



Apr 17, 2023

To: The Members of Brampton City Council

Re: Decision by Council to Not Re-establish the City of Brampton's Age-Friendly Advisory Committee

The City of Brampton Age-Friendly Advisory Committee (AFAC) was established by Council in April 2017.

Brampton CARP was invited to join the Committee and did so with enthusiasm and diligently attended the AFAC until its dissolution in 2023.

During the period of AFAC's existence, several major accomplishments were achieved. Among other successes, the AFAC worked vigorously to meet the rigorous, necessary criteria for the successful designation of Brampton by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a recognized 'age-friendly community'. This recognition has been achieved by only 16 other communities in Ontario.

Among the many achievements of the AFAC was the development of a comprehensive set of benchmarks to ascertain the degree to which city policies and procedures reflected age-friendly criteria and the design of procedures by which departmental policies and procedures could be evaluated for age-friendly inclusion.

As well, the AFAC was seen by the residential and business communities as a venue by which age-friendly issues for all age levels could be addressed - an access point to our elected officials.

It is then with great disappointment and grave concern that Brampton CARP views the dissolution of the AFAC, apparently without any input from the essential stakeholders.

Please outline the process by which this unfortunate oversight on the Council's part resulted in the cancellation of this all-too-important committee. Further, what steps were taken to notify stakeholders of this absolutely short-sighted decision?

With the demise of the City of Brampton Age-Friendly Advisory Committee, will the World Health Organization decertify Brampton as an officially recognized age-friendly community? Has the WHO been notified of this decision? What is the City's plan(s) to establish another formal entity directed to the cause of the 'age-friendly community'? The withdrawal of WHO's city designation will negatively impact our city's image. What possible good can come from this decision to negate the wholesome picture that Brampton once was?

The set of age-friendly criteria developed by the AFAC and its related evaluation processes was to ensure that wherever possible and feasible the city's policies, procedures, and by-laws, would reflect the principles and practices of 'age-friendly'.



When will the city assure its residents that such will be the practice regarding future policy establishment, related to planning, development, transportation, parks & recreation, etc.?

Finally, the dissolution of the AFAC eliminated a primary formal requirement means by which residents could provide direct comment to elected officials regarding age-related issues and concerns. This is of primary concern to Brampton CARP as no officially recognized city entity is now committed to hearing and addressing the voice of some 80,000 senior citizens in our city.

Will the city of Brampton commit to establishing a formal venue (i.e. A 'Seniors' Advisory Committee'; a Seniors' Commissioner/Ombudsman) to acknowledge the specific concerns and needs of its senior demographic?

Brampton CARP looks forward to your timely response to our concerns and to the opportunity to continue the conversation with our elected officials on how best to meaningfully interact with Brampton Seniors to assure a strong voice for the future.

Sincerely yours,

Rose-Marie Grycaj

President, Brampton CARP

Att: WHO certificate



**World Health  
Organization**



**WHO Global Network  
for Age-friendly Cities  
and Communities**

This is to certify that

**Brampton**

is a member of the  
World Health Organization's  
Global Network for Age-friendly Cities  
and Communities

Members of the Network share and promote  
the values and principles of the World Health Organization's  
age-friendly approach, commit to creating  
age-friendly environments and agree to participate actively in the Network.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alana Officer'.

Alana Officer

WHO Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities  
Department of Social Determinants of Health  
World Health Organization  
Geneva, Switzerland