



February 27, 2025

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Director, Recreation Services

SUBJECT : **City of Vancouver Older Persons Strategic Framework and 2025 Early Actions – Board Briefing Memo**

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Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the Park Board's VanPlay Implementation Plan related to older adults and seniors, along with the City of Vancouver *Older Persons Strategic Framework* ("Framework") and the 2025 Early Actions. This new Framework was approved by the Vancouver City Council on February 5, 2025. Links to the Council documents can be found here:

- [Report](#)
- [Staff Presentation](#)
- [Older Persons Strategic Framework and 2025 Early Actions - One Page Summary \(Print 11" x 17"\)](#)

[The Park Board VanPlay Implementation Plan](#) identifies in R.2 Sport for Life the need to expand recreation and arts opportunities for older adults and seniors of all abilities and a wide range of interests. To address this VanPlay recommendation, in 2024, Recreation Services hired a Recreation Services Coordinator, Older Adults & Seniors to support quality program and event delivery, training standardization, and partnership development to benefit older persons. Please note that most of the programming for older adults in Community Centres is offered in partnership with Community Centre Associations across the city through Joint Operating Agreements.

The City of Vancouver's Framework establishes a comprehensive, overarching approach for the City of Vancouver's work to engage and support the aging population, and aims to:

- Articulate a shared vision and goals to address the needs of older persons;
- Create a holistic, collaborative approach across City departments and with external partners; and
- Provide concrete and implementable annual action plans to achieve the vision and goals.

The Framework is aligned with the World Health Organization (WHO) Age-friendly Cities (AFC) Framework and builds upon previous City initiatives focused on the aging population, including the [Age-Friendly Action Plan](#) (2013), the [Park Board Community Dialogue: Serving Our Seniors Outcomes Report](#) (2015), the [Age-Friendly Solutions Lab](#) (2019) and the [Seniors Housing Strategy](#) (2024).



The Framework and subsequent implementation will be led and coordinated through the Strategy and Project Support Office in the Office of the City Manager. This includes collaboration with staff from across City and Park Board departments, and community partners. Staff will now implement the identified 2025 Early Actions including planned engagement in Q2 2025 to support implementation planning for 2026 and beyond. Staff will return to Council and Park Board in Q4 2025 with an update on the 2025 Early Actions, and an implementation plan for 2026.

An Associate Director, Recreation Services has served as the Park Board representative on the Directors Forum guiding this work, and actively contributed to the Framework and the 2025 Early Actions. As part of this work, Park Board staff have identified the following actions aligned with ongoing work plans to be continued in 2025:

- Continuing to ensure progress on new spaces for older persons (e.g., 55+ Seniors Centre at Oakridge Civic Centre, Sunset Seniors Centre)
- Completing an analysis of current programs and services for older persons at community centres to help identify strengths and gaps.

An update on the program analysis work within Recreation will be forthcoming to the Park Board in 2025.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line that ends in a small hook.

Steve Kellock (he/him/his)  
Director – Recreation Services

Copy to: PB Leadership Team  
PB Communications  
Anthony Kupferschmidt, Strategic Lead, Aging and Older Persons, City of Vancouver