policy with a seniors housing needs lens
3. Expand wet/low barrier housing for vulnerable seniors
4. Create a program to retrofit houses with ramps and other accessibility items to enable more aging in place
5. Create a wider range of housing options through zoning. Look at other countries to learn how they manage public and private housing
6. Support seniors who are housing insecure
7. Create transition homes for seniors being discharged from hospital until permanent housing can be found

Respect & Social Inclusion



Are public services, media, commercial services, faith communities and civil society respectful of the diversity of needs among older persons, and willing to accommodate them in all aspects of society?

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Review noise bylaw in context of city soundscapes
2. Pursue Age Friendly policy/ connect with existing World Health Organization (WHO) Age Friendly Cities and Community Network
3. Make Victoria more welcoming and accessible for people who are hard of hearing and/or visually impaired
4. Create a public campaign on Ageism - what it is and the impact on the city
5. Improve programs to promote social inclusion and active socialization
6. Create an Indigenous Advisory position within the City
7. Consider additional vulnerability of LGBTQ+ seniors
8. Review Emergency Preparedness program with lens of needs of seniors (e.g. hard of hearing, visually impaired, mobility)
9. Add captioning services and loop systems at city events
10. Develop a Cultural Competency awareness and practices program for our Indigenous population
11. Develop a Cultural Competency awareness and practices program for our immigrant population
12. Review and implement dementia-friendly guidelines

Social Participation



Do older persons have opportunities for developing and maintaining meaningful social networks in their neighbourhoods?



Are the needs and preferences of older persons considered in planning by a diverse range of agencies and institutions?

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Build stronger connections for senior and elder population
2. Review core funding and operating agreements of seniors centres
3. Encourage more age-friendly performances at public events
4. Encourage additional discounts for low income seniors at museums, galleries, music events etc.
5. Develop transportation programs to get seniors to/from specific activities and events
6. Explore and develop evidence-based program development and partnerships
7. Examine strategies to provide mileage reimbursement for volunteer drivers
8. Develop programs that focus on reducing isolation of men i.e. Men's Sheds
9. Provide wrap-around services that deal with multiple areas i.e. health, food security, housing etc.
10. Expand outreach to deliver more neighbourhood-based programs at seniors rental housing facilities

Communication & Information



Are older persons aware of the diverse range of programs and services available within their community?



Is information readily available, appropriately designed and delivered to meet the needs of older persons?

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Review City standards for font, size, and use of graphics in publications, signage and wayfinding
2. Coordinate seasonal gatherings and annual workshop of seniors/elder based organizations in the city
3. Use multiple avenues to disseminate information to seniors
4. Send print copies of major city documents to seniors centres, community centres, public library and other public facilities
5. Review and update Seniors Asset Map - CRD
6. Train volunteer coaches to help navigate transportation and health care programs. Find out what programs can be accessed to meet goals and schedules
7. Pursue partnerships with Blue Book creator and other community directories
8. Create an Elders/Seniors Council to help coordinate services for seniors
9. Revive cable tv community bulletin board
10. Develop lists of restaurants and businesses who cater to sound sensitive people
11. Work with restaurant association to create quiet dining times and seniors tables
12. Ensure all communication needs take into account visual and hearing impaired community

Civic Participation & Employment



Do older persons have opportunities to participate in community decision making?



Do older persons have opportunities to contribute their experience and skills to the community in paid or unpaid work?

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Create a City of Victoria Seniors Advisory Committee
2. Make equity a foundation for decision-making
3. Create signage at polling stations at eye level for people in scooters. Directional lines on floors are helpful
4. Consider the experience of seniors and elders for City advisory committees
5. Create seniors skills bank / database of expertise, experience and skills
6. Organize drop-off points (seniors centres) for election ballots
7. Create a volunteer fair for seniors

Community Support & Health Services



Do older persons have access to the social and health services they need to stay healthy and independent?

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Pursue partnerships to promote advanced care directives
2. Pursue partnerships to increase awareness of and improve availability of health and homecare services
3. Attract more physicians to Victoria
4. Create a mobile clinic and pharmacy to come out to neighbourhoods
5. Improve access to and add more long-term care facilities for lower and middle income seniors
6. Review Life Pass criteria to increase access to services by seniors
7. Acknowledge additional vulnerability of LGBTQ+ seniors
8. Identify and support partners to advocate for seniors needing extra help, especially with paperwork
9. Establish a collaborative committee with health authority to look at new initiatives, share ideas and concerns
10. Create a Lunch 'n Learn program on social determinants of health
11. Review food security measures including adding more community gardens and creating a matching program for residents with land and seniors who want to garden
12. Share existing and new initiatives amongst agencies and different levels and areas of government