



EDMONTON  
SENIORS  
COORDINATING  
COUNCIL

# LINK LETTER

Connecting you to Edmonton's age  
friendly network!



August  
2024

The Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council brings people, ideas, and information together to build collaborative approaches to services, supports, and circumstances affecting older adults.

## Senior Sector Spotlight

Senior Sector Spotlight: Senior Citizen Opportunity Neighbourhood Association (SCONA)



The Senior Citizen Opportunity Neighborhood Association (SCONA) is a non-profit organization in Old Strathcona, Edmonton. SCONA provides enjoyable and informative activities to enrich the lives of older adults in the Edmonton community.

In addition, SCONA's outreach program offers a wide array of support options for older adults, including (but not limited to):

- Information and referral to community resources
- Telephone emotional support and problem solving
- Assistance in filling out government forms and securing available financial resources
- Peer support to form friendships and break social isolation

SCONA is here to support the community and give senior citizens opportunities to make friends and have fun along the way. Visit their website to find out more about their outreach program, peer support program, activities calendar, and to become a member if they're your cup of tea.

To discover more about SCONA, click the link to read a profile story written by our summer student, Breanne Harrison.

[SCONA Article](#)

**Be featured in a Senior Sector Spotlight!**

Help others learn more about your organization.

Contact  
[communications@  
seniorscouncil.net](mailto:communications@seniorscouncil.net)  
for more info

**Collaborative Corner**

Updates on collaborations that advance issues and seek better, sustainable ways of working together in support of older adults.

## Edmonton Age Friendly Alliance



A network for the well-being of older adults.

Powered by Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council

Help make Edmonton age friendly.



How can I participate?

- Attend Gatherings
- Join Action Teams
- Volunteer as a Champion

For more information:



[seniorscouncil.net](http://seniorscouncil.net)  
[agefriendly@seniorscouncil.net](mailto:agefriendly@seniorscouncil.net)



# Fall Conference Caregivers Together 2024

November 1 & 2



## Save the Date!

### Caregivers Together 2024

Alberta's premier caregiver conference hosted by Caregivers Alberta is returning, this year with **Edmonton Age Friendly Alliance** as a presenting partner!

You won't want to miss this! On **November 1-2, 2024**, Caregivers Together is taking place in-person at the DoubleTree by Hilton, West Edmonton and virtually! This year's theme is Empowering Communities. This conference is expected to be jam-packed and filled with great speakers, exhibitors and caregiver focused opportunities. Seniors and caregivers / professionals caring for older adults may be particularly interested in the *Empowering Aging in Communities* sessions on Friday, November 1. So, mark your calendars and register below!

[Register Here](#)

## Seniors Coordinated Outreach

### Recap: ESCC Presents at National Conference



### **2024 Community-Based Seniors Services Sector Summit: Claiming our Space, Naming our Future | June 2 - 4, 2024**

ESCC's Program Manager of Seniors Coordinated Outreach, Asheika Sood, and our Executive Director, Sheila Hallett, had the pleasure of presenting a workshop about sector collaborations at the first national conference for Community-Based Seniors Serving organizations in Ottawa at the beginning of June.

We focused our presentation on our work as an organizing body to support collective impact projects so local senior serving agencies can focus on service delivery and meeting older adults' immediate needs. Using our longtime experience in growing such partnerships, we discussed collective action, its impact and how we can use it as a tool for ensuring stronger programming for seniors and better advocacy in our communities.

We shared some of the lessons learned and the tools we have developed to understand how to do this work, and provide the opportunity for communities to imagine new partnerships and develop stronger ways of working together. We shared examples of the Seniors Home Supports Program and Seniors Coordinated Outreach to show evolution of collaboration and its impacts.

# ESCC Updates

## Progress Update on ESCC Roadmap



Over three years ago Edmonton's community-based seniors serving organizations were engaged in discussions around developing a framework to support the coordination of services for Edmonton's older adults.

The purpose was to create collective agenda, a common frame of action and work to address common goals. A draft Roadmap put forward a plan for action plan "[Framework to Support Coordination of Services for Edmonton's Older Adults](#)". Since the release of the draft Roadmap in early 2021, many of the benchmarks and milestones have been addressed.

