

Age-Friendly Built Environment: Examining the Downtown Core of the City of Kingston, Ontario.

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Executive Summary

There is a growing need to develop age-friendly communities to meet the challenges seniors face when they age. With the aging population in Canada, the

represent for continued human development, cities must ensure their inclusion and full access to urban spaces, structures and services (Plouffe et al, 2010).

The report findings suggest that some aspects of the downtown core are age-friendly such as outdoor seating, several sections of sidewalks and intersections. Maps for each area are used to demonstrate the problem areas identified by the researcher in the findings section. The researcher also provides recommendations for areas that might need improvement to become more age-friendly. The City meets WHO age-friendly standards regarding green spaces and lighting. In the study area, Coronation Park is identified to be an excellent green space, with many benches. Additionally, the City of Kingston does a good job with street signs for seniors. The City of Kingston however does not meet WHO age-friendly standards regarding age-friendly curb cuts and push buttons to help facilitate seniors crossing from one side of the road to the other. Furthermore, while the City does have adequate sidewalks and crosswalks, many are in poor condition.

Recommendations provided in the report are separated into two categories; specific recommendations stemming from this report and general

safely accessible on foot for this rapidly growing segment of the population (Kerr et al, 2012). This research highlights creating an age-friendly community by evaluating the links between older adult's well-being and the built environment.