

AGENDA INFORMATION	
☒ Regular Meeting	Date: <u>March 2, 2026</u>
☐ Other:	Date: _____

 Dept. Manager	 GM/ Director	 CAO
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The District of North Vancouver REPORT TO COUNCIL

February 17, 2026

AUTHOR: Tanja Oswald, Community Planner

SUBJECT: Age-Friendly Strategy – Proposed Scope

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council approve the proposed work plan for the development of the Age-Friendly Strategy, as described in the February 17, 2026, report of the Community Planner entitled Age-Friendly Strategy – Proposed Scope, including targeted engagement and preliminary strategic directions.

AND THAT Council support an application to the BC Health Communities Age-Friendly Communities Program Grant Stream 1: Planning for engagement resourcing up to \$25,000.

REASON FOR REPORT:

This report provides an update to Council on the development of an Age-Friendly Strategy for the District of North Vancouver and seeks approval of the proposed work plan and authorization to apply for funding through the BC Health Community Age-Friendly Communities Program.

SUMMARY:

BC Stats (December 2025) projects that by 2035, nearly one in four residents of the District of North Vancouver will be aged 65 and older highlighting the need to remove barriers and support healthy, active, and independent living. An Age-Friendly Strategy aligned with the Official Community Plan will provide a long-term framework to promote inclusion, accessibility, and wellbeing for older adults¹, while benefiting residents of all ages. Staff propose seeking funding from the [BC Health Community Age-Friendly Communities Program](#) to support the Strategy's development, including enhanced engagement and implementation planning.

BACKGROUND:

In British Columbia, age-friendly communities are characterized by eight features that are modelled after the [World Health Organization's Global Age-friendly Cities Guide](#) and

¹ In this report, "older adults" and "seniors" refer to individuals aged 65 and older, consistent with census and policy definitions. However, it is recognized that some programs and services may include adults 55 and older, particularly those focused on early aging and prevention.

[Canada's Age-friendly Rural and Remote Communities Guide](#). These features help communities reduce barriers and support older adults to remain healthy, mobile and engaged, and places additional focus on cultural safety, road safety, and community wellness:

1. Outdoor spaces and buildings
2. Transportation (including road safety)
3. Housing
4. Social wellbeing and participation
5. Respect, social inclusion, and cultural safety
6. Community engagement and employment
7. Communications and information
8. Community support and health and wellness services

The provincial Age-Friendly Community designation received by the District of West Vancouver in 2012 and the City and District of North Vancouver in 2015 reflects municipal engagement with older adults and community partners to identify local needs and implement action plans.

The three municipalities have a history of collaboration, including the joint development of the [Dementia-friendly North Shore Action Plan](#) in 2018. The District has continued to advance age-friendly priorities through departmental work planning, and funding for program and service delivery.

Dementia friendly initiatives on the North Shore, developed through the Dementia-Friendly Action Plan, include *Minds in Motion*, *My Parkgate BREAK*, and *My Lions Gate BREAK*, offering social, physical, and cognitive programs for individuals living with dementia.

On April 3, 2025, the Assembly of North Shore Leaders on Seniors' Health² reaffirmed the need for greater coordination given that senior populations on the North Shore are growing. These events are organized by Vancouver Coastal Health and convened as a forum to engage elected and health system leaders on the North Shore to discuss and coordinate strategies to address health priorities. Key priorities identified at the recent assembly meeting included:

- Accessible transportation;
- Supportive housing;
- Multi-sector collaboration; and
- Adaptable policies to meet evolving community needs.

On [November 3, 2025](#), Council adopted the following resolution:

THAT Council direct staff to report back on options to create a comprehensive strategy for seniors in the District of North Vancouver, including specific goals and

² The Assembly of North Shore Leaders on Seniors' Health is a forum convened by Vancouver Coastal Health that brings together elected officials, health leaders, and community partners to coordinate strategies addressing seniors' health priorities on the North Shore.

directions for how the municipality can best serve its aging and older persons population.

