

Age-Friendly Rural Municipality of Franklin Community Consultation Summary

Rural Municipality of Franklin, Manitoba

May 19, 2010



Community consultations are being held with seniors and community members across Manitoba as part of a larger Age-Friendly Initiative. The goal of these community consultations is to assist communities with prioritizing issues that will help them form action plans to make their communities age-friendly. On May 19, 2010, 23 residents from the Rural Municipality of Franklin (Dominion City, Arnaud, Carlowrie, Fredensthal, Green Ridge, Ridgeville, Rosa, Roseau River, Tolstoi, and Woodmore) met in Dominion City, Manitoba to talk about age-friendly priorities and issues within their community. Participants also had the opportunity to complete a survey of the age-friendliness of their community. The following is a summary of the age-friendly priorities identified at the meeting and the survey results.

Summary of Group Discussion

Age-Friendly Rural Municipality (R.M.) of Franklin Benefits

- Seniors are creating a meeting space in the Craft Club in Dominion City that reflects their interests and social opportunities
- Youth in Ridgeville took the leadership in maintaining a skating rink
- Communities in the R.M. hold annual community celebrations, e.g., Summer Fest in July is well attended by the community
- People know almost everyone and are very helpful to one another
- Community halls are available throughout the R.M. for gatherings and social events
- Great snow clearing in all communities
- A variety of communication avenues are available, e.g., newsletters, signs, posters, word of mouth



Priority: Lessen Emergency Response Time in the R.M.

Potential Actions:

- Have an ambulance available in the R.M., currently ambulances are about 30 minutes away
- Hire ambulance/fire truck operators with paramedic or medical and first responder training, currently first responders are volunteers who may not be available
- Have available housing for paramedics who work in the community
- Name the roads in the R.M. and place on the GPS system so people can be located quickly in an emergency



Priority: Demonstrate the Need for a Handi-Van or Wheelchair Accessible Public Transportation Van in the R.M.

Potential Actions:

- Survey residents regarding use of a handi-van service to travel to appointments and events
- Review information and develop a report if it is determined that a handi-van is needed



Priority: Create Dialogue to Discuss Options that Allow Buildings to Become Accessible

Potential Actions:

- Add a ramp to the Post Office
- Place an automatic door at the main entrance at the Legion Hall in Dominion City
- Suggest that buildings, such as churches, install wheelchair accessible entrances



Priority: Improve Communication Options

Potential Actions:

- Continue to lobby for cell phone coverage in the R.M.
- Request increased internet accessibility
- Provide residents with an emergency plan that includes responses to various emergencies, information for contacts and where to seek shelter and assistance
- Prepare and distribute community service and program contact information



Priority: Increase the Use of Outdoor Spaces

Potential Actions:

- Add walking and cross country skiing trails
- Place benches along trails
- Place benches in front of the Post Office in Dominion City so people can view the electronic message board as it scrolls through community information
- Install handi-cap parking signs at parks and skating rinks, e.g., Dominion City



Priority: Establish Contact Between the Local School Administration and Seniors

Potential Actions:

- Suggest opportunities for students to provide community service by assisting seniors in the community
- Place community notices in the school newsletter and ask for a wider community distribution
- Offer programs and visits to those who are homebound



Priority: Increase Housing Options for All Ages

Potential Actions:

- Offer activities for the residents at the Franklin Manor in Dominion City
- Increase senior housing for those who are 55 plus
- Provide supportive living so older residents can stay in the community once they no longer can maintain their own homes
- Add rental housing so those who work within the community can live in homes close by rather than commuting from other communities outside the R.M.



Summary of Survey Responses

As part of a community consultation held in the Rural Municipality of Franklin on May 19, 2010, 23 residents were asked to complete a brief questionnaire designed to collect information on the age-friendliness of their community. A total of 20 questionnaires were completed by residents attending the consultation. This report summarizes the findings from the 20 residents who completed the Age-Friendly Communities Survey; 85% identified themselves as a senior.

Most Age-Friendly Areas

All of the residents who completed the survey feel that seniors feel safe when walking alone during the day. Most residents identified that seniors are generally treated with respect and the congregate meal programs available are sufficient. Many feel that the road signs are easy to read and large enough for older drivers and snow clearing is done in a timely manner for pedestrians and motorists.

Least Age-Friendly Areas

Residents identified housing as an important issue. Most residents identified in the survey that waiting times are not reasonable to get into supportive senior housing, and there is not enough

housing that meets the needs of seniors or enough subsidized housing for low-income seniors. Residents feel that more programs are needed to bring seniors and children together

Transportation was also identified as being important for residents. They identified that public transportation is not sufficient to go shopping, to senior centres, religious events, or cultural events. Transportation options are also less than sufficient to visit health care services or to go to and from medical appointments. Individuals with disabilities are also lacking transportation options as identified through the survey.

