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**UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY**

Age-Friendly University

By 2030, 1 in 6 people around the world will be 60 years or older due to the rising global population and individuals living longer. In response to this demographic shift, an international Age-Friendly City (AFC) movement was launched to optimize environments and services that promote the participation, health, and well-being of older adults. The Age-Friendly University (AFU) initiative was born out of this broader movement due to post-secondary institutions having the potential to offer educational, health and wellness, arts and cultural, and civic engagement opportunities that can benefit older adults and facilitate connections across generations. However, most post-secondary institutions have not yet adapted for a rapidly growing aging population.

Since 2015, Calgary has been recognized by the World Health Organization as an AFC. In a bid to leverage this global recognition and better support older adults, UCalgary joined the AFU Global Network. The AFU initiative at UCalgary is being led by the Brenda Stafford Centre on Aging, an aging hub whose mission is to create an ecosystem for innovation in age-inclusive environments, practices, and policies. We are focused on catalyzing networks and leading collaborative innovations centered on older adults through education, research, and community engagement. With your support, UCalgary's commitment to being age-friendly will benefit the campus community and beyond by engaging older adults in education and research activities, promoting intergenerational and lifelong learning, and establishing age-friendly policies and practices.

Our Vision

Post-secondary settings have historically been structured to meet the needs and interests of young adult students and young- to middle-aged employees. However, the number of non-traditional aged students (21 years of age or older) enrolling in a university degree program for the first time and the number of older students (50 years of age or older) pursuing university education to change careers, advance their careers, or extend their career trajectories is expected to rise. Retaining older employees who have invaluable knowledge and skills, particularly in specialized occupations such as teaching and research, will also become increasingly important with growing labour shortages.

Greater age diversity among UCalgary students, faculty, and staff creates opportunities for intergenerational interactions to occur and can help combat ageism, reducing discrimination against older adults. As a community-integrated institution, enhancing UCalgary’s age-friendliness will ensure that older Calgarians feel valued and encourage them to take advantage of the enriching experiences catalyzed by our campus community. Further, an age diverse campus community is likely to better understand the needs of an aging society and generate more creative solutions to aging problems.

The Benefits of an Age-Friendly University

Supporting initiatives that advance an AFU has several benefits:

- **Promoting Innovation:** Research and education at an AFU can lead to innovative solutions and practices that benefit older adults and the wider community. By supporting research and education, you can help drive progress and promote new ways of addressing the needs and interests of an aging society.
- **Improving Quality of Life:** An AFU can help older adults stay active, engaged, and connected to their communities. By supporting various AFU programs, projects, and events, you can help improve the quality of life of older adults, promote healthy aging, and reduce social isolation.
- **Addressing Societal Issues:** Aging is a complex societal issue that affects individuals, families, and communities. Your support will help address significant barriers that older adults experience, such as lack of adequate supports to live independently and safely in their chosen communities.
- **Investing in the Future:** Supporting AFU initiatives is an investment in the future of our communities. By promoting age-friendly policies and practices, we can create a more equitable and inclusive society for all ages and help ensure that older adults can contribute to our communities.

Budget

The total cost of this project is \$750,000 over 5 years.

Project coordinator	\$450,000
Advisory committee	\$5,000
Events	\$100,000
Programs and projects	\$175,000
Travel	\$20,000
Total	\$750,000 or \$150,000/year for 5 years



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Join Us

The Brenda Strafford Centre on Aging is a unique entity being the only established post-secondary hub within Alberta that is focused on addressing the challenges of a growing older adult population and embedded within both an AFU and AFC. Our plan to foster an inclusive environment and culture for older adults at UCalgary by targeting core institutional areas will have a significant impact at multiple levels. At a local level, it will create a more welcoming campus for older adults to learn, work, and play, helping the City of Calgary achieve their age-friendly vision of a city where all people have lifelong opportunities to thrive. At a broader level, the Centre and UCalgary will become a leader in the AFU movement and a model for other post-secondary hubs and institutions within Alberta, Canada and beyond.

We are seeking \$750,000 to support several initiatives to move UCalgary towards realizing the full vision of an AFU. Your investment is an investment in the well-being of older adults, the future of our communities, and the advancement of knowledge and innovation. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information:

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