EXISTING POLICY:

- [Interim Housing Needs Report](#) (2024): determines a 20-year housing need, in accordance with the provincial legislative direction and prescribed methodology, including housing needs for seniors as an identified priority group;
- [District Corporate Plan 2023-2026](#): includes goals to foster community wellbeing, and culture and safety, and priorities and objectives;
- [Accessibility Plan 2023-2026](#): provides a framework for the DNV, NVDPL, and NVRC to improve accessibility for people with disabilities by enhancing how programs and services are delivered. By addressing the needs of individuals with dementia and other cognitive impairments, the plan aligns with an age-friendly community that supports seniors' participation, independence, and wellbeing;
- [North Shore Poverty Reduction Strategy](#) (2023): outlines priorities and actions in service of an inclusive, equitable, anti-racist, thriving, and just community.
- [OCP Action Plan 2021](#): applied Social Equity Implementation lens to guide decision making and implementation of OCP actions in the plan;
- [Dementia Friendly North Shore Action Plan](#) (2018): includes strategy and actions aimed at supporting individuals living with dementia to have a high quality of life;
- [Accessible Design Policy for Multi-Family Housing](#) (2017): includes basic and enhanced accessible design features to support seniors aging in place;
- [The Rental, Social and Affordable Housing Strategy](#) (2016): guides the District and partners in expanding and retaining affordable rental housing through policy, planning, and collaboration. By increasing housing options for low to moderate income households, the strategy helps seniors access stable, age-friendly housing that is adaptable, inclusive and supportive;
- [Transportation Plan](#) (2012): supports mobility and transportation planning and policy for all ages and abilities, including specific enhancements for seniors;
- [Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan](#) (2012): Supports the development of spaces to accommodate the needs of children, youth, adults and seniors;
- [Official Community Plan](#) (2011): Includes goals and policy direction for an age and disability-friendly community; and
- [Municipal Community Service Grants](#) (1999): establishes Council support for core-funded community agencies delivering seniors' programs, and Rideshare services to enhance seniors' participation, mobility, and wellbeing.

ANALYSIS:

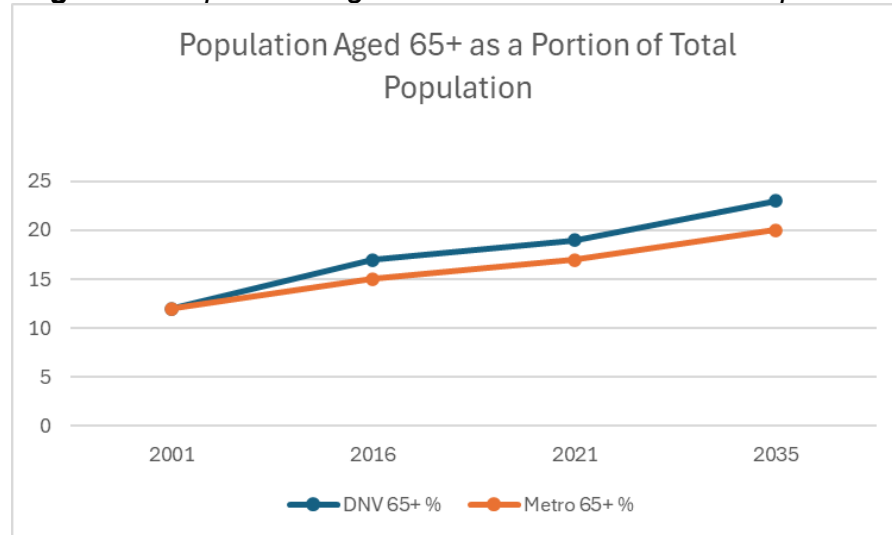
Older adults are an increasing segment of the District's population. As shown in **Figure 1**, BC Stats data from 2001 onward illustrates this trend and provides a comparison with Metro Vancouver. In 2021, residents aged 65 and older accounted for 19% of the District's population, up from 17% in 2016. This proportion is higher than the Metro Vancouver average. By 2035, projections indicate that nearly one in four residents will be 65 or older, underscoring the continuing demographic shift toward an older population.

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Figure 1: Population Aged 65+ as Portion of Total Population



An aging population has implications for service delivery, housing, transportation, and community planning. Responding effectively will require coordinated action across all levels of government, collaboration with community service providers, and engagement with other stakeholders. The development of an age-friendly strategy will aim to identify and prioritize seniors' needs, promote cross-sector collaboration, support evidence-based decision-making, and foster inclusive and accessible communities.

