



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN
REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY
"One Region, One Future"

Age-Friendly Engagement: Phase I

1/7/2010
RDNO

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Age-Friendly Engagement- Phase I

Executive Summary

In 2004, UBCM launched the Seniors' Housing and Support Initiative (SHSI) to assist local governments to prepare for an aging population. In 2007, the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport provided resources to further support the initiative and local age-friendly projects. The 2009 Age-friendly Community Planning Grant program represents an opportunity to further this initiative throughout municipalities in BC.

Age-friendly planning is based on guidelines established by the World Health Organization; an age-friendly community is a community where policies, services and structures related to the physical and social environment are designed to support and enable older people to live in a secure environment, enjoy good health, and continue to participate fully in society. The eight key features of an age-friendly community are:

1. Outdoor spaces and public buildings that are pleasant, clean, secure and physically accessible.
2. Public transportation that is accessible and affordable.
3. Housing that is affordable, appropriately located, well built, well designed and secure.
4. Opportunities for social participation in leisure, social, cultural and spiritual activities with people of all ages and cultures.
5. Older people are treated with respect and are included in civic life.
6. Opportunities for employment and volunteerism that cater to older persons' interests and abilities.
7. Age-friendly communication and information is available.
8. Community support and health are tailored to older persons' needs.

The Regional District of North Okanagan received funding through the Age-Friendly Communities Planning Grant Program to undertake age-friendly engagement as a component of the Regional Growth Strategy Participation Plan.

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AGE FRIENDLY ENGAGEMENT: PHASE I

1.0 INTRODUCTION

As the Region plans for the future, the ideal of age-friendly communities takes on special meaning. Age-specific needs, concerns, and opportunities will enhance the liveability of the Region and policy decisions must take into account the perspectives of all ages. Throughout the Regional Growth Strategy process, specific engagement opportunities have been and will continue to be provided for both our younger (under 25) and older (above 55) residents to reveal the needs, concerns, opportunities and perspectives that may be lost in more traditional participation programs.

To support the dialogue activities to be undertaken that will facilitate engagement, issues identification, an Age-Friendly Engagement Strategy, focusing on senior engagement, was developed as a sub-strategy of the Regional Growth Strategy Participation Plan to ensure broad public input into the Regional Growth Process. The seniors' engagement program is intended to facilitate seniors' involvement within the process and provide a forum for discussing the needs of these residents. The proposed activities include:

The public communication, engagement, and input activities, culminated in a broad public survey exploring issues and priorities that will need to be taken into consideration when developing policy direction. The broad public communication elements relied heavily on the internet and news media and the survey will be online, advertized in the local papers and newsletters, distributed through partners, throughout the regional library system and were made available at municipal and Regional District offices and public events. Many of these media-specific initiatives ensured access to the majority of the the seniors' population due to limited use of the internet, potential complexity of the materials presented and printed survey accessibility. To ensure inclusivity of the seniors' demographic, the lessons learned and communication networks developed during earlier participation and communication activities informed the methods used in engage seniors about regional growth issues. An age-friendly edition of the regional growth choice survey will be developed in teh future and, using the seniors communication network, distributed and collected. The age-friendly activities included:

- The development of age-friendly, accessible and understandable communication and promotional materials that will inform the senior population about the Regional Growth Strategy;
- Participation efforts in venues that are frequented by seniors that will encourage feedback, comment, and input into the Regional Growth Strategy process; and
- Development, distribution and receipt of an age-friendly issues survey that provided additional opportunities for senior civic engagement.

2.0 ISSUE BACKGROUND

Population aging and urbanization are key global trends that shape society and public policy. The World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes that older persons are resources for their families, communities and economies when provided with enabling living environments. WHO also

recognizes that active aging is a lifelong process shaped by a number of factors that influence health, participation and security in later life?

Age-friendly communities are based on the principles of active aging throughout life. As a result, they benefit everyone: children, the young, adults and older persons. Age-friendly communities are built through a process of community development and collaboration with governments, businesses, community organizations and individuals working together as full partners.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines an age-friendly community as one which:

- promotes 'active ageing';
- recognizes the great diversity among older persons
- respects their decisions and lifestyle choices
- helps prevent and correct the barriers that people encounter as they grow older; and
- ensures policies, services and structures related to the physical and social environment are designed to support and enable older people to age actively – to live in security, enjoy good health and participate fully in their communities.

Canada was one of 26 countries that participated with WHO in developing a guide for communities to use in assessing how age-friendly their cities are. Canada followed this with a parallel process to identify factors that support age-friendly remote and rural communities. The province of British Columbia then created the Age Friendly Implementation Team to promote the uptake of the Age Friendly initiative across BC.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), making communities age-friendly is one of the most effective policy approaches for responding to demographic aging. Active aging policy is defined as “optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age”. The active-aging approach is grounded in the United Nations (UN) principles of independence, participation, dignity, care and self-fulfillment.

In 2007, World Health Organization (WHO) published the ‘Global Age-Friendly Cities Guide’ (Appendix ‘A’) based on results of the 2005 consultation in 33 cities. The Global Age-Friendly Cities Guide identifies the key elements needed for communities to successfully support healthy aging, namely: (i) outdoor spaces and buildings; (ii) transportation; (iii) housing; (iv) social participation; (v) respect and social inclusion; (vi) civic participation and employment; (vii) communication and information; and (viii) community and health services. Each of the eight domains is supported in the Guide by contextual clarification and checklists to guide local community consultation and implementation of age-friendly policies and practice.

Age-friendly communities are based on the principles of active aging throughout life. As a result, they benefit everyone: children, the young, adults and older persons. Age-friendly communities are built through a process of community development and collaboration with governments, businesses, community organizations and individuals working together as full partners.

3.0 REGIONAL DISTRICT OF THE NORTH OKANAGAN: AN AGING POPULATION

There is little doubt that our society is ageing and that this presents a number of challenges for the future. The structure of the population has shifted dramatically as the population has aged. Between 1996 and 2006, the region's median age increased by 6.6 years, from 38.2 to 44.8, compared with a provincial change of 4.5 years. Already older in the mid 1990s, by 2006 the median age was four years older than the provincial median.

Over the next 23 years, The North Okanagan will to experience a net natural decrease in population (i.e. more deaths than births), with population growth to driven solely by net migration. The population is projected to increase from 78,877 in 2006 to over 104,233 in 2031 at an average annual compound growth rate of 1.12%.

The fastest growing communities within the North Okanagan will be within the Greater Vernon Area, including the City of Vernon (1.45%), District of Coldstream (1.26%) and Electoral Area 'C' (0.77%) and 'B' (0.25%). The established urban communities of Armstrong (1.52%), Enderby (1.46%) and Lumby (0.82%) are expected to experience strong growth as well. Our rural municipalities and electoral areas are expected to have moderate to little growth over the next 23 years, although these areas contain the most growth potential in non-resident housing demand.

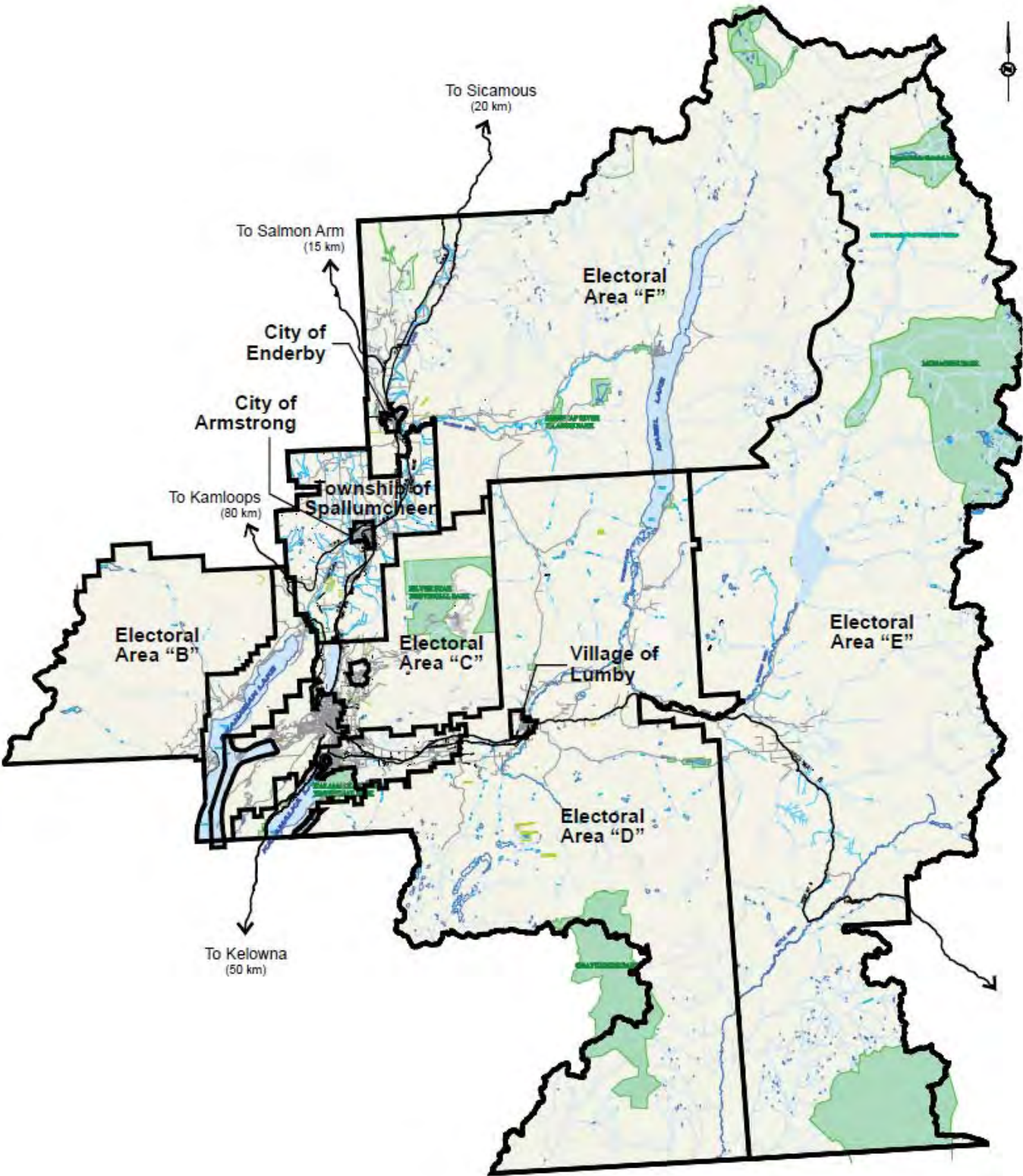
This growth will be characterized by discernable changes in the composition of the population. The greatest increase will be seen in the 65-plus population, which will grow at an annual rate of 2.7% and, by 2031, is projected to grow by 2.3 times its size in 2006. As a result, whereas seniors constituted only 19% of the population in 2006, a third of the population will be over the age of 65 in 2031.

The Regional District of North Okanagan will face significant challenges over the next 25 years, as the number of seniors continues to increase dramatically. Growth in the older age groups of the North Okanagan populations is projected to continue increasing considerably faster than for the province as a whole, as the Okanagan remains a preferred retirement relocation centre for seniors from Canada and the US and as the local 'Baby Boom' population ages.

It is anticipated that, based upon past demographic trends, that all demographic groups under 65 year of age will experience slight absolute growth or decline, although their percentage of population will continue to decline as the population ages. Within the North Okanagan, especially with a deepening negative natural increase and declining birth rates, present demographic trends, and older cohort migration, may become amplified.

The 0-19 age group is expected to slightly decline from 18,268 (2006) to 16,966 (2031), although the share of population will drop from 23% to 17%. The 20-44 cohort is expected to decline slightly from 22,041 (2006) to 21,759 (2031), with the share of population dropping from 28% to 22%. The 45-64 cohorts are expected to increase slightly by 780 people, although share of population will also decline from 30% to 24%.

Figure 1: Map of the Regional District of North Okanagan



Although these trends appear to be extreme, British Columbia local governments with similar demographic profiles have observed impacts from an aging population, lower birth rates and out-migration of younger age groups. The District of North Cowichan¹ revised their 2002 population projections in 2008 due to major observed changes in the 2006 Census. The North Cowichan OCP projected that by 2016, the 65+ population would comprise 18% of the total population. This percentage has been reached by 2006. At the other end of the age spectrum, the North Cowichan OCP projected that by 2016 the 0-19 age group would comprise only 22% of the total population, reduced from 28% in 1996. By 2006, it had fallen to 16.5%. In short: the District of Cowichan was getting older at a much faster rate than expected in 2002.

Due to the high percentage of seniors, the small number of residents between 20 and 44, a high proportion of the population between 45-64, a declining birth rate and the attraction of the Okanagan for retirees (55+) in-migration, seniors (65+) will dominate the population over the next 23 years.

4.0 SENIORS' PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES

Seniors' Action Committee

Throughout the process, the Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator was invited to contribute to the broader discussion on age-friendly initiatives and, at various stages of the project, the members of the North Okanagan Seniors' Action Network (NOSAN) will also provided opportunities to collectively and individually provide input into the development of the Regional Growth Strategy. Age-friendly promotional materials and the survey were reviewed by the NOSAN to ensure seniors' accessibility.

Seniors' Institutions

Seniors' Centres have a large role to play in facilitating seniors' civic engagement. Displays, age-friendly promotional materials and accessible presentations will be made available to locations where seniors congregate. If there is sufficient interest, seniors' focus groups will be convened to explore barriers and opportunities as they relate to the development of the Regional Growth Strategy. Throughout the process, simple, large print information displays and survey forms were made available to seniors' centres, seniors' complexes and seniors' associations throughout the North Okanagan.

Communication Initiatives

According to the Age-Friendly Rural and Remote Communities: A Guide, most widely used methods of seniors' communication in small cities and rural communities continues to be more traditional methods such as word of mouth, telephone, bulletin boards, newspapers and radio, and community events. The most effective communications tool appears to be a poster or flyer posted on bulletin boards in key locations. Word of mouth—in person or by telephone, though family and friends or

¹ Suderman, Beverly. 2008. District of North Cowichan Population and Housing Forecast. Prepared for the District of Cowichan, May 2008.

through clubs, associations, community centres and places of worship—is also seen as an important way to get information out.

Newsletters appear to be another important source of information for older adults, with many older adult participants and service providers identifying a calendar of events and a listing of programs and services (municipal, community/recreation centres, etc.) as a useful publication. It was seen to be most useful when it includes key contacts with their phone numbers.

While seniors are embracing new technologies, these technologies often cause concern and frustration. Not all seniors have access to computers; nor do all have the skills to use them as information and communication tools. Assumptions that most, if not all, people even have access to the internet is unrealistic in rural and remote communities.

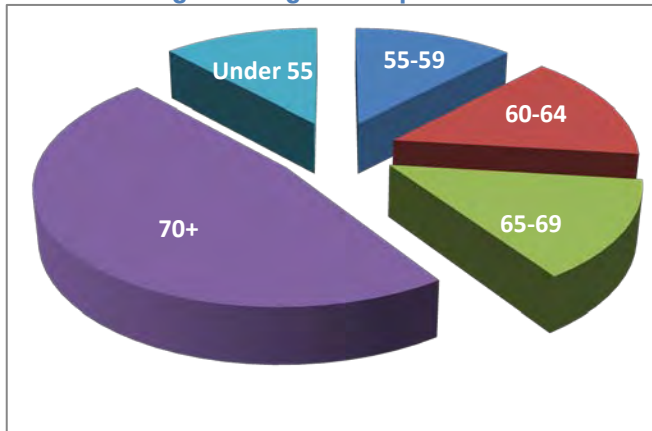
The actions taken included:

- Educate community members about Regional Growth Strategy process, options and engagement through events, such as the Vernon Seniors' Trade Show, seniors' association presentations and updates to the Seniors' Action Network.
- Ensure that ways of communicating are 'age-friendly'. For example: Enlarge the font on seniors' promotional materials, such as the Regional Growth Strategy Large Font Rack-Card;
- Use seniors; organizations and networks to disseminate information and materials, including Heaton Plan (Armstrong), Coldstream Manor (Coldstream), Saddle Mountain Seniors' Drop-in Centre (Lumby), Seniors' Action Network, Social Planning Council of North Okanagan, Schubert Centre (Vernon) and Halina Seniors' Centre (Vernon);
- Publicizing events and information important to seniors in all local newspapers and seniors' newsletters;
- Information on events in the community disseminated through the radio;
- Making information on websites easy for seniors to find;
- Display upcoming events at central locations frequented by seniors, such as the regional library system; and
- Design the age-friendly issues survey to be accessible to the seniors' community.

4.1 REGIONAL AGE-FRIENDLY SURVEY

An age-friendly survey was developed and distributed as part of the Seniors' Engagement Strategy, as part of the Regional Growth Strategy Participation Plan, that would assist in the development and evaluation of strategic growth management policies. Through numerous partnerships, including numerous seniors' complexes and activity centres, the Social Planning Council of North Okanagan, the North Okanagan library system and member municipalities, surveys were distributed throughout the Region.

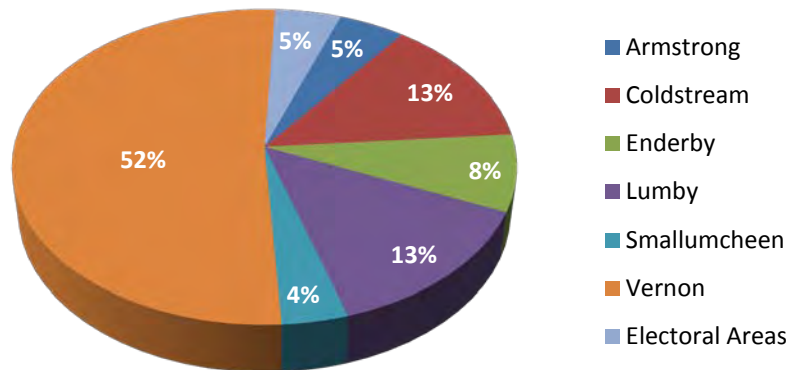
Figure 2: Age of Respondents



A two month long advertizing campaign in all local papers and community newsletters, displays in seniors' complexes, recreational facilities and libraries and word of mouth through the Seniors' Action Network and community organizations proved to be successful. The questionnaire asked seniors to rate several aspects of their local community and the impact that numerous issues have on the well-being of older residents. The feedback forms were also made available on the Regional Growth

Strategy website and distributed to several seniors housing groups to share with older clients. Over 300 completed forms were collected.

Figure 3: Percentage of Submissions by North Okanagan Community



Approximately 58 percent of respondents who gave their age indicated being 65 years or older and 11% which were under 55 years if age. Females submitted questionnaires three times more often than men.

The City of Vernon, which represents over half the North Okanagan population and the highest percentage of seniors, corresponded to over half the overall respondents. The other jurisdictions submitted questionnaires in proportion to their population, except for the Village of Lumby which participated at a level in excess of their Regional population proportion. Community-specific survey profiles are included within **Appendix 'C'**, including all comments received. This information will inform policy development, in addition to other comments and input received from the communities. A brief summary of survey outcomes are below.

4.2 KEY FINDINGS

Twenty questions were asked within the Age-Friendly Communities Survey (See **Appendix 'B'**) inspired by the eight domains of community life identified by the *Global Age-friendly Cities* project. Through the assessment of the surveys, a clearer view of the population of adults who make up our older population and identified two important themes. The first was that affordable, accessible and appropriate housing was the most significant barrier to developing an age-friendly community. Affordable housing concerns extended beyond seniors demand, affecting younger residents. The second theme was the barrier of transportation options – transit service is limited outside of the City of Vernon, the hours of operation are limited to daytime hours and active transportation infrastructure is lacking or in disrepair. **Table 1** summarizes the responses received during the survey period.

Table 1: North Okanagan Age-Friendly Survey Outcomes

Survey Questions	Yes	No	Don't Know
Q1: Is there enough housing for seniors	21	224	57
Q2: Housing for seniors is affordable	41	203	57
Q3: Is there enough housing for younger people	29	171	100
Q4: Public transportation is sufficient	79	175	49
Q5: Transportation options to medical appointments	77	161	67
Q6: Transportation for disabilities	42	150	109
Q7: Public transportation options are affordable	101	104	94
Q8: Local parks/trails accessible to seniors	155	91	57
Q9: I don't need a car to access essential services	103	177	21
Q10: Safe when walking across the street	148	143	10
Q11: Affordable recreational activities	150	81	70
Q12: Programs bring youth and seniors together	70	108	122
Q13: Service I use are sufficient for my needs	188	94	21
Q14: Seniors are treated with respect	222	53	26
Q15: Seniors serve in an advisory role	133	48	120
Q16: Community consultations - all ages	86	54	167
Q17: Planning process consider seniors	100	71	130
Q18: Volunteer opportunities for seniors	182	54	68
Q19: Recognition for seniors that volunteer	111	107	93
Q20: Enough paid opportunities for seniors	19	129	150

Age-Friendly Features

Healthy and reasonably mobile seniors are generally pleased to be living in the North Okanagan because it is a relatively small communities, including the City of Vernon, which offers both a relaxed pace of life, and yet provides a variety of means for social participation and activities.

