



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SENIOR-FRIENDLY MUNICIPALITY APPROACH

SAINTE-ANNE-DE-BELLEVUE ADOPTS ITS AFM POLICY

Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, January 24, 2023 – The City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue is proud to announce that on December 12, its council adopted its first policy to become an Age-Friendly Municipality (AFM).

Out of concern for the well-being and quality of life for seniors residing on its territory, the City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue undertook this process in February 2022. A committee led by Paola Hawa, mayor and elected representative responsible for the Seniors file, was then formed to oversee the development of an action plan to ensure the implementation of the AFM policy.

"I am very proud to see the realization of this important initiative aimed at providing our citizens aged 55 and over with a living environment that takes their needs into account. Any healthy society, in my opinion, must pay particular attention to the treatment of its seniors, and thanks to the AFM framework, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue is doing its part to counter ageism and to promote the active participation of its senior citizens in the community," says Paola Hawa, Mayor of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue.

After completing a diagnosis of the municipality, using socio-demographic statistics and an assessment of the services offered, the committee then conducted a direct consultation with its residents aged 55 and over. After analyzing the results and validating the needs expressed by the respondents, the committee completed the development of the *City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue's Seniors Policy*. To consult the policy and its action plan (in French), click [here](#).

The AFM initiative

Initiated by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the AFM initiative aims to promote the active ageing of the population, by focusing on eight fields of action: housing, transport, respect and social inclusion, social participation, social and civic engagement, outdoor spaces and buildings, community support and health services, and communication and information.

The Support Program

In 2008, the Government of Quebec established the Programme de soutien à la démarche municipalité amie des aînés (MADA). Administered by the Secrétariat aux aînés of the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, it provides municipalities with financial and technical assistance for the implementation of policies and action plans benefiting senior citizens, in order to plan the adaptation of services and infrastructure offered to an aging population.

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Source: City of Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue

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