

BRENDA SLOMKA



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Slomka Wants Seniors and Students to Work Together

(Kingston ON) Mayoral candidate Brenda Slomka calls for the establishment of an Intergenerational Day in the City of Kingston to be held on June 1st of each year.

Commented Slomka: “With an older than average population and the home of three major post-secondary institutions, Kingston has the potential to be a provincial, even national, leader in fostering connection and care between seniors and students.”

According to the 2011 Census, Kingston has a higher percentage of individuals over 65 years than the Canadian average. In fact, 11,500 Kingstonians are seniors while more than 25,000 students attend Queen’s University, St. Lawrence College and Royal Military College/ Collège Militaire Royal Du Canada (RMC).

“Cities around the country have declared June 1st as Intergenerational Day and we should do the same. This is declaration is a small part of encouraging us to consider the vitality and inclusion of our younger and older residents in our lives and in our policy. We should look at our decisions through a lens of well-being, promoting accessibility and increased interaction between generations. With this we all benefit regardless of age,” said Slomka.

In 2013, Kingston City Council appointed a committee to seek “age-friendly cities and communities” recognition from the World Health Organization. With the committee’s work finished and the plan awaiting implementation more must be done says Slomka.

“We must move the report from word to deed. We need the leadership to inspire city staff and Council to take their big ideas and translate them to bold action. We need to expanded public space, community centres and libraries, for intergenerational mentorships and community clubs. We need more accessible, active transportation infrastructure for inexpensive and dynamic transit. Ultimately, we need more programs to bring students and seniors together for societal well-being. Let’s have students involved in learning projects with seniors in retirement residences and seniors’ mentoring programs in schools. Other communities like Vernon BC have done this. We can learn from them and do it best for Kingston,” said Slomka.

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