

# Report to Council



**Date:** October 19, 2015  
**File:** 0710-01  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** Michelle Kam, Sustainability Coordinator  
**Subject:** UBCM 2016 Age-friendly Community Planning & Project Grants

---

## **Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Sustainability Coordinator dated October 19, 2015, with respect to UBCM 2016 Age-friendly Community Planning & Project Grants.

THAT Council authorizes staff to apply for a 2016 UBCM Age-friendly Community Planning Grant for a Community for All Ages Plan for Kelowna;

AND FURTHER THAT Council authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the 2016 UBCM Age-friendly Community Planning Grant on behalf of City Council, if the application is successful.

## **Purpose:**

To inform Council of the Healthy City Strategy in relation to the UBCM Age-friendly Community Planning and Project Grant opportunity and to have Council endorse the City of Kelowna to apply for a 2016 UBCM Age-Friendly Community Planning Grant.

## **Background:**

Like many other cities around the world, Kelowna is grappling with how to build a vibrant, healthy and sustainable city in the face of challenges including climate change, a growing prevalence of obesity and chronic health conditions, and increasing inequality. These challenges are thrusting local governments to the forefront of leadership in creative, innovative, and integrated city building.

There is growing recognition around the world that local governments are well placed to lead a collective push to address these challenges given the significant direct and indirect roles

that they play in creating the conditions in which we live, work and play. That is, how cities are planned, designed and managed not only influences the air and water quality, but also the ability of people to get around, where and what type of housing is available, what food can be easily accessed, what kinds of jobs are available, how much and what kind of green space people can play and rest in, and how safe, connected, and included residents feel in their neighbourhoods.

Over the last few decades, many cities have been planned, designed and managed in ways that have separated out the activities of daily life. Low density, use-segregated, car-based development that is dependent on high levels of fossil fuel use has led to people spending more time in their cars than on their feet, and more time apart than together. Inactivity, separation and un-sustainability have been designed into the very fabric of cities, affecting not only individual health and well-being but also that of neighbourhoods and of the planet.

In order to address these complex issues, the City of Kelowna, University of BC - Okanagan Campus, and Interior Health formed a Healthy City Partnership in 2014. This Partnership demonstrates a ground-breaking collaboration between the three of the interior's largest and most complex institutions. The goal of the Healthy City Partnership is to examine and act on how these three institutions can utilize and leverage their diverse resources and interests in order to make headway on issues such as the relation between built environment, natural environment, and residents of Kelowna.

The Healthy City Strategy is one of the main outcomes that will be derived from the Healthy City Partnership. The Healthy City Strategy is a multi-year project that will result in a long-term, integrative plan that will focus on healthy built environment, community health and quality of life for all residents. This Strategy will promote integrated decision-making and is anticipated to be a companion document to the Official Community Plan with implementable actions in the six theme areas: Healthy Transportation Networks, Healthy Housing, Healthy Neighbourhood Design, Healthy Food Systems and Healthy Natural Environments, with the addition of a cross-cutting theme area called "Community for All Ages".

City staff will be meeting with Interior Health in November to review the Healthy City Strategy Framework to discuss shared accountability, data sharing opportunities and the creation of a Technical Steering Committee.

The first theme area that Policy and Planning proposes to undertake is the cross-cutting initiative "Community for All Ages" as demographic shifts across the globe are having a profound impact on community age relations and Kelowna is no different. The percentage of seniors (age 65+) will continue to increase over the coming years as it grows from 19.9% in 2014 to 25.5% in 2030. Demographic shifts are an opportunity to think and act differently. How communities respond to, and build in resiliency with respect to intergenerational equity, opportunities, and social commitment to a sense of belonging at all ages will be a determinant of community social health and retention of its members. International efforts are being mobilized to develop new policies and practices to foster a sense of generational

inclusiveness, promote lifelong contribution, and harness resources to promote a higher quality of life for all ages of all community members.