Preliminary work to identify early priorities included reviewing municipal plans and policies, analysing health data, and consulting Metro Vancouver municipalities, residents, subject matter experts, and local agencies serving older adults. **Attachment 1** summarizes findings from this early engagement.

Proposed Strategy Scope

Staff propose a 10-year strategy that will connect a clear vision to practical outcomes. Working with the community, the Strategy will support age-friendly planning and policy development, and coordination across agencies, community partners and District departments through these layered components:

- **Vision:** Long-term aspiration (to be defined through further engagement).
- **Strategic Directions:** Broad focus areas designed to address the key needs and gaps, guiding priorities for action.
- **Goals:** Measurable outcomes linked to the strategic directions, aimed at closing the identified gaps.
- **Policies and Actions:** Specific steps and initiatives to achieve the goals and respond to community needs.

Four strategic directions are proposed below. These are based on findings from preliminary engagement (described above and in **Attachment 1**) and reflect key issues and priorities for the community.

1. Community Life & Social Wellbeing

This focus area supports social wellbeing, inclusion, and engagement. It promotes participation in recreational, cultural, and community activities, and encourages volunteerism and civic involvement.

2. Connected Care & Supports

This focus area helps seniors access the services, supports, and information needed to live safely and independently. It emphasizes reducing barriers to services, including both digital and non-digital options, such as in-person workshops or printed guides, strengthening coordination across organizations, supports during emergencies, and ensuring accessible information.

3. Mobility, Safety & Access

This focus area would address mobility, safety, and access to community life. It may emphasize safe and accessible streets, trails, public spaces, and transit options while improving walkability, infrastructure, and transit accessibility.

4. Housing Stability & Aging in Place

This focus area supports aging in place through affordable, safe, and adaptable housing, while encouraging seniors to remain active, independent, and connected to their communities.

The Strategy will focus on areas within the District's direct influence, including land use, the design of public spaces, roads and buildings, cultural and recreational programming, and social policy. While housing, health, and social services are largely delivered by other governments and service providers, the District complements these supports by creating enabling environments, facilitating access, and coordinating local initiatives to strengthen their effectiveness and reach.

Progress across these strategic directions may be measured using a range of indicators. For example, the District could collect data through grants and local initiatives such as program participation, accessibility improvements, and housing supports. Broader measures, like primary care access, caregiver support, transit accessibility, and housing affordability, would be tracked by the health authority, transit agencies, provincial organizations, or census data.

Development of the Strategy would be guided by the climate and equity lenses identified in the OCP Action Plan:

- **Equity Lens** focuses on fairness by reducing barriers so all community members can benefit from policies and programs. It considers who benefits, who may be excluded, and what actions can improve access and outcomes, particularly for people who face barriers.

- **Climate Lens** considers how decisions affect climate change and community resilience. It looks at impacts on energy use and emissions, preparedness for climate risks, and opportunities to support long-term climate goals through low-carbon design, sustainable transportation, and protection of natural systems.

Proposed Work Plan

Staff are proposing the following three-phased work plan to support development of an Age-Friendly Strategy.

Phase 1: Project Initiation & Scope (Q1 2026)

- Council review and approval of project scope and strategic directions
- Apply for BCHC Age-Friendly Planning Grant (Council resolution required)
- Prepare for public input, including identifying target groups and engagement formats
- Outcome: Approved Project Scope

Phase 2: Listen and Learn Information Gathering (Q2 - Q3 2026)

- Conduct community and stakeholder engagement
- Interim Council update on engagement findings and emerging themes
- Potential implementation of “quick win” initiatives
- Synthesize engagement findings and supporting data into draft Age-Friendly Strategy
- Outcome: Draft Age-Friendly Strategy

Phase 3: Strategy Refinement & Approval (Q4 2026 – Q2 2027)

- Refine and prioritize strategy actions, timelines, roles, and performance measures
- Finalize the Strategy, aligned with grant requirements (if funded)
- Council presentation and approval of the final Strategy
- BCHC grant reporting
- Outcome: Council-approved Age-Friendly Strategy

At the end of this phased approach, this project aims to deliver a Council approved 10-year Age-Friendly Strategy with defined actions, timelines, responsibilities, and identified performance measures to support implementation.

