OurWinnipeg Universal Access Relevant References
[Overlaps with Age-friendliness & Seniors and Diversity]

Introduction: It's Our City, It's Our Plan, It's Our Time. (p. 2)

As a city, we face a number of questions:

- How are we going to accommodate growth and change?
- How do we capitalize on growth while making sure our city stays livable, affordable and desirable?
- How do we make sure that all Winnipeggers benefit from this growth?
- How do we maintain and enrich what we value while finding room for a growing population?

OurWinnipeg, the City's new municipal development plan, answers these questions and positions Winnipeg for sustainable growth, which is key to our future competitiveness. It sets a vision for the next 25 years and provides direction in three areas of focus–each essential to Winnipeg's future:

A City That Works (relates to section 01):
Citizens choose cities where they can prosper and enjoy a high quality of life. A well-run city is an important starting point. The "basics" matter: public safety, water quality, wastewater and transportation infrastructure, and public amenities and facilities are the essentials to keeping people healthy. But quality of life goes beyond the basics. Our communities need to support various lifestyles, providing a range of options for living, working and playing. A variety of housing styles for residents to choose from are required, as are transportation choices for residents and businesses alike. The whole system has to work together efficiently and sustainably.

A sustainable City (relates to section 02):
(*there are no explicit references to issues of Universal Access, Age-friendliness or Diversity in this intro or in section 02)

Quality of Life (relates to section 03):
Beyond providing a "City that Works" and planning for sustainability, our city needs to offer a high quality of life in order to be competitive. Three important aspects of quality of life are access to opportunity, the maintenance of vital, healthy neighbourhoods, and being a creative city with vibrant arts and culture. All of these areas include social aspects that are critical to the overall well-being of our city.

OurWinnipeg: Context + Opportunities (starting on p. 6)

(this section provides a snapshot/ description of the community)

Living in a Place of Change (p. 11)
Winnipeggers have been clear that they want healthy and sustainable communities where people of all ages and abilities have the opportunity to live, work, shop, learn and play within their own neighbourhoods.

Living with Increasing Diversity (p. 12)
Increased cultural diversity adds to the vitality of our communities, schools, business sectors, and arts and cultural institutions. Diversity will continue to challenge Winnipeggers to be inclusive and responsive to difference and will provide our city the opportunity to be a magnet for talented, creative new residents in an increasingly interconnected world.

Living in a City of the Arts (p. 15)
The local impact of the arts is significant, allowing both artists and non-artists to respond to a diversity of thought and expression, and to nurture meaningful lives in a city with choices. Ensuring equitable opportunities to participate in the arts, especially for youth and children, is essential for developing a capacity for community diversity and expression.

Living in a City that Grows Sustainably (p. 16)
While population growth can be a positive thing, as it indicates that many people are choosing to make Winnipeg their home, it presents land supply challenges that need to be resolved creatively. We are faced with some big questions:

- How will we accommodate and take advantage of significant growth while ensuring that our city stays livable, desirable and affordable?
- How will we make sure that this growth benefits all Winnipeggers?

We are taking this opportunity to reinvent ourselves in ways that are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable, and we are orienting ourselves towards an inclusive future with greater choice.

Living in an Age-Friendly City (p.18)
Through our commitment to social sustainability, the City will be working to ensure the needs of older Winnipeggers are addressed and that people can participate meaningfully in work and in their communities at all stages of their lives regardless of ability.

Section on Directions & Enabling Strategies (starting on p. 24)

Section 01: A City That Works

01-1 City Building (p. 25)

Growth and change bring opportunities to create a better, more dynamic city. Winnipeggers see that our work is just beginning and that effective planning for the next 25 years will be critical to our city remaining livable, affordable and desirable.

Winnipeggers have been clear about what they want as we build our city. Combined with research into land use, we can see some consistent objectives:

Create Complete Communities

Our Winnipeg aims to create complete communities, communities which support various lifestyles, providing a range of options for living, working and playing. In complete communities, daily necessities of life would be within reach, with options for accessing services, amenities and resources like grocery stores, banks and restaurants, together with community centres, schools and daycare centres. They should also provide a range of housing options to accommodate various incomes, household types, abilities and stages of life.

Connect and Expand our Sustainable Transportation and Infrastructure Networks

Ensuring mobility for people of all ages and abilities and for goods and services is an important part of improving our social, environmental and economic sustainability.

01-1b KEY DIRECTIONS FOR THE ENTIRE CITY

Key Directions for Connecting and expanding our sustainable transportation and infrastructure network (among other things) (p. 32)

- Create a safe, efficient and equitable transportation system for people, goods and services.
- Create a transportation system that supports active, accessible and healthy lifestyle options.
- Dynamically integrate transportation with land use.
- Provide transportation infrastructure that is well maintained.
- Establish, and report on, a transportation system performance measurement framework.