In order for municipal governments to plan for aging and age-friendly communities, the Provincial Seniors' Housing and Support Initiative was created. Between 2004 and 2015, UBCM awarded \$4.75 million in grants to 125 BC communities for Age Friendly planning initiatives and community projects. The Ministry of Health has now committed \$0.5 million in funding for 2016 to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Age Friendly Community Planning and Project Grants. A maximum of 25 grants of up to \$20,000.00 are available for 2016 community planning initiatives or community projects.

The Community for All Ages theme area that will be the focus in 2016 and will include not only actions for healthier seniors, but also for healthier children and those who require enhanced accessibility, as most of the actions will provide co-benefits not only to seniors, but also to children and residents with different levels of abilities. Areas to be evaluated and considered with this funding include outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation accessibility, relationship to the housing spectrum, social participation, and community support and health services. The Action Plan will identify areas where the City of Kelowna can initiate processes to adapt policies, plans and programs within the City's scope of citizen services to respond to the evolving needs of our community.

Policy and Planning's grant application to UBCM will be for \$20,000 and if successful, would include the following project activities and deliverables:

- Background research on other adopted age friendly plans;
- Age friendly community assessment including existing features, barriers and priorities;
- Create an Age Friendly Steering Committee<sup>1</sup> with key community stakeholders;
- Direct engagement with diverse members of the community;
- Policy recommendations for OCP and / or Zoning Bylaws (if required for implementation);
- Community for All Ages Action Plan; and
- Indicators and targets for ongoing measurement.

The development of a Community for All Ages Plan will provide future policy direction as well as action recommendations for improving the built environment. This plan will also provide stronger linkages in the community through partnership development to help achieve long-term goals and targets of Kelowna being a Community for All Ages. As this is a new and emerging area of practice across Canada, this initiative is pioneering a new approach to community building and would set in motion future years of continued evolution of the Action Plan.

---

<sup>1</sup> The composition of this committee is anticipated to consist of various community stakeholders such as Interior Health, UBC, School District #23, children and senior organizations and representatives with the sole purpose to provide input on the development of a Community for All Ages Plan and the associated recommendations, targets and indicators that would be outcomes at the project conclusion.

The Community for All Ages initiative will only commence once it is corporately prioritized as an active project and City resources are available. By pursuing this grant application, it opens an opportunity for this project activity to be considered within the full spectrum of 2016 work items, but acknowledges that it needs to be prioritized amongst many other initiatives.

**Internal Circulation:**

Divisional Director, Community Planning & Real Estate

**Existing Policy:**

Healthy Community Council Policy 190:

“The City of Kelowna endorses the principles and objectives of a Healthy Community, and acknowledges essential relationships between community health and community quality of life.

The City of Kelowna resolves that:

- a) future policies of the City of Kelowna will provide a municipal framework which will assist in enhancing the overall health and vitality of the community;
- b) Kelowna civic departments individually and collectively will review policies and operations toward improving health conditions within the community;
- c) the City of Kelowna will ensure full community participation in matters relating to the overall health of the community and its citizens.”

OCP Policy 10.2.1 Stakeholder Involvement. Involve a broad range of interests identifying solutions for emerging issues, including residents, businesses, non-profits, major institutions, and utility providers, with a particular effort given to involving those typically not engaged in community decisions.

OCP Policy 10.3.1 Housing Availability. Support the provision of housing for all members of the community, including those in core housing need or requiring special needs housing (transitional, age in place, emergency or shelter).

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

**Legal/Statutory Authority:**

**Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:**

**Financial/Budgetary Considerations:**

**Personnel Implications:**

**External Agency/Public Comments:**

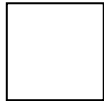
**Communications Comments:**

**Alternate Recommendation:**

Submitted by:

Michelle Kam, Sustainability Coordinator

Approved for inclusion:



Danielle Noble-Brandt, Dept. Manager, Policy & Planning

cc:

Divisional Director, Community Planning & Real Estate

Divisional Director, Active Living & Culture

Grants & Partnerships Manager

Community & Neighbourhood Services Manager

Infrastructure Planning Department Manager

Community Engagement Consultant

Community Policing Coordinator

Parks Services Manager