

Seniors' Information Centre

4061B 4th Avenue
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 1H1
Telephone (867) 668-3383
Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
<http://www.ycoayukon.com/>



Dear Yukon Council on Aging Members:

August 12, 2024

The Board of the Yukon Council on Aging (YCOA) enthusiastically supports amalgamation with ElderActive Recreation Association (ERA) and Golden Age Society (GAS).

We believe that a united organization would further the interests of all members of the individual organizations. Sharing resources means reduced operational costs; expenses such as insurance, bookkeeping, and communications would be less for a single large entity. Volunteer work would be easier with a larger pool of committed individuals from all three organizations to share the load. And lastly, pooling our collective expertise will give us a renewed and powerful perspective. We will need this to develop creative and sustainable solutions to the problems facing volunteer organizations throughout Canada: volunteer burnout, rising operational costs, and pressure on governments to reduce spending.

It's important to understand that amalgamation wouldn't necessarily cause any immediate changes to our existing programs. But over the longer term, we want to do more than just maintain the services provided by YCOA, including our Learning for Life program, the Seniors Information Centre, and the Home and Yard Maintenance Program. On the contrary, our commitment is to look for ways to grow and expand the services and programs provided by all three organizations. For that reason, the work going forward will be about bringing the three organizations together, sharing resources and supporting the work of all three groups.

You can see more details on our website, including two independently prepared documents (a feasibility study and a proposed implementation plan).

<http://www.ycoayukon.com/amalgamation.html>

We are encouraging members to support moving toward amalgamation while we acknowledge that many details have yet to be finalized (what will the job descriptions for staff of a combined organization look like? What would shared office and gathering spaces look like? How quickly can we achieve amalgamation?). Your support at this stage will allow us to proceed to the next step, including applying for funding to support the work of implementation and identifying and recruiting volunteers from all three organizations to serve on an interim board of a new amalgamated organization.

For that to happen, members of all three organizations need to vote in favour of proceeding with amalgamation. On October 10, there will be a separate special general meeting and vote held for each organization separately – but all in the same place and right after one another. The exact timing and location of the meetings will be announced shortly. Every effort will also be made to allow members to participate remotely by phone or online.

We encourage all YCOA members to come out to YCOA's meeting on October 10. How you vote is of course up to you, but as your Board of Directors we believe this proposed amalgamation is an exceptional opportunity, and we recommend that members approve it.

Penny Rawlings
President
Yukon Council on Aging