01-1c KEY DIRECTIONS FOR SPECIFIC CITY AREAS (p. 33)

A key to making our city attractive and competitive will be to create 'complete communities' and to complete existing communities by enhancing existing infrastructure and assets to ensure that most amenities for daily living are universally accessible within walking distance.

What is a Complete Community?

Complete communities are places that both offer and support a variety of lifestyle choices, providing opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to live, work, shop, learn and play in close proximity to one another. Complete Communities provide options for accessing services, amenities and community resources by ensuring that most of the daily necessities of life— services, facilities, and amenities— are readily accessible. Complete Communities provide options for mobility by facilitating a range of transportation alternatives. In many instances, modes of transportation will differ from one part of the city to another based on the area's context. Alternative modes of transportation should be emphasized where they can provide convenient and realistic travel choices. Complete Communities celebrate diversity and provide housing options that accommodate a range of incomes and household types for all stages of life.

01-2 Safety and Security (p.41)

[Please see this section provided as separate document]

01-3 Prosperity (p.48)

Complete communities enhance existing development patterns by bringing day-to-day needs closer together, supporting social and physical activity and providing lifestyle choices for all ages and abilities.

Winnipeggers ultimately want a competitive city that addresses the basics of urban infrastructure and services; generates opportunities for all businesses and residents; that provides a clean, safe environment for its citizens and visitors, that encourages innovation and supports sustainability; that leads in strategic business and education fields; that offers a range of lifestyle options for all ages and abilities and that celebrates its unique status as a centre for arts and culture.

01-4 Housing (p. 54)

By working together with other levels of government, private and not-for profit developers and the community, we can help ensure that affordable and accessible housing is part of the essential mix serving a diverse population and

creating complete communities. Further, we can ensure that Winnipeggers can 'age in place' and remain in their communities as they move through their life phases.

Direction 1: Support diverse housing options in each neighbourhood or neighbourhood cluster throughout the city.

Enabling Strategies:

- Encourage and support principles of Universal Design and/or visitability in new housing.

Direction 3: (p. 56) Establish partnerships with the private, not-for-profit and government sectors to provide affordable housing throughout the city, with a particular focus on locations near a variety of transportation options.

Enabling Strategies:

- Promote partnership with housing developers and other housing stakeholders in continually resolving issues related to affordable housing, visitable housing and land use needs.
- Promote increased owner-occupied housing in reinvestment areas when appropriate, recognizing the importance of maintaining a mix of housing tenures to accommodate a range of needs and capacities.

Direction 5: (p. 57) Support the integration of specialty housing within residential neighbourhoods, with a particular focus on locations near a variety of transportation options.

Enabling Strategies:

- Encourage and support the principles of Universal Design in new housing developments.
- Encourage minimum 'visitability' standards for a portion of all municipally funded new housing projects.
- Help build the capacity of not-for-profit housing organizations in the design, development and maintenance of specialty housing.

01-5 Recreation (p.58)

The City of Winnipeg is a leader in delivering recreation services that build healthy communities. The City's role as a recreation and wellness leader and facilitator includes working to address age, gender, ability and cultural barriers to participation.

Direction 1: Promote and enable opportunities for all age groups to be active as part of their daily lives.

- Ensure all new recreation facilities are designed with universal access features.
- Create play areas that embrace inclusion by ensuring surfaces and structures are designed with everyone in mind.
- Strive to include amenities in parks that are age-friendly and accommodate various abilities.
- Integrate the planning and management of public facilities with the goal of improving and increasing public access to schools, parks and other public venues.
- Promote the inclusion of parks and recreation facilities in all communities to support active, healthy lifestyle choices.
- Support programs and initiatives that integrate recreation and physical activity into daily life, such as walkable communities, the development and use of trails and the promotion of active living with an emphasis on year-round participation.
- Promote walking and bicycling as healthy forms of exercise and transportation.

Direction 2: Work with community partners to provide services that are responsive to the community's recreation and leisure needs.
Enabling Strategies:

- Work with communities and across sectors to identify needs, measure effectiveness and make improvements so that community needs can be integrated into business planning and service delivery.
- Apply a neighbourhood integrated service delivery model focused on meeting community needs and priorities. In this model, Neighbourhood Integrated Service Teams (NISTs) will focus on the assessment of community needs and priorities and provide coordinated services that support local vision.

Direction 3: (p. 59) Directly provide, or facilitate through partnerships, equitable access to a base level of recreation, culture and leisure services for all Winnipeggers.

Enabling Strategies:

- Promote social development and inclusion through the development of strong strategic alliances with service providers.
- Identify and address barriers to participation in recreation, culture and leisure services.
- In partnership with the community, develop and promote a program to help low income families participate in recreation, cultural and physical activity opportunities.