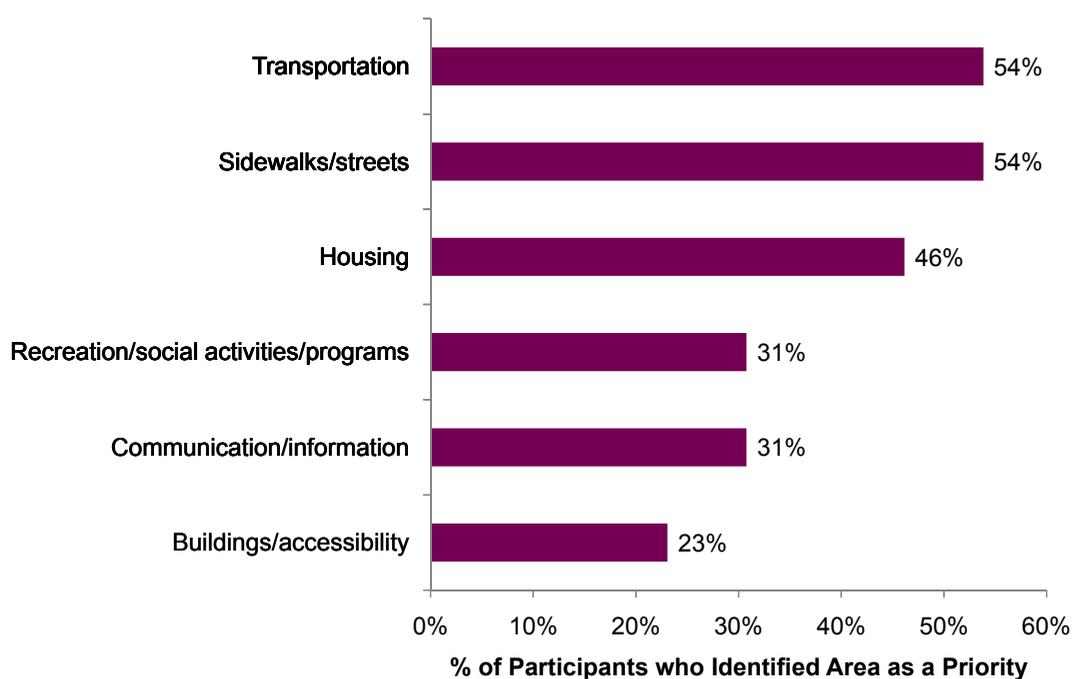
Priority Areas

Residents were also asked to write down the top five issues they felt needed to be most urgently addressed in their community. Thirteen out of the 20 residents (65.0%) identified at least one priority area.

Written comments were grouped into the priority areas as shown in Figure 1:

- Transportation (e.g., more volunteer drivers to take seniors to social events and medical appointments, affordable transportation);
- Sidewalks/streets (e.g., better sidewalks, sidewalks need to be repaired, road maintenance);
- Housing (e.g., more housing for seniors, assisted living);
- Recreational/social activities/programs (e.g., more social activities, community events);
- Communication/information (e.g., communication, community support, information for seniors); and
- Buildings/accessibility (e.g., wheelchair accessibility to public buildings, automatic doors).

Figure 1: Priority Areas Identified by Participants



Age-Friendly Survey Responses

Housing	Percent Responding (%)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
There is enough housing that meets the needs of seniors.	11.8	82.4	5.9
Housing for seniors is affordable.	58.8	35.3	5.9
There is enough subsidized housing for low-income seniors.	11.1	66.7	22.2
The waiting times are reasonable to get into senior housing that provides supports to seniors (e.g., assisted living, nursing homes).	15.8	57.9	26.3
There is enough housing for younger people.	37.5	43.8	18.8

Transportation	Percent Responding (%)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
The public transportation (not provided by family or friends) to shopping, senior centres, religious events, cultural events, and so forth is sufficient.	15.8	73.7	10.5
The public transportation (not provided by family or friends) to and from medical appointments is sufficient.	5.3	84.2	10.5
The transportation that is available for individuals with disabilities (e.g., Handi-Van) is sufficient.	10.5	78.9	10.5
The public transportation (not provided by family or friends), including Handi-Van that is available in my community is affordable for seniors.	21.1	31.6	47.4
There are volunteer drivers or an informal network of drivers available for seniors who need transportation.	33.3	38.9	27.8
There are enough parking spaces close to services and stores.	77.8	16.7	5.6
There are enough "handicap" parking spaces close to services and stores.	70.6	29.4	0.0

Respect and Social Inclusion	Percent Responding (%)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Seniors are generally treated with respect.	95.0	5.0	0.0
Seniors serve in an advisory role to municipal government (e.g., there is a seniors' council).	26.3	47.4	26.3
Community consultations specifically include seniors.	25.0	15.0	60.0
Planning processes specifically consider the needs of seniors (e.g., planning for housing or transportation).	25.0	35.0	40.0

Safety	Percent Responding (%)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Crime and vandalism are a problem.	44.4	55.6	0.0
Seniors feel safe when walking alone during the <i>day</i> .	100.0	0.0	0.0
Seniors feel safe when walking alone during the <i>night</i> .	42.1	26.3	31.6

