

Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee 2025 Annual Report

Purpose

The Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee (RSAC) serves as a resource and provides advice to Council and City departments to support and enhance the health, well-being and quality of life of Richmond residents 55 years and over. The RSAC shares the Richmond Seniors Strategy (2022–2032) vision that seniors living in Richmond are safe, respected, healthy and engaged in their community.

This Annual Report serves as a summary of the RSAC's key activities from the 2025 calendar year.

2025 Membership

In 2025, RSAC consisted of 11 citizens and five organizational representatives.

Citizen Appointees

- Arnold Abramson, Citizen Member
- Penny Chan, Citizen Member
- Zarina Chan, Citizen Member
- Frank Deyell, Vice-Chair
- Nina Graham, Citizen Member
- Diana Leung, Chair
- Ihsan Malik, Citizen Member
- Sheilah Marcelino, Citizen Member
- Christopher Mok, Citizen Member
- David Richardson, Citizen Member
- Kanwarjit Sandhu, Citizen Member

Organizational Representatives

- Munjeet Booton, Minoru Seniors Society
- Queenie Choo, S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
- Monique Davidson, Vancouver Coastal Health
- Carol Dickson, Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives
- Tom Tang, Richmond Centre of Disability

Non-voting City of Richmond Representatives:

- Councillor Carol Day, Council Liaison
- Niloofer Hedayati, Planner 1 (Seniors), Staff Liaison
- Sean Davies, Coordinator, Leisure Services - Seniors, Minoru Centre for Active Living

Meetings

The RSAC held ten in-person meetings in 2025. These sessions featured presentations from City staff and community organizations on topics relevant to Richmond's seniors, including City and community programs and support services. Members discussed emerging seniors' issues and provided advice on initiatives affecting seniors.

2025 Highlights

In 2025, the RSAC continued to align its work program and discussions with the Council-adopted City's Seniors Strategy (2022–2032), supporting initiatives that promote inclusion, accessibility and aging well in place. To further support this alignment, a representative from RSAC participated as a member of the Seniors Strategy Working Group.

Highlights of the RSAC's work and participation in seniors-related initiatives in 2025 included:

- **Guest Presentations:** The RSAC invited presentations from a variety of speakers in 2025, including:
 - Sherry Baumgardner, Economic Development Office, City of Richmond, on Draft Community Wayfinding Strategy;
 - Habib Chaudhury and Kishore Seetharaman, from the Gerontology Department at Simon Fraser University, on Dementia-Inclusive Streets and Community Access, Participation and Engagement (DemSCAPE) Research Project, exploring how neighbourhood design affects outdoor mobility for people with dementia;
 - Diana Nikolic, Land Use Policy Planning and Development, City of Richmond, on Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing, policy updates supporting increasing housing supply and aging in place;
 - Niloofar Hedayati, Community Social Development, City of Richmond, gave an overview of the Seniors Strategy Highlights Report 2023–2024;
 - Jennifer Hayes, Emergency Programs, City of Richmond, on emergency preparedness for extreme weather and earthquakes with practical guidance for seniors;
 - Angie Martinez, Vancouver Coastal Health, provided an overview of community-based Adult Day Programs;
 - Sean Canasa, Richmond Division of Family Practice, on Richmond Primary Care Network (PCN) and Social Prescribing Program, linking seniors to local community supports;
 - Jyotika Dangwal, Community Social Development, City of Richmond, on Draft Social Development Strategy consultation; and
 - Carol Dickson, from Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives, provided an overview of senior's program and services.

- **Seniors Strategy Highlights Report 2023–2024:** The RSAC reviewed the Richmond Seniors Strategy Highlights 2023–2024 report, which outlined the progress achieved during the first two years of the 10-year plan to meet the needs of Richmond’s growing seniors population. The RSAC also identified ongoing priorities for 2025.
- **Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Group Projects:** RSAC discussed final report findings from the Broadmoor, Cambie/East Richmond and Hamilton Age-Friendly Neighbourhood Groups implemented in 2024. The RSAC endorsed the project’s expansion to the Blundell and Gilmore-Shellmont neighbourhoods and supported the City with promotions.
- **Activate! Wellness Fair 55+:** RSAC members participated in the Activate! Wellness Fair 55+, held at the Minoru Centre for Active Living. Six RSAC members engaged with attendees and welcomed feedback on seniors’ services and programs in Richmond. Feedback collected will inform future committee planning.
- **The Seniors Aging Well In Place (SAWIP) Subcommittee:** The SAWIP subcommittee’s Terms of Reference was adopted by the RSAC. The SAWIP subcommittee gathered information about and discussed issues impacting Richmond seniors’ ability to age well in place. The SAWIP subcommittee also researched the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, as requested by City staff.
- **World Health Organization’s Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities:** Based on the SAWIP subcommittee’s research, the RSAC approved the motion recommending that the City apply for membership in the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. RSAC provided a letter of support to Council for inclusion in a staff report recommending the same, which was endorsed by City Council on November 24, 2025.
- **Monitoring seniors-related trends:** RSAC members monitored provincial and national reports, attended local and regional events, and discussed emerging trends related to seniors’ programs, policies and services, to deepen their understanding of seniors’ needs. This included attending sessions hosted by the Office of Seniors Advocate and conferences hosted locally, such as the Council of Senior Citizens’ Organizations of BC (COSCO) 75th Anniversary Conference and the National Pensioner Federation Biennial Forum.

Acknowledgements

This committee is honored to serve the seniors of Richmond. RSAC extends sincere appreciation to Council Liaison Carol Day for her support and advocacy. Special thanks are also extended to outgoing citizen representatives who served on RSAC in 2025: Arnold Abramson, Nina Graham, Ihsan Malik and Sheilah Marcelino.

RSAC also acknowledges the support of City staff, including Claire Adamson, Donna Lee, Niloofar Hedayati and Sean Davies.

Respectfully submitted by:

Diana Leung,
Chair, Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee