



July 2024



STRATEGIC PLAN FOR ADVOCACY FOR SENIORS



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VISION

To create a community where seniors can live independently, safely, and with dignity, enjoy a high quality of life through accessible services, affordable housing, quality healthcare, vibrant social connections, and reliable transportation.

STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Accessibility
2. Housing
3. Healthcare
4. Social Wellbeing
5. Transportation

STRATEGY & ACTIONS

GOAL 1: ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility Committee to bring forward Seniors-focused Recommendations

- Receive and implement recommendations from the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee as they relate to seniors.

Create an Accessibility Plan

- Use Phase 1 of the Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee City of Terrace Accessibility Plan – Phase 1 to build on Information and Communications focus areas.

Municipal Facility Accessibility

- Conduct building assessments with an accessibility lens.
- Work with organizations providing services to seniors and persons with disabilities to ensure any upgrades or renovations can accommodate their recreational needs.

Funding

- Continue to explore grant funding as an option to help improve accessibility in existing municipal public spaces and to apply to actioning Phase 1 of the Accessibility Plan.



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GOAL 2: HOUSING

Housing Committee to bring forward Seniors-focused Recommendations

- Support the initiative of the Housing Committee as it relates to seniors' issues.
- Consider future housing conferences that support seniors' needs in the Northwest.

Support Aging in Place

- Implement new Bill 44 legislation to support aging in place residences, such as downsizing from the main home on a property to a carriage home on the same property.

Zoning and Land Use

- Encourage diversity of dwelling units in all neighbourhoods, supporting the movement towards smaller housing units.

GOAL 3: HEALTHCARE

Municipal Services

- Include seniors'-serving organizations in planning to support seniors in extreme weather response.
- Implement seniors-focused assistance programs.
- Increase awareness and education of residents of climate-related health risks and actions to mitigate impacts on health and well-being.
- Continue offering a variety of registration options for programs, including online registration.

Safety

- Increase membership of emergency alert programs.
- Increase distribution and testing of fire alarms through the "Fire Safe" program.
- Implement the "Green Sleeve" program.

Northern Health:

- Regular communications with Northern Health on the current doctor and staff shortages in Terrace.



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GOAL 4: SOCIAL WELLBING

Promote Senior Activities:

- Develop and implement social, recreational and fitness programming designed for seniors.
- Develop recreational programs that encourage interaction between seniors and younger community members.
- Partner with other municipalities for delivery of senior programming.

Reduce Barriers to Access

- Continue to promote recreation facility passes in conjunction with Volunteer Terrace Seniors program to reach isolated seniors and connect them to recreation opportunities.
- Communicate low-cost and free recreation and leisure programs and services.
- Support social and leisure opportunities that are affordable and accessible.

Continue to Participate in Relevant Seniors'-serving Initiatives, for example:

- Participation on Seniors Collective - coordinated through Volunteer Terrace.
- Participation on Greater Terrace Welcoming Network (senior newcomers).
- Situation Table - includes all age situations.

Identify Gap Areas for Seniors:

- Invite seniors-servicing organizations to attend a Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss current issues once a year.



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GOAL 5: TRANSPORTATION

Improve Public Transit

- Continue to monitor effectiveness of extended hours of HandyDART.
- Encourage and support sustainable commuting.

Walkability and Parking Initiatives

- Enhance pedestrian infrastructure to make walking safer and more enjoyable for seniors, consistent with Active Transportation Planning.
- Encourage appropriate and accessible parking in the downtown area.
- Conduct walkability assessments to improve lighting, crosswalks, and benches.
- Incorporate high quality sidewalks in close proximity to seniors' facilities.

Strive for Areas to be Linked for Safe Walking, Cycling and Efficient Public Transit

- Identify existing natural areas and green spaces that can serve as pathway corridors and links between neighbourhoods.
- Incorporate and link pathways or walkways between subdivisions and neighbourhoods to increase accessibility and safe linkages to schools, parks, and other public services and amenities.
- Consider sidewalks as a requirement for road construction in new subdivision development in the Subdivision and Development in alignment with City bylaws.

CONCLUSION

This strategic plan aims to create a supportive environment where seniors can thrive. By focusing on accessibility, housing, healthcare, social wellbeing, and transportation, this will build a community that respects and meets the needs of its senior residents.