Grant Opportunity: [BC Health Community Age-Friendly Program](#)

Staff have identified this grant funding opportunity to support the development of the District's Age-Friendly Strategy. Stream 1 provides up to \$25,000 for a single applicant to develop

local age-friendly assessments and action plans or to integrate an age-friendly and equity lens to existing plans or policy. The District intends to apply for the full \$25,000. The program is delivered by the BC Healthy Communities Society in partnership with the BC Ministry of Health.

Stream 1 eligibility requirements include demonstrating a focus on one or more of BC's [eight features of an age-friendly community](#). A council resolution is required to apply, and the application deadline is on March 12, 2026.

If successful, the grant would support enhanced engagement, additional community meetings, and more detailed implementation planning.

Timing/Approval Process:

The application deadline for the BCHC Age-Friendly Communities (AFC) Program is March 12, 2026, and a Council resolution is required. Successful applicants will be notified in June 2026, and the project must be completed within one year of the start date.

The project would proceed in three phases: initiating and scoping the project (Q1 2026), gathering input and developing a draft strategy through community and stakeholder engagement (Q2 - Q3 2026), and refining, finalizing, and seeking Council approval for the Age-Friendly Strategy (Q4 2026 - Q2 2027). Key milestones include the grant application, interim engagement updates, and final strategy approval.

Concurrence:

If grant funding is received, the project will be led by the Community Planning department. Other departments, including NRVC, Parks, Transportation, Engineering and Finance, will be involved at the draft and final strategy stages and support implementation, as appropriate.

Financial Impacts:

There is currently no dedicated funding to develop an Age-Friendly Strategy beyond in-kind staff and community participation. A successful grant through the Age-Friendly Communities (AFC) Program would provide up to \$25,000 to support delivery of the work plan described above.

If the grant application is unsuccessful, staff would proceed with developing the Strategy using existing staff and in-kind resources, with a more limited scope of engagement and implementation planning. Any additional project-specific funding requests would be brought forward to Council for consideration as required.

Public Input:

Targeted engagement with the most relevant stakeholders is proposed at this time, instead of broad public consultation. This makes use of community expertise and aligns with the resources currently available. Staff will provide Council with an update regarding the success of the grant application, along with the enhanced engagement plan that could be supported by the grant.

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Conclusion:

Developing an Age-Friendly Strategy offers an opportunity to enhance quality of life for older residents and the broader community by addressing gaps and building on the District's age-friendly commitments. The Strategy will focus on areas within the District's direct influence, including land use, physical environment design, cultural and recreational programming, and social policy, while complementing housing, health, and social services delivered by other levels of government.

Staff recommend that Council approve the proposed work plan outlined in the February 17, 2026 report, and support an application to Stream 1 of the BC Healthy Communities Age-Friendly Program. If successful, funding of up to \$25,000 would support additional engagement and more robust planning as the Strategy is developed.

The project may also position the District to consider joining the WHO Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities in the future, connecting with cities worldwide to foster age-friendly environments.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council approve the proposed work plan for the development of the Age-Friendly Strategy, as described in the February 17, 2026, report of the Community Planner entitled Age-Friendly Strategy – Proposed Scope, including targeted engagement and preliminary strategic directions.

AND THAT Council support an application to the BC Health Communities Age-Friendly Communities Program Grant Stream 1: Planning for engagement resourcing up to \$25,000.

OR

2. THAT Council provide alternate direction to staff regarding the proposed work plan and next steps.

Respectfully submitted,



Tanja Oswald
Community Planner

ATTACHMENTS

1. Staff Presentation
2. Age-Friendly Strategy – Preliminary Engagement (Dec 2025 – Jan 2026)

REVIEWED WITH:			
☐ Business and Economic	_____	☐ Finance	_____
☐ Bylaw Services	_____	☐ Fire Services	_____
☐ Clerk's Office	_____	☐ GIS	_____
☐ Climate and Biodiversity	_____	☐ Human Resources	_____
☐ Communications	_____	☐ Integrated Planning	_____
☐ Community Planning	_____	☐ ITS	_____
☐ Development Engineering	_____	☐ Housing	<u>T</u>
☐ Development Planning	_____	☐ Parks	<u>A</u>
☐ Engineering Operations	_____	☐ Real Estate	_____
☐ Environment	_____	☐ Review and Compliance	_____
☐ Facilities	_____	☐ Solicitor	_____
	_____	☐ Utilities	_____
		External Agencies:	
		☐ Library Board	_____
		☐ Museum and Archives	_____
		☐ NSEM	_____
		☐ NS Health	_____
		☐ NVRC	_____
		☐ RCMP	_____
		☐ Other:	_____