Direction 4: With community partners, participate as a leader in planning and delivering recreation and leisure services in Winnipeg.

Enabling Strategies:

- Enhance the sustainability of recreation services by collaborating and leveraging resources through partnerships.
- Partner with community organizations to support leadership development and capacity building.
- Provide leadership, and collaborate with other service providers to meet community needs, avoid duplication, identify gaps and leverage resources.

Direction 5: (p. 60) Provide or facilitate community development and recreation opportunities for vulnerable youth.

Direction 6: Plan for sustainable and connected recreation and leisure infrastructure.
Enabling Strategies:

- Apply green building standards and universal design to the construction and renovation of city-owned facilities.

01-6 Libraries (p. 61)

Public libraries play an important role in building vibrant, inclusive and literate communities. To remain effective and relevant, libraries need to continue being responsive to community needs, demographic trends and technological changes.

Direction 1: (p. 62) Provide quality, responsive and innovative library programs and services that emphasize literacy and life-long learning and that enrich all Winnipeggers and their communities.

Enabling Strategies

- Provide Winnipeggers with equitable, convenient and cost-effective access to library materials in a variety of formats and languages.
- Based on best practices, performance measurement, appropriate partnerships and public feedback, provide library users with access to new and enhanced services through the use of technology.
- Support collections, services and programs that enhance quality of life and address the needs of Winnipeggers, including residents at risk, children, youth, seniors, members of the arts and culture community, newcomers, Aboriginal communities and literacy learners.
- Ensure that the strategic vision for library programming supports the principles of life-long learning, access to information and participation in the local cultural community.
- Develop partnerships to enhance programs offered to the public.

- Facilitate outreach services to citizens that are currently being underserved in high needs areas.
- Use technology to make library information and materials more accessible.
- Develop collections, services and programs in partnership with Winnipeg's Aboriginal community, literacy practitioners and multicultural organizations.
- Expand available materials by pursuing collection sharing opportunities with other library systems and organizations.
- Assist Winnipeggers with their information needs by providing qualified, well-trained staff that reflect community diversity.

Direction 2: (p. 63) Provide library facilities that are safe, convenient and accessible community places. **Enabling Strategies:**

- Strive to align library hours with community needs.
- Expand the library's internet presence.
- Conduct regular audits on the state of library facilities.

Direction 3: Market and promote the collections, programs and services of the library system to ensure maximum public benefit.

Enabling Strategies:

- Use a dynamic and flexible strategy to promote library services.
- Use technology to market the library to current and potential users.
- Develop appropriate promotional materials in a variety of languages to meet the changing diversity of the community.

Section 03: Quality of Life

03-1 Opportunity (p.73)

As Winnipeg grows, we do not want anyone to be left behind. Our success as a city depends on the well-being and contribution of all Winnipeggers. Working together, we can ensure that Winnipeg is a place where people– whether born in

our city or having adopted it as their new home–want to stay for life and where people of all ages, abilities and cultures can find opportunity.

To be a competitive city, Winnipeg has been doing its part to foster inclusion and equity, support diversity and engage newcomers to our city. The ongoing involvement, participation and wellness of all of our diverse communities in shaping the future of Winnipeg is critical–especially for our growing communities such as Aboriginal Winnipeggers and International Newcomers. Providing opportunity for all is important to our city's competitiveness, and requires addressing poverty, so that all Winnipeggers have an opportunity to participate–socially and economically–in city life.

As Winnipeg enters a period of growth and change, the cultural diversity of our city is expected to increase. In order to grow sustainably, the City and its community partners will need to respond effectively to an increasingly diverse community, including recognizing the needs of people who come to Winnipeg having experienced war, genocide, colonization and displacement. As a collaborator, the City will seek to support community-led initiatives aimed at fostering equity and inclusion or opposing discrimination.

The City of Winnipeg is committed to creating an inclusive urban environment. Design that allows all people, regardless of age or ability, to participate in society is critical to our city's social, environmental and economic sustainability. An inclusive community promotes healthy living and independence and is the foundation for social and economic stability. Building environments that are accommodating and comfortable to a diverse range of people is central to the concept of complete communities.

Direction 2: (p.74) Provide equitable access to municipal programs, services and facilities.

Enabling Strategies:

- Promote social development and inclusion through strategic alliances with service providers.
- Incorporate principles of Universal Design and age-friendly cities into the development and implementation of city services.
- Acknowledge and strive to address age, gender, ability and cultural barriers to improve access to City Services for all citizens.
- Strive to engage a diverse cross section of local stakeholders in planning initiatives.
- In partnership with the community, develop a comprehensive program to assist those living with low-incomes to participate in recreation and wellness opportunities.
- Support the provision of services and communication in age-friendly and alternative formats.
- Work to implement accessible City communications.

