



# SUTTON'S FAMILY AND SENIORS POLICY IN FOUR QUESTIONS

## WHAT IS IT?

In 2012, thanks to the financial support of the Government of Quebec, the Town of Sutton adopted a **Family and Seniors Policy**, which described its plan to improve services to all segments of its population, especially its seniors. The following year, it obtained from the Ministry recognition as a "**Municipalité amie des aînés**" (MADA) [Age-Friendly Municipality], an honour that reflects its support of older people "aging actively." The action plan, which accompanies Sutton's Policy, serves to outline the actions the Town is taking to implement the policy, including the means and scheduled steps to achieve its objectives.

## WHY UPDATE IT?

Reviewing the Family and Seniors Policy and its action plan every four or five years is a necessary process that allows the municipality to adjust its approach according to the evolution of the population and its needs. The process is also part of the agreement that each "**Municipalité amie des aînés**" has with the Seniors Secretariat, which requires the municipality to renew its commitment to place seniors and families at the heart of its decisions. By joining with all community stakeholders to reflect on its citizen's current and future needs, the municipality will take the time to develop an environment that is truly age friendly for its citizens.

## WHO IS WORKING ON IT?

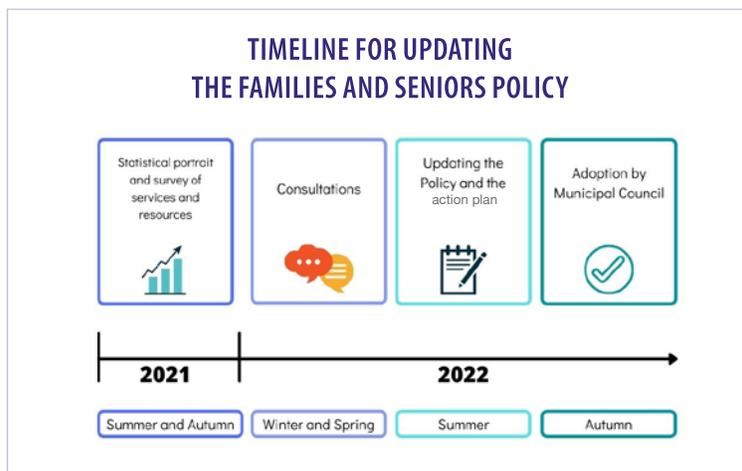
The process of updating the Policy and its action plan was initiated last year by Élisabeth Deit, **Recreation and Community Life Department** Coordinator, with a request for financing from the Senior Secretariat, which was confirmed February 2021. A **steering committee** made up of community representatives and the municipality has been created to ensure that the Policy will "help seniors to live in safety, enjoy good health and participate

fully in the life of society" (Source MSSS, 2019). An external **resource** will be in charge of this third review under the supervision of Élisabeth Deit.

This person will be responsible for coordinating the creation of a statistical portrait of our population, making an inventory of the services and resources of our community, compiling the work of the steering committee, leading the public consultations, and drafting the new Families and Seniors Policy, whose action plan will cover the period from 2022 to 2025. Citizens will be invited to participate in the planned public consultations in order to confirm and prioritize the issues identified during data collection.

## WHERE ARE WE?

According to the agreement with the Minister Responsible for Seniors and Informal Caregivers, the Town and the Ministry will each contribute \$12,000, for a total of \$24,000, which will include the two-year compensation of the resource person in charge of the project. The Town is also planning an amount of \$9,300 for certain elements of the action plan. A timeline sets out the steps designed to meet the commitments in the agreement.



## EXAMPLES OF CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENTS TARGETED IN THE 2017–2020 ACTION PLAN

- k Improved road signage: better identified pedestrian crossings, stop sign at the Academy and Pleasant junction, reduction of the speed limit on Highland and Pleasant;
- k Creation of a directory of organizations on the Town's website;
- k Accès-Logis: contribution of over \$800,000 from the Town for the construction of affordable housing;
- k Hiring of a person for communications;
- k Online broadcasting of municipal council meetings;
- k Support for holding intergenerational leisure activities.



## WELCOME KITS FOR NEW RESIDENTS

A great initiative launched by CDÉS, but delayed because of the pandemic, will see the light of day this summer: a welcome kit for all who have arrived in Sutton since 2020. A personalized welcome, the kit will contain useful information and promotional items offering a taste of Sutton's charms. Discounts from several village

businesses will be included, as well as samples of local products and other small gifts. Each new resident (one per household) will be invited by mail to make an appointment to collect their welcome kit at the Sutton Tourist Information Office. Three hundred kits have been initially planned for this attractive initiative.