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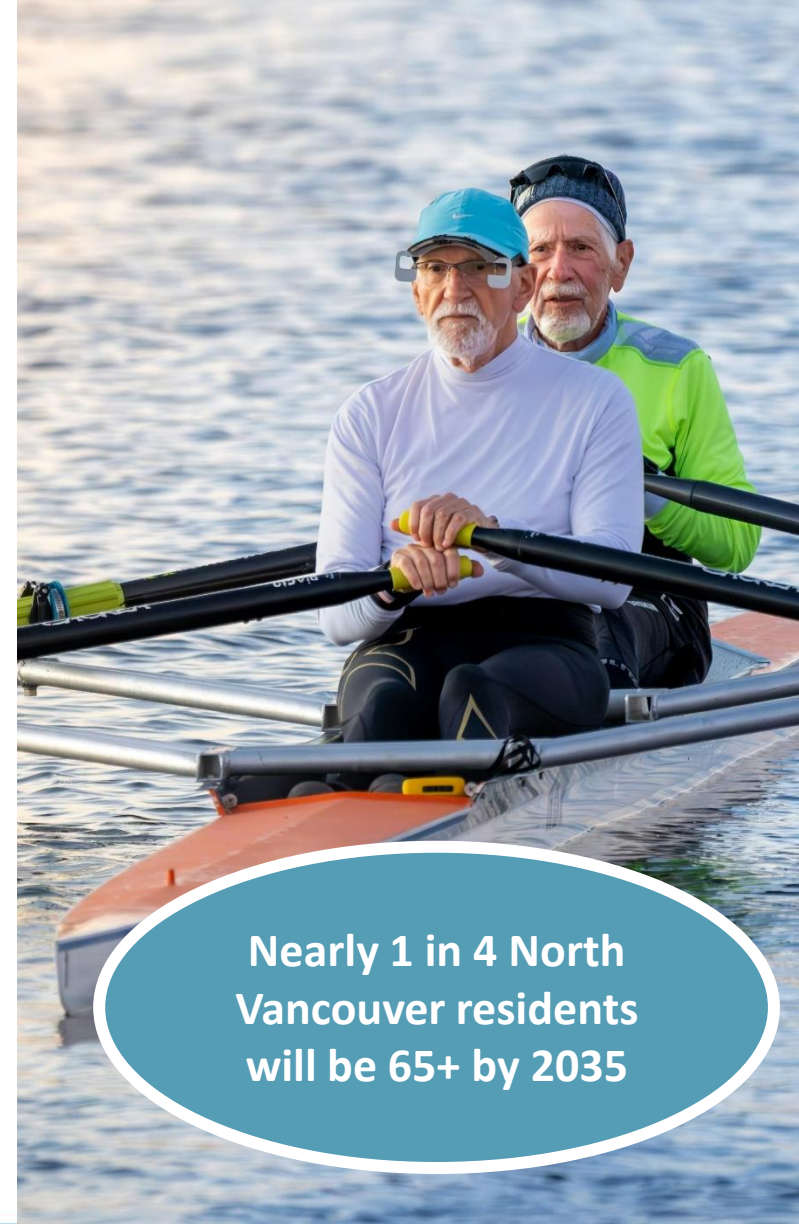
Age-Friendly Strategy – Proposed Scope

March 2, 2026
Regular Council Meeting

Background

- 2021:
 - DNV aged 65+ (19%) 16,956
 - Metro Vancouver aged 65+ (17%) 461,438
- 2035:
 - DNV aged 65+ (23%) 23,746
 - Metro Vancouver (20%) 722,808

Source: 2021 Census & BC Stats Population Projections (BC Population Estimates & Projections)