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings	Percent Responding (%)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
The road signs are easy to read and large enough for older drivers.	85.0	15.0	0.0
There are sidewalks linking residences and essential services in most or all areas of my community.	47.4	42.1	10.5
Sidewalks in most or all areas of my community are well maintained (even surfaces or paved, not a lot of cracks).	15.8	73.7	10.5
Snow clearing is done in a timely manner so walking and driving is safe.	85.0	10.0	5.0
There are enough street crosswalks in busy <i>business</i> areas.	45.0	40.0	15.0
There are enough street crosswalks in busy <i>residential</i> and/or <i>recreation</i> areas.	44.4	50.0	5.6
There are enough public washrooms in key areas of my community (e.g., business and recreation areas).	25.0	60.0	15.0
Public washrooms accommodate people with wheelchairs.	15.8	57.9	26.3
Most or all businesses and public buildings are easily accessible to everybody (e.g., have wheelchair ramps, automatic doors).	40.0	50.0	10.0

Social Participation/Recreation	Percent Responding (%)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
My community has enough pleasant places for walking (e.g., walking trails, parks, well-treed streets).	47.4	42.1	10.5
Local parks or walking trails are accessible and easy to use for seniors (e.g., paths with even surfaces).	26.3	52.6	21.1
There are enough resting areas with benches along paths or trails.	15.8	73.7	10.5
There are enough exercise classes specifically for seniors.	31.6	57.9	10.5
There are enough recreation programs specifically for seniors (e.g., card games, arts, crafts).	47.4	42.1	10.5
There are enough lifelong learning programs specifically for seniors (e.g., learning new things such as the use of computers).	22.2	50.0	27.8
There are enough programs in my community that bring seniors and children together (e.g., school reading programs, children spending time with seniors).	16.7	61.1	22.2
Recreational activities, such as exercise and other recreational programs, are generally affordable for seniors.	63.2	10.5	26.3
Isolated seniors (e.g., those who don't have anybody) are contacted, visited or taken to activities.	36.8	21.1	42.1

Community/Work Force Participation	Percent Responding (%)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
There are enough volunteer opportunities for seniors.	57.9	36.8	5.3
There is enough official recognition for seniors who volunteer (e.g., an appreciation banquet or volunteer awards).	20.0	55.0	25.0
There are enough paid job opportunities for seniors.	15.0	75.0	10.0
The job opportunities in my neighbourhood accommodate the needs of seniors (e.g., part-time work is available).	20.0	55.0	25.0

Information/Advocacy	Percent Responding (%)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Information about community events is readily available to seniors.	68.4	15.8	15.8
Information about the services and programs provided by various organizations is readily available to seniors.	52.9	23.5	23.5
Official, written information, such as forms or brochures is easy to read and understand (e.g., large print, clear language).	45.0	10.0	45.0
Public telephone answering services are adapted to the needs of seniors (e.g., instructions are given clearly and slowly).	10.5	26.3	63.2
There is enough assistance available for completing official forms (e.g., help with filling out government or income tax forms).	60.0	10.0	30.0
There are enough seniors' advocacy services available (e.g., an ombudsman to inform others of seniors' needs).	25.0	30.0	45.0

Health and Community Services	Percent Responding (%)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
The home care services that support seniors in their own home (e.g., meal preparation, nursing care) are sufficient.	65.0	10.0	25.0
The services that help seniors around the home (e.g., snow removal, lawn care, garbage brought to the street) are sufficient.	22.2	33.3	44.4
The congregate meal programs available (e.g., lunch at a recreation or senior centre) are sufficient.	90.0	5.0	5.0
The meal delivery services that bring meals to seniors' homes are sufficient.	75.0	10.0	15.0
The health care services that are provided in my community meet the needs of seniors (e.g., hospital, physicians, eye care).	15.0	75.0	10.0
Public transportation (not provided by family or friends) to health care services that are <i>not</i> provided in my community is sufficient.	15.0	70.0	15.0
Access to health care that are <i>not</i> provided in my community is generally convenient (e.g., services not too far away, appointment times are convenient).	35.0	35.0	30.0

The views expressed herein reflect the opinions of the participants and do not necessarily represent the views of the Age-Friendly Communities Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) or the Centre on Aging.

This summary was prepared by the Age-Friendly Communities CURA. The Age-Friendly Communities CURA is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Summary authors: Louise Hutton

Team leader: Dr. Verena Menec, Canada Research Chair in Healthy Aging, Director, Centre on Aging, University of Manitoba

For more information contact:

Centre on Aging, University of Manitoba
 338 Isbister Building
 Winnipeg MB R3T 2N2
 Phone: (204) 474-8754
 Fax: (204) 474-7576
 Email: aging@umanitoba.ca
 Web site: www.umanitoba.ca/centres/aging/cura

Published: June 25, 2010