

**AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES: AN INTRODUCTION
WEBINAR 1
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Date: Thursday September 3rd, 2015

Presenter: Dr. John Puxty

Host: Age-Friendly Community (AFC) Planning Outreach Initiative

TOPICS COVERED

General AFC Questions

1. [AFCs and dementia friendly communities](#)
2. [AFC and the disability community](#)
3. [AFCs and a life-course perspective](#)
4. [World Health Organization AFC Designation](#)
5. [AFC projects in Ontario / globally](#)
6. [Involving Business Improvement Associations in planning](#)
7. [AFCs and Community Hubs](#)
8. [AFCs and the Canadian Index of Wellbeing](#)

Questions About the AFC Planning Outreach Initiative and AFC Planning Grants

1. [Number of communities to receive funding](#)
2. [Hiring consultants for AFC projects](#)
3. [Finding out if a community is age-friendly](#)
4. [Launch date of provincial AFC website](#)
5. [Adding AFC profile of non-funded community to website](#)
6. [Webinar recordings](#)
7. [Sharing recordings with colleagues](#)

GENERAL QUESTIONS

01. How do age-friendly communities mesh with dementia friendly communities?

- There will be opportunities for sharing in the future
- Conversations have happened between this project and groups from the Alzheimer Society of Ontario regarding the possibility of applying Age-Friendly principles to dementia friendly communities
- We are looking at opportunities to seek other funding to expand some of this work

02. How is the disability community linked in?

- A lot of the material developed are very appropriate to individuals with physical and intellectual challenges
- A lot of local steering committees are also partnering with local accessibility advisory committees at the municipal level

03. Does the Age-Friendly Community concept focus on a seniors' strategy, or do you also support a life-course perspective that supports healthy aging at every age and stage of life?

- The AFC work comes out of an aging perspective, but if you look at the work that is being done there is clear relevance to most age groups and clear value add for initiatives that span the life span. One example is activities that create intergenerational links as a way to build respect and participation within all age groups.
- One project in North America shows that relatively young groups in 20s, 30s and 40s have started an interest group around age-friendly initiatives. This began when business members, lawyers and advisors who saw older adults as a regular part of their business and wanted themselves to be part of an age-friendly creating process

04. What is the benefit of being a member of the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities?

- Becoming part of the global network with a common desire and commitment to promote healthy and active ageing and a good quality of life for their older residents
- Exchanging knowledge and experiences with other communities around the world undertaking AFC initiatives
- Building awareness and commitment to your AFC initiative – it's often a goal and motivator for participation within a community
- Check out the [Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities](#), last updated March 2015 to see if your community is on the list!

05. How can I learn more about what type of age-friendly projects other communities are involved in?

- When the provincial AFC website launches you will be able to read community profiles to find out more about what others in your area are working on
- To get some ideas from other countries, visit the [Global Database of Age-Friendly Projects](#). This database is searchable by country, size of community and domain, thereby allowing you to quickly focus in on projects that align with your own priorities and context.

06. How do we involve our local Business Improvement Association in this process?

- Answer from participant: Here in London we have just started the process of reaching out to BIAs and the local Small Business Centre to share our Age Friendly Business checklist and resource guide. This is a very new initiative for us, but so far the response has been positive.

07. How does this work fit with the government's funding and promotion of Community Hubs?

- Community hubs provide a central access point for a range of needed health and social services, along with cultural, recreational, and green spaces to nourish community life. A community hub can be a school, a neighbourhood centre, an early learning centre, a library, an elderly persons centre, a community health centre, an old government building, a place of worship or another public space. Each hub is unique, and brings together a variety of different services, programs and/or social and cultural activities to reflect local community needs.
- While there are no direct links between Ontario's Age-Friendly Communities initiative and Community Hubs initiative at this time, both share common principles in terms of being driven by local planning and designed to respond to local needs, promoting cross-sector collaboration, and encouraging integrated planning and service delivery to meet the needs of communities, including the needs of an aging population.
- In her mandate letters, the Premier of Ontario has tasked a number of ministers to participate in the development of a policy on community hubs, including the Minister Responsible for Seniors Affairs. The Ontario Seniors' Secretariat is working together with other ministries on this initiative.
- Additional information about the Community Hubs initiative can be found [here](#)

08. Is there any recommended alignment between the AFC framework and the Canadian Index of Wellbeing?

- The Canadian Index of Wellbeing is a composite index composed of eight interconnected domains that measures stability and change in the wellbeing of Canadians over time

- These components (below) are similar to the dimensions of age-friendly communities in that they relate ways we can measure determinants of health
 - Community vitality
 - Democratic engagement
 - Education
 - Environment
 - Healthy populations
 - Leisure and culture
 - Living standards
 - Time Use
- Additional information about the CDI can be found [here](#); or read the provincial report to find out “[How are Ontarians Really Doing?](#)”

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE AFC PLANNING OUTREACH INITIATIVE AND AFC PLANNING GRANTS

01. Have all the grants been granted?

- 56 grants have been confirmed. Final contracts are being signed

02. Will the funded communities be hiring consultants to assist with these projects or using internal staff only?

- It seems that a number of communities are hiring consultants
- The provincial Outreach Initiative is not in a position to recommend specific individuals for these positions
- Many of the skill sets that communities are looking for in consultants include facilitation, project management, change management. There likely is only a small number of consultants who have these skills AND specific experience in the field of age-friendly communities; however resources such [as Finding the Right Fit: Age-Friendly Community Planning](#) provide excellent subject matter content that consultants, groups and organizations who already have the identified skill sets could leverage to inform their work
- There may be an opportunity in the future to explore a train-the-trainer model. This model, in addition to content resources such as the planning guide, would help communities build local/internal skills and capacity that they would then retain moving forward.

03. How do you know if there is an AFC active/implemented in one's community? And if not, how can you go about organizing one in your community?

- We will list age-friendly communities on the website
- In the meantime, please reach out to the AFC Knowledge Broker Sarah Webster to find out if your community is active in AFC work:
webster@seniorshhealthknowledgenetwork.com

04. When will the provincial AFC website be 'live'?

- We are aiming for an end-of-September launch – dependent on fine tuning of current content and translation of some content and resources
- We will announce the launch of the new website through the provincial distribution list

05. How can a non-funded AFC be listed on the new website? Who do they contact?

- There is an area of the website where we will include community profiles from ANY community engaged in Age-Friendly work, regardless of whether that community received funding through the provincial grant program.
- If you would like to your community profiled, contact the AFC Knowledge Broker Sarah Webster: webster@seniorshhealthknowledgenetwork.com

06. Will this webinar plus any future webinars be available via a link on the website once it is launched?

- Yes – links to resources shared during webinars, as well as webinar recordings will be shared on the website.

07. Can I share the archived webinar with other colleagues?

- Absolutely! We will send you an email with a week with links to the recording and other resources – please share widely with your colleagues.