

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee

Date: January 2, 2024

Subject: Age-Friendly Accessibility and Inclusion Action Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive the Age-Friendly Accessibility and Inclusion Action Plan.

BACKGROUND:

In response to the implementation of the *Accessible British Columbia Act*, in November 2022, the District of Mackenzie (District) established an Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Committee and began the process to develop an accessibility plan and a tool to receive feedback on their accessibility.

Council tasked the Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Committee along with District staff to develop an accessibility plan. The District was approved for \$25,000 in grant funding from BC Healthy Communities towards the development of a plan. The District hired Cardea Health Consulting to work with staff and the committee to develop the plan.

The attached report outlines the results of an assessment conducted in the District in the winter of 2023. The assessment included desk research and a community engagement process with feedback gathered through open houses, one-on-one interviews, and an online and paper survey. The data was compiled and categorized using the Public Health Agency of Canada's Age-friendly Evaluation Indicators, which served as the foundation for devising an action plan.

The desk research, community engagement findings, and subsequent recommendations are structured according to the Global Age-Friendly Cities Guide's eight domains pertaining to age-friendliness. Each domain includes a section on the District's current age-friendly features, areas for improvement identified during the community engagement process, and suggestions made by community members and service providers for future changes.

Recommendations within each domain are then presented with completion targets classified as ongoing, short-term (one to two years), medium-term (two to five years), and long-term (over five years). Whenever feasible, actions have been designated for review by particular community organizations or District Leads. The abbreviation n/a (not applicable/available) is used when

relevant connections are nonexistent or require creation. The recommendations aim to align with goals and actions delineated in other District documents, such as the Official Community Plan.

The domains outlined in the report include:

- Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Respect, Social Inclusion or Cultural Safety
- Communications and Information
- Community Engagement and Employment
- Community Support and Health and Wellness Services

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Some items listed in the action plan will have more significant budgetary impacts than others. Staff have reviewed the action plan and will be considering what actions can be included in the 2024 Budget and staff work plans.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

Community and Social Development

- Our investment in the municipality's services and infrastructure, our commitment to principles of social equity and well-being, and our belief in the value of resident engagement, creates a healthy community in which everyone feels valued and enjoys a high quality of life.

Strong Governance and Finances

- As the municipality's elected governing body, we serve all residents and businesses in the community. We engage residents and stakeholders on important issues and make our decisions through open and transparent processes. We are careful in our use of resources, mindful of the need to maintain programs and services, while also meeting the community's infrastructure needs.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Emily Kaehn, Director of Corporate Services

Reviewed By: Corporate and Financial Services

Approved By: Chief Administrative Officer