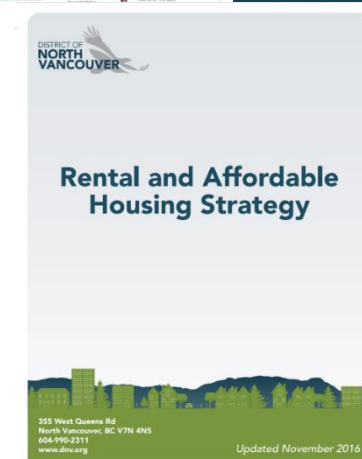
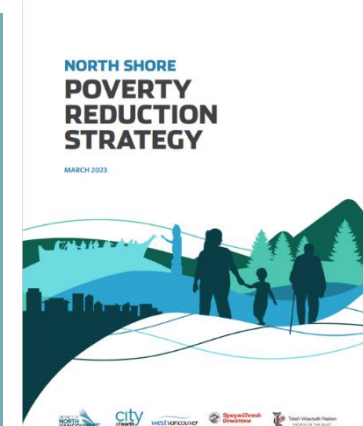
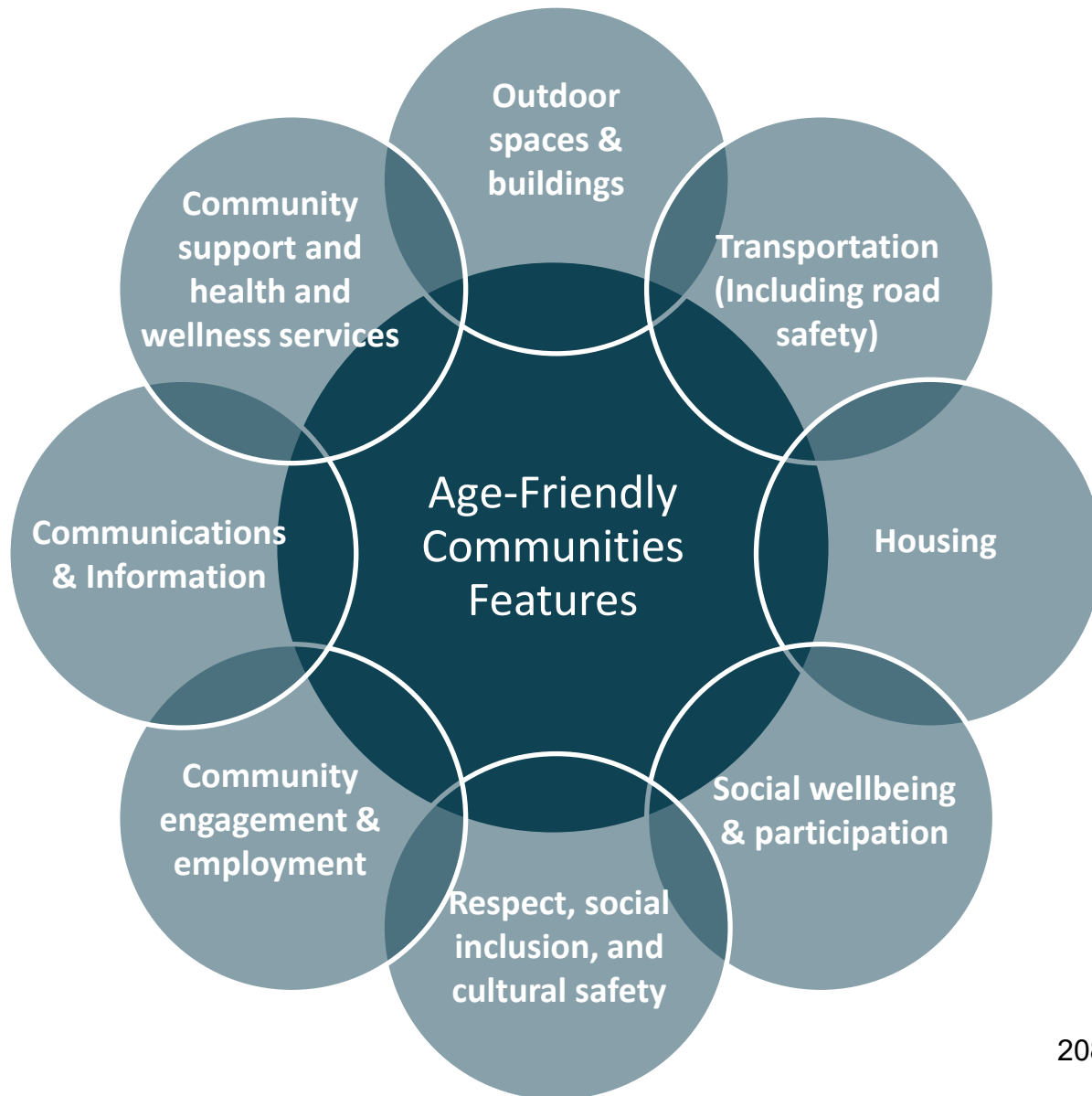