In way of an update on progress, we have put together this summary. Should you wish to know more or have questions we invite you to contact our Executive Director, Sheila Hallett, via email [sheila@seniorscouncil.net](mailto:sheila@seniorscouncil.net).

[Download the Framework Update](#)

## ESCC Welcomes Community Engagement Summer Student!

ESCC is pleased to introduce Gulnaaz Brar as our Community Engagement Summer Student.



“Hello, everyone I’m Gulnaaz, and I’m thrilled to be joining Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council as the Community Engagement Summer Student. I’m passionate about creating meaningful connections and fostering a strong sense of community. I’m eager to bring a new perspective and innovative ideas to the team. When I’m not working, I enjoy solving puzzles, which keeps me inspired and grounded. I’m excited to make a positive impact together.

Best regards,  
Gulnaaz”

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## Thinking of Jasper



The staff at ESCC wish to express our profound sadness at the devastating losses due to wildfire in Jasper National Park. Our thoughts are with those who have been personally affected by the Jasper wildfires and the other fires burning in Alberta and BC. We pass along our best wishes to those fighting the fires and protecting the communities to the best of their abilities.

With the recent evacuation of Jasper and continuing wildfire season, The City of Edmonton is operating a (24 hour) Rapid Emergency Support Terminal (REST) for evacuees from Jasper and Jasper National Park at the Kennedale Site Building #2, 12814-58 Street. Evacuees are encouraged to go directly to the Kennedale site upon arrival in Edmonton if they are in need of assistance.

It has likely been on everyone minds how Community-based Seniors Serving (CBSS) Organizations can support older adults impacted by the fire evacuations. As a result of recent conversations ESCC and CBSS organizations will be creating a central SharePoint site to share and collect information related to a coordinated response so agency representatives will have access to important information such as:

- Links to City's Rapid Emergency Support Terminal
- Link to provincial page for evacuation services
- Link to 211
- Resource Supports List specific to seniors and it will include contact info for the main municipal and provincial supports for evacuees.
- A form that individual organizations can submit to share incoming calls, trends, and requests for supports to help us better understand evacuee needs.

If your organization would like access to the Central Information SharePoint, please contact ESCC at [krista@seniorscouncil.net](mailto:krista@seniorscouncil.net)

## Resources & Learning Opportunities



### **Animal Licensing and Control Bylaw Renewal Project**

#### **City of Edmonton**

July 2 to August 11, 2024

The City of Edmonton is renewing the Animal Licensing and Control Bylaw (Bylaw 13145) to promote responsible



### **Theatre Workshops and Classes**

#### **GeriActors**

GeriActors theatre classes are a fantastic opportunity to laugh, socialize, meet new people, and express your creativity! Designed for Edmonton and area adults ages 55 and up, GeriActors blends skill and playfulness in a unique and enjoyable way. Classes are led by



pet ownership and ensure safe, healthy neighbourhoods.

Share your input on the Animal Licensing Purr-mits and Leash Laws and several other key topic areas.

[Learn more >](#)



### **2024 AGE-WELL Annual Conference**

#### **Shared Visions, Shared Futures: Transforming Aging Together**

October 23-24, 2024 | Edmonton

The AGE-WELL Annual Conference showcases a multi-disciplinary program of research and innovation from across the country and provides a forum for networking and collaboration among AGE-WELL partners, researchers, stakeholders and members of the public. Presentations, discussions and networking sessions are designed to maximize knowledge sharing.

[Learn more >](#)

local theatre professionals eager to share their expertise. This is a great place to start if you have experience in the theatre, have always wanted to act, or are just looking to try something different.

