

Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee (RSAC) 2024 Annual Report

Purpose

The purpose of the Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee (RSAC) is to act as a resource and provide advice to Council, aiming to support and enhance the health and well-being of seniors (55+) in Richmond.

2024 Membership

In 2024, the RSAC consisted of 11 citizen representatives and four representatives from organizations that support seniors in Richmond. These organizations included: S.U.C.C.E.S.S.; Richmond Centre for Disability (RCD); Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives (RCRG); and Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH).

The RSAC consisted of 15 voting members in 2024:

- Arnold Abramson
- Penny Chan
- Zarina Chan
- Queenie Choo (S.U.C.C.E.S.S)
- Monique Davidson (VCH)
- Frank Deyell
- Carol Dickson (RCRG)
- Sandra Gebhardt
- Nina Graham
- Diana Leung
- Ihsan Malik
- Mumtaz Nathu
- Yasmin Rahman
- David Richardson
- Tom Tang (RCD)

The RSAC also included three non-voting City of Richmond representatives:

- Councillor Carol Day (Council Liaison)
- Claire Adamson, Manager, Community Social Development (Staff Liaison)
- Sean Davies, Area Coordinator, Seniors Centre, Minoru Centre for Active Living

Meetings

The RSAC held 10 in-person meetings in 2024. During these meetings, City staff and guest speakers provided information and resources to the RSAC on topics related to seniors, including City and community programs and support services for seniors.

2024 Highlights

In 2024, the RSAC aligned its Work Program and topics of discussion with priorities outlined in the Council-adopted Seniors Strategy, showing commitment to support the City in its continued implementation. Additionally, a representative from the RSAC participated in the Seniors Strategy Working Group to support the ongoing collaborative implementation of the Seniors Strategy from the City and community-based organizations. RSAC members also completed an internal survey to rank and prioritize key issues for focus in 2024. The top priorities identified included aging in

place, isolation and affordable housing, with ageism emerging as an additional focus area later in the year.

Highlights of the RSAC's work and participation in seniors-related initiatives in 2024 included:

- **Guest Speakers and Topics:** The RSAC sought out and received presentations from a variety of speakers in 2024:
 - Miriam Plishka from the City of Richmond presented on the Lansdowne Major Park Master Plan;
 - Peggy Chen from the City of Richmond and Nikhat Qureshi from Richmond Multicultural Community Services presented on Mosaic Firefly, an intergenerational program that promotes cultural understanding;
 - Joey Wong, Hiro Ito and Mario Gregorio from the UBC IDEA Lab presented on Innovation in Dementia and Aging;
 - Greg Newman from the City of Richmond presented an overview of Affordable Housing policies and trends for seniors in Richmond;
 - Constable Frank Bryson and Corporal Roy Wong from the Richmond RCMP presented on Crime Prevention, Fraud and Scams;
 - Carol Dickson from Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives presented on the Seniors Housing Information and Navigation Ease (SHINE) Program;
 - Queenie Choo from S.U.C.C.E.S.S. presented on the pilot Integrated Community Services for Seniors (ICSS) Program; and
 - Mandy Hadfield from the City of Richmond and Dominique Bulmer from VCH presented on volunteer opportunities for seniors.
- **Age-Friendly Neighbourhood projects:** The RSAC supported the project's expansion to include the Broadmoor, Cambie/East Richmond and Hamilton neighbourhoods by providing input and assisting with project promotion and recruitment.
- **Information Sessions, Webinars and Conferences:** RSAC Members attended various information sessions, webinars and local conferences focused on seniors to support and enhance their work. The RSAC was kept apprised of the various topics highlighted on the Let's Talk Richmond platform and provided input from the seniors' perspective. Additionally, three RSAC members attended the 2024 Provincial Summit on Aging, hosted in Richmond, where hundreds of participants focused on seniors-related programs and services.
- **Seniors Aging Well In Place:** In order to assist the RSAC in its advisory role to Council, a new sub-committee called the Seniors Aging Well In Place (SAWIP) was formed, reporting back to the larger committee. In keeping with the RSAC's mandate, SAWIP began to gather information and delve more deeply into issues impacting Richmond seniors' ability to age well in place.

The RSAC would like to thank Mayor Malcolm Brodie and Councillors for their support. This committee is honoured to serve seniors in Richmond. The committee would also like to thank Council Liaison Carol Day for keeping the RSAC well informed and updated on relevant Council

issues, especially those affecting seniors. Special thanks go to City staff, Claire Adamson and Sean Davies for providing support to the committee.

In closing I would like to add a personal note, after serving on the RSAC committee for eight years, I will be completing my final term in December 2024. Over the years, I have noted that the issues facing seniors have remained fairly constant (e.g. housing/homelessness, health services, transportation and food security). However, statistics and research tell us there is a dramatic increase in the number of seniors dealing with these challenges on a regular basis. I would like to applaud the City of Richmond for continuing to work diligently to mitigate these challenges and to ensure that seniors living in Richmond are safe, respected, healthy and engaged in their communities.

Report prepared by:

*Sandra Gebhardt, Chair
Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee*