

Age-Friendly Town of Carman and Rural Municipality of Dufferin Community Consultation Summary

Carman, Manitoba

June 3, 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 June 3, 2010, 13 residents from the Town of Carman and the Rural Municipality of Dufferin came together to talk about age-friendly priorities and issues within their communities. 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 Town of Carman and Rural Municipality (R.M.) of Dufferin Benefits

- Great walking spaces and wonderful accessible paths
- Good snow clearance
- Close proximity to larger urban centre
- Handi-van costs are reasonable and is available for appointments and activities
- Good variety of active living opportunities, e.g. sports, recreation, and trails
- Many cultural events
- Great community to raise a family and to grow older
- Choices of activities for youth, e.g., after school and the Back Door program
- Rural Municipality (R.M.) of Dufferin won award for “most improved roads”
- School gyms are open for community use after school hours at no cost



Priority: Improve Sidewalk Safety

Potential Actions

- Repair and even sidewalk surfaces to reduce tripping hazards
- Repair low lying sidewalks so water and ice do not accumulate
- Sand icy patches on sidewalks



Priority: Improve Health Care and Community Services

Potential Actions

- Review Home Care needs and time commitments with clients
- Reach out and visit homebound and isolated seniors
- Support the Town of Carman and the R.M. of Dufferin in their efforts to improve medical services at the local clinic



Priority: Provide Supportive Housing

Potential Actions

- Consult with Boyne Towers regarding future availability of supportive services
- Consider linking supportive housing to independent/assisted housing and personal care housing



Priority: Improve Road Safety on Main Street (Highway 13) in Carman

Potential Actions

- Enforce speed limits so people can safely cross
- Consider adding four-way stop signs at intersections
- Assess the feasibility of installing traffic lights on Highway 13
- Review the need for paved shoulders or create a trail along Highway 13 south so people can walk or bike safely
- Approach Elm Creek about partnering to pave the highway shoulders



Priority: Enhance Outdoor Spaces

Potential Actions

- Identify public washroom locations with visible signs
- Add more benches to the river trail



Priority: Improve Communication Efforts

Potential Actions

- Connect information efforts, e.g. schools, senior centre, and Chamber of Commerce so all residents know about community events
- Establish a central resource area to place and obtain information, e.g. library
- Share relevant information about emergency plans through a brief guide, with residents in the R.M. of Dufferin and Town of Carman, e.g. with a pamphlet
- Consider hiring an event and communication coordinator for the community



Summary of Survey Responses

As part of a community consultation held in the Town of Carman on June 3, 2010, 13 residents were asked to complete a brief questionnaire designed to collect information on the age-friendliness of their community. Nine individuals living in the Town of Carman and R.M. of Dufferin completed questionnaires. This report summarizes the findings from the nine individuals who completed the Age-Friendly Communities Survey; 33% identified themselves as a senior.

Most Age-Friendly Areas

Residents from the Town of Carman and R.M. of Dufferin identified many areas they feel are age-friendly. The majority of residents feel available public transportation, including the handi-van, is affordable for seniors and there is sufficient transportation for individuals with disabilities to go shopping, senior centres, religious events, cultural events, and to get to and from medical appointments.

The community has many walkable spaces, as residents identified there are enough pleasant places for walking within the local parks or walking trails, and they are accessible and easy for seniors to use, and seniors feel safe when walking alone during the day.

As noted in the benefits section, residents shared there are a variety of activities available. The majority of residents noted there are enough recreational programs specifically for seniors, along with volunteer opportunities, and the available congregate meal programs are sufficient. They also feel that seniors are generally treated with respect. Many residents feel enough exercise classes are available specifically for seniors and the recreational activities are generally affordable.

Least Age-Friendly Areas

Many residents in the Town of Carman and R.M. of Dufferin, identified through the survey that home care services, which support seniors in their own home, are not sufficient. They also feel waiting times for supportive senior housing are too long and unreasonable.

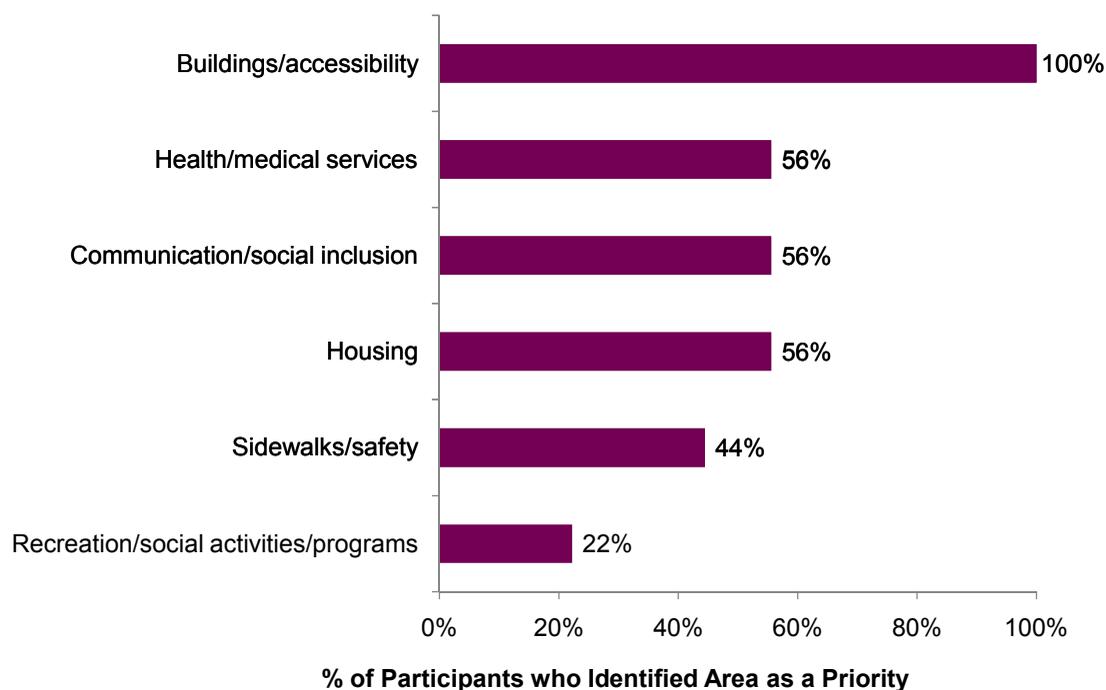
Priority Areas

Individuals were also asked to write down the top five issues they felt most urgently needed to be addressed in their community. Nine out of the 9 individuals (100.0%) identified at least one priority area.

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

- Buildings/accessibility (e.g., public washrooms, downtown parking, business access);
- Health/medical services (e.g., need more doctors and nurse practitioners, more health care);
- Communication/social inclusion (e.g., communication especially between youth and seniors, better use of the local newspaper for advertising of events);
- Housing (e.g., need for assisted living spaces);
- Sidewalks/safety (e.g., better sidewalks, signage, traffic speed); and
- Recreation/social activities/programs (e.g., more intergenerational programs, contact with school children).

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.	66.7	22.2	11.1
Housing for seniors is affordable.	87.5	0.0	12.5
There is enough subsidized housing for low-income seniors.	77.8	11.1	11.1
The waiting times are reasonable to get into senior housing that provides supports to seniors (e.g., assisted living, nursing homes).	0.0	88.9	11.1
There is enough housing for younger people.	50.0	25.0	25.0

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.	88.9	11.1	0.0
The public transportation (not provided by family or friends) to and from medical appointments is sufficient.	77.8	11.1	11.1
The transportation that is available for individuals with disabilities (e.g., Handi-Van) is sufficient.	88.9	11.1	0.0
The public transportation (not provided by family or friends), including Handi-Van that is available in my community is affordable for seniors.	100.0	0.0	0.0
There are volunteer drivers or an informal network of drivers available for seniors who need transportation.	55.6	0.0	11.1
There are enough parking spaces close to services and stores.	33.3	44.4	22.2
There are enough "handicap" parking spaces close to services and stores.	55.6	22.2	22.2

Respect and Social Inclusion	Percent Responding (%)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Seniors are generally treated with respect.	100.0	0.0	0.0
Seniors serve in an advisory role to municipal government (e.g., there is a seniors' council).	44.4	44.4	11.1
Community consultations specifically include seniors.	22.2	22.2	55.6
Planning processes specifically consider the needs of seniors (e.g., planning for housing or transportation).	66.7	11.1	22.2

Safety	Percent Responding (%)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Crime and vandalism are a problem.	12.5	62.5	25.0
Seniors feel safe when walking alone during the <i>day</i> .	88.9	0.0	11.1
Seniors feel safe when walking alone during the <i>night</i> .	22.2	22.2	55.6

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings	Percent Responding (%)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
The road signs are easy to read and large enough for older drivers.	66.7	0.0	33.3
There are sidewalks linking residences and essential services in most or all areas of my community.	88.9	0.0	11.1
Sidewalks in most or all areas of my community are well maintained (even surfaces or paved, not a lot of cracks).	33.3	44.4	22.2
Snow clearing is done in a timely manner so walking and driving is safe.	88.9	0.0	11.1
There are enough street crosswalks in busy <i>business</i> areas.	55.6	33.3	11.1
There are enough street crosswalks in busy <i>residential</i> and/or <i>recreation</i> areas.	66.7	22.2	11.1
There are enough public washrooms in key areas of my community (e.g., business and recreation areas).	55.6	22.2	22.2
Public washrooms accommodate people with wheelchairs.	22.2	11.1	66.7
Most or all businesses and public buildings are easily accessible to everybody (e.g., have wheelchair ramps, automatic doors).	62.5	25.0	12.5

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).	100.0	0.0	0.0
Local parks or walking trails are accessible and easy to use for seniors (e.g., paths with even surfaces).	88.9	0.0	11.1
There are enough resting areas with benches along paths or trails.	62.5	25.0	12.5
There are enough exercise classes specifically for seniors.	88.9	0.0	11.1
There are enough recreation programs specifically for seniors (e.g., card games, arts, crafts).	100.0	0.0	0.0
There are enough lifelong learning programs specifically for seniors (e.g., learning new things such as the use of computers).	66.7	0.0	33.3
There are enough programs in my community that bring seniors and children together (e.g., school reading programs, children spending time with seniors).	55.6	22.2	22.2
Recreational activities, such as exercise and other recreational programs, are generally affordable for seniors.	88.9	0.0	11.1
Isolated seniors (e.g., those who don't have anybody) are contacted, visited or taken to activities.	22.2	22.2	55.6

Community/Work Force Participation	Percent Responding (%)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
There are enough volunteer opportunities for seniors.	100.0	0.0	0.0
There is enough official recognition for seniors who volunteer (e.g., an appreciation banquet or volunteer awards).	100.0	0.0	0.0
There are enough paid job opportunities for seniors.	22.2	0.0	77.8
The job opportunities in my neighbourhood accommodate the needs of seniors (e.g., part-time work is available).	33.3	0.0	66.7

Information/Advocacy	Percent Responding (%)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Information about community events is readily available to seniors.	77.8	22.2	0.0
Information about the services and programs provided by various organizations is readily available to seniors.	66.7	22.2	11.1
Official, written information, such as forms or brochures is easy to read and understand (e.g., large print, clear language).	55.6	11.1	33.3
Public telephone answering services are adapted to the needs of seniors (e.g., instructions are given clearly and slowly).	33.3	0.0	66.7
There is enough assistance available for completing official forms (e.g., help with filling out government or income tax forms).	66.7	0.0	33.3
There are enough seniors' advocacy services available (e.g., an ombudsman to inform others of seniors' needs).	44.4	0.0	55.6

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.	11.1	55.6	33.3
The services that help seniors around the home (e.g., snow removal, lawn care, garbage brought to the street) are sufficient.	44.4	22.2	33.3
The congregate meal programs available (e.g., lunch at a recreation or senior centre) are sufficient.	100.0	0.0	0.0
The meal delivery services that bring meals to seniors' homes are sufficient.	88.9	0.0	11.1
The health care services that are provided in my community meet the needs of seniors (e.g., hospital, physicians, eye care).	44.4	44.4	11.1
Public transportation (not provided by family or friends) to health care services that are <i>not</i> provided in my community is sufficient.	66.7	11.1	22.2
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).	88.9	11.1	0.0

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.

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