[Learn more >](#)

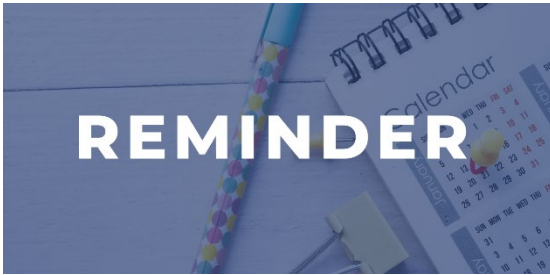


### **Taking charge of proper lithium ion battery and electronic (e-waste) disposal**

#### **City of Edmonton**

The City urges residents to take charge and properly dispose of batteries and electronic waste, including vape pens, tablets or computers, power tools, toys and anything else that can be recharged or has an internal lithium ion battery. These items can be taken to an Eco Station or dropped off at a number of local retailers across the City for free.

[Learn more >](#)



### **2024-2025 Sage Directory**

#### **Sage Seniors Association**

Need to top up your supply of Sage's Directory of Senior Services?

Organizations can place an order here or arrange to pick up boxes from Sage by calling 780-423-5510.

Sage is already working on the next edition of the Directory and asks for your help ensuring listing information is correct and up-to-date. Reach out to [directory@mysage.ca](mailto:directory@mysage.ca) before **August 15**.

[2023-2024 Directory >](#)



### **CAG2024 - Agents of Change: Unraveling Complexity and Advancing Transformation**

#### **Canadian Association on Gerontology**

October 24 - 25, 2024 | Edmonton

CAG2024 is the 53rd annual scientific and educational meeting of the Canadian Association on Gerontology, Canada's premier association of those who work, research or have an interest in the field of aging.

[Learn more >](#)

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

**URGENT Call for Volunteer Drivers:**

**Edmonton Meals on Wheels Needs YOU!**



## Volunteer Drivers Urgently Needed!

We nourish communities by delivering fresh, thoughtfully prepared meals, fostering connections, and promoting well-being.

[Click here to learn more about volunteering](#)

## Grants & Funding

### Well-Being Grants and Innovative Programming Grants

Age Better, a HelpAge Canada program, offers grants to Canadian community-based seniors' services organizations, so they can provide older people in their communities with the equipment, services, and social programs they need to stay healthy, engaged, and active. You can receive up to \$10,000 towards programs, equipment, and services that support older people. The deadline is quickly approaching, apply by **August 5th, 2024**.

[Learn More >](#)

## Anti-Racism Grant

Edmonton City Council approved funding for an Anti-racism Grant Program to support the Anti-Racism pillar of the Community Safety and Well-Being Strategy. This year, a total of \$1.395 million in funding is available to local community and not-for-profit organizations. Applications are due by **Thursday, September 12.**


[Learn More >](#)

## New Horizons for Seniors Program 2024-2025

On August 1, 2024, the Government of Canada launches the annual New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) Community-based stream 2024-2025 Call for proposals (CFP) to invest in projects across Canada.

Organizations will have a total of six weeks to submit their application, from **August 1 to September 12, 2024** at 3 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

[Apply Here >](#)



**Want more events?**

You can find additional events on our website calendar. We regularly post events here, so you can get event updates in between Link Letters. We post events and learning opportunities for both older Edmontonians and organizations.

**Have an event to promote?**  
Submit it using our online submission form!

[Submit Event](#)

## Safety Corner



### **SPOT the HAZARD: Home Safety Checklist**

Finding Balance is an education program and public awareness campaign designed to educate and empower older Albertans to stay independent and prevent falls.

Use this checklist as a guide to spot hazards in your home that may increase your risk of falling.

[Check out the website](#)

[Download the Checklist](#)

### **Wildfire Smoke Safety**



### **Wildfire Smoke Safety**

According to the Red Cross, seniors are among the topmost vulnerable populations for health problems due to wildfire smoke exposure.

[Smoke Safety Resources for Older Adults >](#)

### **Extreme Heat Safety**



### **Extreme Heat Safety**

With increasing temperatures, it is important to ensure you and those around you are keeping cool, safe, and healthy.

[Heat Safety Resources for Older Adults >](#)

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The latest editions of Link Letter are available on our [website](#).



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**Our mailing address is:**

**Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council**

#255 Bonnie Doon Shopping Centre

8330 - 82 Avenue

Edmonton, AB T6C 4E3