

## **Activity: Is Your Community Ready for an Age Friendly Initiative?**

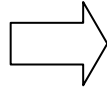
**Purpose:** To use a series of reflective questions to explore the ‘readiness’ of your community to move forward with an age friendly community (AFC) initiative.

### **Directions:**

- Use the following questions to begin conversations with members of your community interested in age friendly communities (some of the questions may or may not apply to your unique situation)
- Capture the key points from these discussion/conversations to help identify how to get started, key champions in your community, and next steps moving forward
- Based on some of your answers – is your community ready to undertake an age friendly community initiative? What needs to be in place for your community to get started on their age friendly community initiative?

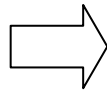
## Age Friendly Communities (AFC) Readiness for Change Tool

**How are you defining your community?**



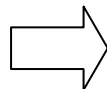
- Is your community a geographical region, city, or municipality?
- Is your community an agency, organization, or corporation?

**What does your community think about an AFC Initiative?**



- Who is initiating this community initiative/change and why?
- Does your community perceive the need for change?
- Do you have support for this initiative across your community?
- When approached about the initiative, what reactions do community members have??
- What barriers exist in your community? Are these barriers modifiable?

**Is your community willing and able to support an AFC initiative?**



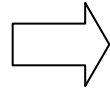
### **Structural and Economic Factors**

- Are there current standards or policies in place to support an AFC initiative? Is this necessary before you begin?
- Are you able to gather necessary resources?
- Are you aware of funding opportunities available to support your AFC initiative?

### **Social Factors**

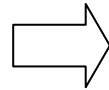
- Will the existing culture and belief systems in your community support change?
- Is there a willingness to support changes in administrative or care process as a result of an AFC initiative?

**Do you have potential champions for your AFC initiative?**

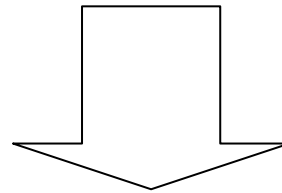


- Have you identified champions in your community that can support an AFC initiative?
- What necessary knowledge, skills and tools do they possess?
- Do they have the personal characteristics to be successful/effective?
- Do they have good relationships with others in your community?
- Are they committed, interested, and passionate about this initiative?
- Are there community leaders supporting this initiative (i.e. management or government support)?

**Can your community support sustainability of an AFC initiative?**



- Do community members have the ability to make changes?
- Is there the opportunity for collaboration and linking with others?
- Does the community have the time and resources needed to support the changes?
- How will changes be sustained over time?



***Ready?***

Proceed to the Getting Started page of the age friendly website for next steps:

[http://afc.uwaterloo.ca/getting\\_started.html](http://afc.uwaterloo.ca/getting_started.html)

***Not Ready Yet?***

Based on the reflective questions, what additional information, resources, or support does your community need in order to move forward?  
Explore some of these areas and then continue.