

**Municipality of Chatham-Kent**

**Health and Human Services**

**Public Health Unit**

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**From:** Sandy Kalabalikis, Health Educator, Public Health  
**Date:** September 12, 2023  
**Subject:** Chatham-Kent Age Friendly Advisory Committee Appointment

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that:

1. Tara Seney be appointed to the Chatham-Kent Age Friendly Advisory Committee for the 2022-2026 term.

**Background**

Chatham-Kent Age Friendly Advisory Committee (AFC) works to build a diverse, inclusive, accessible and respectful community that enables independence and healthy lifestyles at all stages of aging.

As a Committee of Council, AFC aims to collaborate with community and Municipal partners, and provide leadership and communication to enhance the age-friendliness of Chatham-Kent:

- Gives stronger opportunity to advise Council on recommendations with regard to age-friendly opportunities and initiatives.
- Helps bring the community and organizations into the work of the committee.
- Allows AFC to take advantage of potential opportunities that may be outside initiatives in the Age Friendly Community Action Plan.
- Creates a forum to ensure visibility of the initiatives and helps hold AFC accountable.

**Comments**

A current member has stepped down from the committee due to other commitments, leaving a vacancy. The recommended candidate is a past member of this committee, and during that previous term she made many valued contributions.

Submissions were reviewed using the following criteria:

- Interest in being on AFC
- Level of committee experience
- Experience or interest in serving older adults
- Experience or interest in building an age-friendly community, and/or a community that fosters well-being for all
- Experience or expertise in at least one of the age-friendly dimensions – civic engagement, community support and health services, housing, outdoor spaces and buildings, social participation, transportation, communication and information, respect and social inclusion
- Rural representation

It is recommended Tara Seney be appointed to the committee as she is a past member of the committee and has experience in community work and a number of the age-friendly dimensions.

### **Areas of Strategic Focus**

This report supports the following areas of strategic focus:

			
<b>Economic Prosperity</b>	<b>Healthy &amp; Safe Community</b>	<b>People &amp; Culture</b>	<b>Environmental Sustainability</b>
	2.4		

### **Consultation**

An application for recruitment of the vacancy was sent out through various communications.

### **Communication**

Once approved by Mayor and Council, the successful candidate will be contacted and invited to join the Chatham-Kent Age Friendly Community Advisory Committee. Their membership will be added to the Committee's webpage on Chatham-Kent.ca.

**Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ)**

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent takes responsibilities to protect specific groups from overt discrimination, and is recognizing the more subtle ways that policies, processes, programs, and services create and/or exacerbate systemic inequities. Inequities happen when policies, processes, and services (whether intentional or not) provide certain groups of people with opportunities or benefits while preventing others from full participation in, and the benefits of, social, economic, and political life. In response, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is working to develop and implement diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) frameworks that support wellbeing in the organization and community.

While many of us see our organizations as impartial and fair, research suggests that the existing systems and structures have resulted in under-representation and inequities for specific groups of people. Municipal decision-making, policies, processes, and services can contribute to unequal access to opportunities, resources, employment, and other 'social determinants' that support health and wellbeing at an individual and community level. Among most at-risk of being excluded are older adults.

The Age Friendly Committee is designed to support a more inclusive community for people of all ages. The committee has representation from different geographic communities within Chatham-Kent. The committee recognizes the importance of diverse representation and will be working with the Clerk's office as the Municipal DEIJ Strategy is being implemented, to promote diverse representation on the committee in the future.

**Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications resulting from this recommendation.

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Attachment: None