



**Review of:** Strategic Plan Update (2018)

**Location:** The Town of Minto

**Review Completed By:**

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**General Comments:**

Thank you for providing Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health with the opportunity to provide considerations for the suggested changes to the Town of Minto's Strategic Plan. These considerations were developed in review of the changes suggested in the report to Mayor and Council dated May 31, 2018, as opposed to the full Strategic Plan.

The Town is commended for including new actions, or suggesting changes to specific action items, related to youth engagement, seniors, active transportation, physical activity, accessibility and community connectivity. Please further consider inclusion of all other ages and abilities across the lifespan within an 8-80 cities approach to community planning, development and programs. Overall, an 8-80 cities approach to community development is most optimal with the integration of health, safety, physical and social connectivity, accessibility and inclusivity for all residents at the root of the framework. This type of approach considers features, facilities, maintenance, design, programs, promotion and supports for a healthy, connected, resilient community, to create an overall enjoyable, comfortable, convenient and inclusive experience for all ages and ability on a regular basis.

Please see below for areas of consideration.

Specific Changes	Considerations
<p>a) Amend overall guiding Recreation &amp; Facilities Action to include physical literacy.</p>	<p><i>The Town is commended for specifically focusing on physical literacy. Please consider separating the statement into two items to strengthen commitment to this priority area and to ensure that both actions are clearly addressed.</i></p> <p>As such, please consider editing the first portion of the statement to specifically apply to physical literacy supports:  <i>“Enhance and maintain <u>a range of</u> recreation opportunities (e.g. <u>daily recreation programs, summer camps, use of trails</u>) to <del>increase</del> <u>support</u> physical literacy for all ages and abilities using <u>a variety of</u> existing, well maintained parks and facilities.”</i></p> <p><i>Supporting physical literacy requires more than just the appropriate infrastructure, specific programs and services need to be available to promote physical literacy. It requires that the programs are offered in various physical environments and are appropriate for a range of skill levels and abilities. It is also suggested that the word ‘increase’ is replaced with the word ‘support’ because a detailed evaluation plan would be required to monitor the change of physical literacy across the various age groups. If such a plan will exist, please keep original wording. Furthermore, the order of “enhance” and “maintain” were switched because ideally the recreation opportunities that are maintained have already been enhanced.</i></p> <p>Lastly, please consider emphasizing the second portion of the statement into a standalone sentence:  <i>“Ensure the location, supply, and availability of major facilities <u>for recreation opportunities that support physical literacy</u> considers the cost as well as community development benefits.”</i></p>
<p>b) Amend Section 7.4 regarding trail promotion.</p>	<p>Please consider editing as follows:  <i>“Promote and pursue in partnership with trail groups and landowners <u>an accessible</u> trail link from Palmerston to Harriston to Clifford, and develop additional trails, paths and walking tours throughout the areas to link parks, natural and historic areas, <u>key local amenities, and seamless connections to local neighbourhoods.</u> Promote awareness of local trails for</i></p>

	<p><u>recreation and active transportation</u> through association memberships, brochures, websites and local partnerships.”</p> <p><i>Best practice evidence from other communities indicates that creating seamlessly linkages from trail systems to local key amenities and neighbourhoods where residents frequently visit and live increases regular usage of the trail system. Essentially, by linking all key locations residents could travel via a seamless system of trails, paths and walk ways, residents are more encouraged to choose walking as a means of recreation and/or active transportation over driving to those locations because it is convenient, appealing and easy.</i></p>
<p>c) Amend Section 7.7 to recognize need for a Parks, Recreation and Facilities Master Plan.</p>	<p>Please consider editing as follows: “Develop design plans in consultation with the public <u>and community stakeholders</u>, for urban areas that link parklands, trail systems, facilities, <u>key local amenities</u>, and identify future work needed to improve recreation infrastructure...”</p> <p><i>If time and capacity allow, WDG Public Health would appreciate the opportunity to comment on this Master Plan. Consequently, WDG Public Health requests circulation for comment on the Master Plan and/or an invitation to any stakeholder consultation events or forums. Requests can be forwarded to <a href="mailto:community.planning@wdgpublichealth.ca">community.planning@wdgpublichealth.ca</a>.</i></p>
<p>d) Amend Section 7.9 to include asset management provisions.</p>	<p>Please consider editing as follows: “Upgrade community facilities to ensure access is available for persons of all <u>ages and abilities</u> in compliance with applicable regulations...”</p>
<p>f) Include specific action regarding youth initiatives by replacing Section 8.9 reference to regional tourism committee.</p>	<p><i>The Town is commended for extensive work engaging youth in the community. In March 2018, the Town of Minto was recognized as a Gold Youth Friendly Community, designated by Play Works – the Ontario Partnership for Active and Engaged Youth. Please consider referencing this accomplishment in the Strategic Plan and continued commitments to a) meet the required criteria to maintain this designation (*criteria referenced below) and b) provide youth with opportunities to be active contributors to their community.</i></p> <p>As such, please consider editing as follows:</p>

	<p>“Support programs that promote and develop youth activities, such as the Youth Action Council, in partnership with health and wellness agencies, other municipal committees and similar interest groups where appropriate. <u>Furthermore, ensure that criteria for Gold Youth Friendly Community designation continue to be met annually.</u>”</p> <p><i>*As a note of reference, the following are the criteria details for the designation: Communities that meet a minimum of 7/10 criteria will be recognized as Youth Friendly. The Town met 9/10 criteria in 2018. A community must meet criteria 2 to be recognized as a Gold or Platinum Youth Friendly Community. Each criteria links to at least one of the themes and outcomes of Stepping Up, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services’ strategic framework to help Ontario’s youth succeed. Criteria 1: Youth have options for play Criteria 2: Youth are formally connected community-wide Criteria 3: It is easy for youth to find information about play activities in the community Criteria 4: The community recognizes and celebrates youth Criteria 5: The community formally commits funding for youth play Criteria 6: The community supports Positive Youth Development Criteria 7: Youth feel valued by their community Criteria 8: Schools and school boards support the Youth Friendly approach Criteria 9: Play is accessible to youth (<b>not met in 2018</b>) Criteria 10: Play is socially inclusive</i></p>
<p>i) Amend 13.0 6) to allow each new Council to review Strategic Plan.</p>	<p>Please consider editing as follows: “Re-evaluate the plan every five years or with every new Council following a municipal elections with full public <u>and stakeholder</u> consultation and facilitation removing completing initiatives and those not being pursue or are not relevant, <u>while including new relevant priorities and action items for the community.</u>”</p>