

Communication C1.

Age-Friendly Vaughan Advisory Committee

April 27, 2026

Item/s 1

AGE-FRIENDLY RESOURCE GUIDE FOR BUSINESSES



Agenda

- 1. Who we are: VBEC**
- 2. VBEC Services**
- 3. Why This Matters?**
- 4. The Opportunity for Businesses**
- 5. Why Businesses Need this Resource**
- 6. The Resource Page Review**
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Vaughan Business and Entrepreneurship Centre: VBEC

In 2025, VBEC:

- ▶ Assisted with the start and expansion of **179** businesses
- ▶ Undertook **1,079** business consultations
- ▶ Responded to **4,583** inquiries
- ▶ Provided **59** webinars to **985** participants

VBEC Services



- ▶ **Business consultation**
- ▶ **Training and mentorship**
- ▶ **Resources: networking, workshops & seminars**
- ▶ **Connection and matchmaking**
- ▶ **Grant programs**

Why This Matters in Vaughan?

- ▶ Aging population trends
- ▶ Increasing demand for inclusive customer experiences
- ▶ Accessibility as economic development for businesses

The Opportunity for Businesses?

- ▶ Age-friendly businesses attract more customers
- ▶ Age-friendly design benefits all customers
- ▶ Competitive advantage

Why Businesses Need This Resource?

- ▶ Many small businesses want to be accessible & age-friendly
- ▶ Most businesses don't know where to start
- ▶ AODA requirements feel complex
- ▶ Age-friendly design may not have been top of mind

The Resource

- <https://vaughanbusiness.ca/accessible-and-age-friendly-business/>
- For small & medium sized businesses
- Created to support SMEs in becoming more inclusive

Age-Friendly Business Checklist

The City of Vaughan is taking steps to create a more age-friendly community, where all residents can be active and engaged members of society at every stage of life.

As the senior population across Canadian communities continues to increase, it is more important than ever to support the health and well-being of older adults. The city of Vaughan is a growing municipality, expected to reach a population of approximately **500,000 by 2041**. It is projected that older adults (55 years and older) will make up the largest portion of the population of Vaughan, representing more than **30 per cent** of the total population by 2031.

Is Your Business Age-Friendly?

As people age, they may experience changes in mobility, vision, hearing or cognition. Many of these changes overlap with disabilities. Under the [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005](#), businesses are required to identify and remove barriers that could limit participation.

Older adults are a large and growing consumer group. Creating an age-friendly, accessible environment can help attract and retain customers while improving the experience for everyone. This checklist can help your business achieve that goal:

What's Included?

▶ Information:

- How can I make my business more age-friendly
- How can I make my business more accessible?
- What resources are available?

▶ Highlights Included:

- Reducing physical barriers
- Information more readable
- Staff training
- Access variety
- Comfortable spaces



Resource Review



Next Steps

- ▶ This resource can be added to City's Age-Friendly & Accessibility pages
- ▶ Feedback sharing on consultations booked through this page

Questions?



Thank you!

Connect with us



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Economic Development

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