Nearly 1 in 4 North
Vancouver residents
will be 65+ by 2035

Background

- Planning for age-friendly environments
- Assembly of North Shore Leaders on Seniors' Health (April 3, 2025)
- Council resolution (November 3, 2025)
 - “THAT Council direct staff to report back on options to create a comprehensive strategy for seniors in the District of North Vancouver, including specific goals and directions for how the municipality can best serve its ageing and older persons population.”

Strategic Alignment



What we hope to achieve

- Priority needs and gaps
- Shared vision and strategic priorities
- Clear goals and measurable outcomes
- Policies and coordinated actions



Proposed Focus Areas

- Community Life & Social Wellbeing
- Connected Care & Supports
- Mobility, Safety & Access
- Housing Stability & Aging in Place



Proposed Work Plan

Phase 1: Initiation & Scope (Q1 2026)

- Confirm scope & strategic directions
- Apply for BCHC grant
- Prepare for public input

Phase 2: Listen & Learn (Q2 - Q3 2026)

- Engagement
- Findings, themes, quick wins
- Draft Age-Friendly Strategy

Phase 3 – Refine & Approve (Q4 2026 – Q2 2027)

- Refine actions, performance measures
- Finalize & approve Strategy
- Grant reporting

Recommendation

- THAT Council approve the proposed work plan for the development of the Age-Friendly Strategy, as described in the February 17, 2026, report of the Community Planner entitled Age-Friendly Strategy – Proposed Scope, including targeted engagement and preliminary strategic directions.
- AND THAT Council support an application to the BC Health Communities Age-Friendly Communities Program Grant Stream 1: Planning for engagement resourcing up to \$25,000.



Thank you.

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Age-Friendly Strategy – Preliminary Engagement (Dec 2025 – Jan 2026)

District staff met with representatives across municipal, community, public health and private sectors, and older adults and seniors living on the North Shore to inform work plan development for an Age-Friendly Strategy for the District of North Vancouver. The purpose of the sessions was to present information about the development of the Strategy and seek input on the most important issues affecting older people, upcoming engagement opportunities, and positive outcomes the strategy may help to achieve.

A mixture of in-person, hybrid and virtual engagement sessions were held on:

- December 11, 2025, with subject-matter experts
- January 14, 2026, with the North Shore Services to Seniors Coalition
- January 20, 2026, with the North Shore Seniors Working Group

Preliminary engagement identified several interconnected priority areas affecting the wellbeing of older adults:

- Social connection and mental wellbeing are foundational to healthy aging, with loneliness and isolation linked to safety, service uptake, and overall quality of life.
- Services can be difficult to access and navigate, particularly for seniors facing language, cultural, digital, caregiving, or system-level barriers.
- Transportation and mobility support independence and community participation, enabling access to health care, food, housing, and social activities.
- Housing affordability and suitability influence health and stability, particularly during transitions related to changing needs.
- Financial security, food access, climate resilience, and everyday safety underpin dignity and wellbeing, especially for vulnerable seniors.

Participants Engaged	
Alzheimer's Society	Lionsview Seniors Planning Society
BC Community Response Networks	North Shore Community Resources Society
Bowen Island Community Health Centre	North Shore Neighbourhood House
Capilano Community Services Society	North Vancouver Recreation & Culture
City of North Vancouver	Parkgate Community Services Society
City of North Vancouver Library	Silver Harbour Seniors Centre
City of Vancouver	Vancouver Coastal Health
Comfort Keepers	West End Seniors Network
Hollyburn Community Services Society	West Vancouver Seniors Activity Centre
Keep Well Society	

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