

Ministry of
Seniors Affairs

Assistant Deputy Minister's Office

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Ministère des
Affaires des personnes âgées

Assistant Deputy Minister's Office

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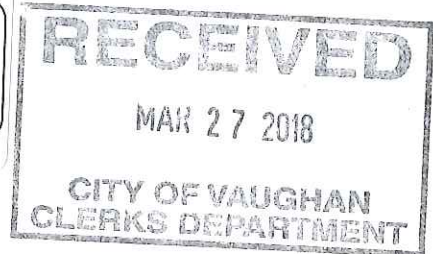


March 21, 2018

Ms. Barbara A. McEwan
City Clerk
Vaughan City Hall, Level 100
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan ON L6A 1T1

COMMUNICATION

Date: Apr 12/18 ITEM NO. 6



Dear Ms. McEwan:

Thank you for your February 9, 2018 letter to the Honourable Dipika Damerla, inviting the Ministry of Seniors Affairs (MSA) to participate as staff support on the City of Vaughan's Older Adult Task Force. The Minister has asked me respond to your request.

I commend the City of Vaughan's efforts to explore opportunities to move towards an age-friendly community that promotes an accessible and inclusive environment that will support not just seniors, but all residents in Vaughan. We note that the mandate of the Older Adult Task Force strongly aligns with Ontario's Action Plan for Seniors, *Aging with Confidence*. This trend is spreading across the province, and as a result the demand on the small staff of this ministry is immense. Unfortunately, while we appreciate the offer, the ministry is unable to dedicate staff to participate on your task force at this time.

However, if we can provide information, answer questions or in some other manner be helpful, please feel free to reach out to my office so that MSA can continue to support Ontario communities as they move forward on this important initiative.

I am also pleased to note MSA has been supporting the City of Vaughan, through the provision of Seniors Community Grants, 13 since 2014, and in 2015, Vaughan received \$50,000, through the Age-Friendly Community Planning Grant to undertake an Older Adult Strategy and development of a Recreational Services Action Plan. Planning such as this plays a key role in the development of age-friendly communities.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and extend this invitation. We look forward to learning more about the Vaughan Council's work when the final report and recommendations are publicly released.

Sincerely,

Abby Katz Starr
Assistant Deputy Minister