Direction 3: (p. 75) Work with community partners to foster an inclusive and equitable community.

Enabling Strategies:

- Support social inclusion and equitability in the general community and in City programs, services and activities.
- Support community-led initiatives aimed at fostering equity and inclusion or at opposing discrimination.

Direction 4: Work within municipal service areas as a collaborator on poverty reduction.

Direction 7: (p. 77) Develop community directed strategies to support quality of life for our growing communities of international newcomers.

Enabling Strategies:

- Work collaboratively to identify and address barriers to service for newcomers.

Direction 8: (p. 78) Include age-friendliness in City of Winnipeg strategic planning.

Enabling Strategies:

Integrate the World Health Organization's principles of age-friendly cities into policies, strategies, guidelines and actions.

Direction 9: Collaborate with developers, community organizations and other partners to foster an age-friendly and accessible urban environment.

Enabling Strategies:

- With guidance from Complete Communities, encourage age-friendly and accessible new development in existing neighbourhoods.
- Incorporate age-friendly and accessible features in the renovation and maintenance of City facilities.
- Encourage local area plans to apply principles of Universal Design and Age-friendly Cities.
- Promote partnerships and opportunities for shared learning with other levels of government, developers, universities, colleges and community organizations on best practices in accessible and age-friendly design.
- Promote exemplary age-friendly and accessible design through awards and demonstration projects.

03-2 Vitality (p. 79)

The creation and maintenance of vital neighbourhoods involves many players, of which the City of Winnipeg is one. Further work, sometimes in the form of neighbourhood-level strategies, will be required to ensure that the general directions and strategies noted here fit with local needs. The City is committed to collaborating with other levels of government and community stakeholders on this work. Neighbourhood vitality describes complete communities that are safe, appropriately dense, walkable, have sustainable transportation and housing options and are well connected. They offer opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities to live, work and play.

03-3 Creativity (p. 83)

The City of Winnipeg recognizes that its role in the City of the Arts is one of stewardship. Working with partners, the City fosters creativity and expression by supporting the conditions and infrastructure that allow for a diversity of cultural and artistic practices.

Direction 3: (p. 84) Support a wide range of arts and cultural facilities.

Enabling Strategies:

- Support the provision of equitable opportunities for all residents to participate in the arts through the development of accessible arts and cultural facilities.

Direction 4: (p.85) Support and enable meaningful community expression.

Enabling Strategies:

- Build the capacity of communities to express themselves through a wide range of programs that engage people of all ages and abilities through arts and culture.
- Support a wide range of cultural facilities and services that reflect community diversity.

Direction 5: Foster life-long arts learning opportunities.

Enabling Strategies:

- Collaborate with community partners to provide opportunities for arts education at all ages and skill levels.
- Collaborate in community-led arts education opportunities, using existing City services and resources to enhance access to arts programming.
- Promote cross-cultural and inter-generational opportunities for arts activities and learning.
- Support opportunities to engage all children and youth in arts programming.

- Promote City-owned museums as a venue for education and for engaging children and youth.
- Explore opportunities to integrate art and culture into City operations.
- Pursue opportunities to make access to, and participation in, the arts more affordable and equitable.

Glossary (p. 94 - 105)

Age-Friendly /Age Friendly: Cities A community that provides support and opportunities in eight areas: outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, respect and inclusion, social participation, civic participation and employment, communication and information and community supports and health services. An age-friendly city adapts its structures and services to be accessible to and inclusive of people of all ages with varying needs and capacities.

Complete Community: Complete communities are places that both offer and support a variety of lifestyle choices, providing opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to live, work, shop, learn and play in close proximity to one another.

Public Art: Artworks created for, or located in part of a public space and/or accessible to the public. Public art includes works of a permanent or temporary nature located in the public realm and created in any medium.

Specialty Housing: Housing with adaptable or flexible design elements to accommodate specific needs and target populations. It would include housing for people with various ability and age levels including physical, sensory, cognitive, mental health and cultural uniqueness. Transitional housing is another key element of specialty housing.

Universal Design: A term coined by architect Ron Mace of the University of North Carolina to encompass seven basic principles of good design: equitable use, flexible use, simple and intuitive use, perceptible information, tolerance for error, low physical effort and size and space for approach and use. It can be applied to a

place, service or product. The principles are key ingredients to accessibility within a complete community and social sustainability within an urban environment. Universal Design characteristics maximize accessibility for a wide range of people from infancy to older ages with a variety of physical, sensory or cognitive abilities.

Winnipeg Aboriginal Youth Strategy: The goal of this strategy, passed by City Council in 2008, is to increase the participation of Aboriginal youth in the overall City system; which includes programs, services and employment. The Strategy supports the efforts of Aboriginal based community services that are culturally relevant and accessible to Aboriginal youth.