

# Age of Wisdom Collective Initiative

## Understanding the Reality of Our Seniors of Immigrant, Refugee, and other Newcomer backgrounds & Eligibility to Essential Services Tied to the Immigration Pathways

The Age of Wisdom Collective initiative is grounded in the wisdom and strengths of culturally diverse seniors with lived experience as immigrants, refugees and newcomers.

By drawing on the lived experience of these seniors, the Age of Wisdom Collective aims to inform and guide policy and practice to develop effective approaches to mitigate recurring issues such as accessing essential services such as health care, chronic poverty tied to limited or no income support, ageism, and social isolation.

Through relationship-based advocacy and inter-sectoral and inter-cultural collaboration the initiative aims to develop a shared understanding and find sustainable solutions to enduring issues affecting seniors.

The Project Animator and Ambassadors (bilingual-bicultural natural leaders in various communities) seek to build relationships and invite dialogues with seniors, community members, decision-makers, and service providers to create policies, programs, and practices that support healthy and inclusive ageing for seniors of immigrant, refugee and other newcomer backgrounds.

Organizations and senior groups involved during 2019 with exploring and developing collaborative efforts: Edmonton Transit Services, Seniors Communication Access Network, Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council, Sage Seniors Association, Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative, South Sudanese seniors, and Syrian seniors with funding support from the Emerging Immigrant and Refugee Communities Grant of the City of Edmonton.

Areas of collaboration included:

- South Sudanese seniors being trained to use the public transit system
- Syrian seniors' involvement in developing Senior Friendly English learning curriculum
- Collecting stories to help generate public awareness and greater understanding about life realities and contributions of refugee and immigrant seniors
- Continued gathering of data to reveal the number of newcomer seniors arriving in Edmonton each year

For any inquiries or interest for partnership, contact:

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