

September 15, 2016

City seeks input to develop Age-Friendly Community Plan

What are the key issues and priorities for older adults and seniors in Campbell River?

The City of Campbell River is developing an Age-Friendly Community Plan and is looking for input from seniors/elders, caregivers, service providers, and other community members to identify how we can make Campbell River an even better place to live and age.

An age-friendly survey will be available from September 16 through October 16 at www.campbellriver.ca/age-friendly. Paper copies will also be available at various locations including City Hall, the Seniors Centre, Community Centre, and Sportsplex. Participants will be entered in a prize draw to win gift cards sponsored by Canadian Tire, CBI Rehabilitation in Motion, Island Fever Travel Inc., London Drugs, Quality Foods, and Thrifty Foods.

“Campbell River is a truly family-friendly community, providing amenities and services for all members of the family – from newborns to seniors,” says Mayor Andy Adams. “Someone said that grandparents go to where the grandkids are – and they are here! The numbers support this. In just 10 years, one in three residents will be over the age of 65, and one in six over 75. Our incredible waterfront setting, new hospital, and a range of seniors’ services and programs make Campbell River an ideal retirement community that continues to draw more seniors to the area. Careful planning is required to ensure we provide the services required for a balance of youth and seniors needs, and this is a great opportunity for the future of our city.”

Lynn Wark, the city’s Recreation & Culture Manager, says the Age-Friendly Community Plan will help Campbell River to remain an attractive place to live with features that not only benefit seniors, but also support the health, safety, and enjoyment of residents of all ages.

“The City is using grant funding from the Province and Union of BC Municipalities to create a plan to better meet the needs of older adults and seniors and work towards becoming formally recognized by the Province as an Age-Friendly Community,” Wark says. “The plan will also help to guide decisions about public investment and help us access further grant funding for community improvements and age-friendly related projects.”

The plan will focus on the eight key elements of an age-friendly community as identified by the World Health Organization:

- Outdoor spaces and buildings
- Transportation and mobility
- Housing
- Social participation
- Respect and social inclusion
- Civic participation and employment/volunteering
- Communication and information
- Community and health services

For information about the project, visit the project web page at www.campbellriver.ca/age-friendly.

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