



Canada



For Immediate Release
Thursday, April 16, 2020

United Way, City of Winnipeg, and A & O: Support Services for Older Adults Inc. partner to support older Winnipeggers

Winnipeg, MB - While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact everyone in our city, the City of Winnipeg, United Way Winnipeg, and A & O: Support Services for Older Adults Inc. are announcing a new partnership to provide additional support for older Winnipeggers.

Effectively immediately, Winnipeg older adults who may be feeling isolated and in need of assistance during this trying time, can call 311 to be connected with a number of resources available through A & O: Support Services for Older Adults, including assistance with delivery of groceries, medications, or specialized social services. They can also call 311 where they will be provided with assistance in obtaining access to other well-being resources.

Funding for this enhanced service is coming as part of the federal government's announcement of \$9 million in funding to United Way Canada. Winnipeg is receiving \$170,000 for local organizations to support practical services to Canadian seniors. Additional funding is provided by The Winnipeg Foundation.

"I am proud to see our City and community come together to help one-another during this difficult time," said Hon. Daniel Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs and Member of Parliament for St. Boniface – St. Vital. "This support for seniors, through the New Horizons for Seniors Program, is critical in keeping them connected to their community and ensure they receive hot meals, social supports, personal care products and other needs. I want to thank all the organizations and volunteers involved in making this happen."

"We know that during this difficult time of social distancing, many older adults in our community may also be feeling isolated and cut off from community supports, and unsure of where to reach out for assistance," said Mayor Brian Bowman. "311 is a well-

known and trusted number for our residents, and we are happy to help facilitate this connection.”

“We are so pleased the Federal Government is investing to support isolated seniors during this very difficult time,” said Connie Walker, President & Chief Executive Officer, United Way Winnipeg. “We are grateful to our many partners on this including, the City of Winnipeg’s 311 team and members of CUPE Local 500, A&O Support Services for Older Adults, Winnipeg Harvest, The Winnipeg Foundation and a range of community organizations. CAA has volunteered to provide pick-up and delivery supports with Skip the Dishes also volunteering to stand by to help with delivery. We appreciate their efforts to go above and beyond, so no one in our city is left behind.”

“Many older adults in our community may be isolated and in need of supports, having 311 as a way for older adults and those that care about them to find the support they need is going make a difference in the lives of older Winnipeggers,” said Amanda Macrae, Chief Executive Officer, A & O Support Services for Older Adults. “A & O: Support Services for Older Adults is pleased to be part of this innovative solution. We are excited to work together with United Way Winnipeg and the City of Winnipeg.”

-30-

For media inquiries, please contact:

City of Winnipeg

Corporate Communications

204-986-6000 or city-mediainquiry@winnipeg.ca

United Way Winnipeg

David Hawthorne

204-924-4250 or dhawthorne@unitedwaywinnipeg.ca