Age-friendly aspects of the North Okanagan include its many parks and trails which offer opportunities for exercise and socialization, its seniors' clubs, organizations and centres and its

public library system. In general, healthy and active seniors, feel very included and respected in their communities, and feel that their contributions to their communities are adequately recognized.

Age-Friendly Barriers

Seniors throughout the North Okanagan and respondents under 55 years of age agree on a number of age-friendly barriers that have a significant impact on seniors. Transportation issues dominate the discussion, with the lack of transportation options, the need for transit service throughout the North Okanagan, sidewalk maintenance and crosswalks were all problematic. The lack of transportation options for seniors, especially outside of the City of Vernon, particularly problematic for seniors trying to access health care facilities.

Transportation fees, especially taxi services, are an added burden for seniors, especially given that many live on fixed incomes and tend to access health care facilities increasingly with age. Crosswalks are another outdoor concern for seniors. The majority of street crossings do not have crossing lights and existing crossing lights do not give slow-moving seniors, particularly those with walkers and wheelchairs, enough time to cross, and there is also a need for more crosswalks with audible signals in out larger urban centres.

The lack of sidewalks along most streets within the urban centres has created a series of obstacles for seniors, especially those with assisted mobility devices. Seniors and other residents must use the street to move through communities, competing with automobile traffic, cyclists and other pedestrians. Sidewalk maintenance in winter is another concern for senior pedestrians. Icy sidewalks and curb cuts full of snow are just a few of the hazards seniors must navigate their way around when going out in winter. All of these in various ways act as barriers to active ageing in the North Okanagan.

Older persons in the North Okanagan have identified affordable and accessible housing as the greatest obstacle within the North Okanagan. Smaller communities so not have adequate seniors housing at all levels of care, with many seniors moving out of the community to access seniors housing to meet their requirements. Although senior's housing projects have been undertaken in many communities, including the City of Armstrong, District of Coldstream, Village of Lumby and City of Vernon, demand has continued to outstrip supply for seniors on fixed incomes. The lack of affordable housing options extends beyond seniors, impacting younger people within the Region. Vacancy rates have consistently been below 1% over the last 5 years and this trend is not expected to change. Rising housing costs and taxes and the costs associated with retrofitting homes are all major concerns for home owning seniors, particularly for those on fixed incomes. The lack of adequate seniors' housing, at all levels of care, and lengthy wait times are also concerns, especially for those with disabilities and greater care needs.

Seniors' concerns regarding public transportation focus primarily on limited hours of operation, infrequent service outside of the City of Vernon and the inadequacies associated with the accessible transit system. Caregivers also note the insensitivity of cab drivers toward the needs of seniors. The lack of accessible transportation options for seniors results in the reliance on the automobile to access essential services and medical appointments, a situation that may change quickly due to the loss of a license due to medical conditions.

Seniors have a variety of ways of accessing information in the North Okanagan, including local radio and television stations, community newsletters, seniors' organizations and activity centres, church groups, the library system and the Internet. However, the majority (60%) of seniors do not have access to the Internet, or do not know how to use it, often feel left out in a world that increasingly relies on technology for communication. Small print used in many publications also creates a barrier to seniors accessing needed information.

Seniors, due to the large number of seniors' centres, organizations, charitable organizations and church groups, feel they are provided with ample opportunities for civic engagement, and are made to feel welcome by municipalities in numerous ways. Senior volunteers, in particular, find their volunteer experiences fulfilling, rewarding, and appreciated by their communities. Seniors confined to their homes due to significant disabilities, however, are largely excluded from civic engagement.

Suggestions for Improvement

Seniors provided a number of suggestions for improvement to age-friendly barriers in the North Okanagan. Some of the most commonly cited include: 1) The expansion of transit service to respond to the needs of seniors, including expanded hours of operation, dedicated transit service to medical facilities and greater service to communities outside of Vernon and greater accessibility for disabled seniors; 2) Increase the stock of affordable and accessible seniors housing within all communities, including extended care facilities 3) the improvement of sidewalk maintenance in winter time 4) the lengthening of signal times related to crosswalks and/or the addition of a pedestrian-only signal light 5) expand the sidewalk and walking path networks, as well as additional transportation-oriented infrastructure such as appropriate transit stops 6) the creation of a central information service for seniors 7) Concentrate seniors housing in neighbourhood centres with core amenities (seniors' centres, shopping, entertainment amenities within walking distance) to reduce reliance on automobiles 8) Incentives/initiatives that will assist fixed income seniors in accessing basic goods and services 9) More events and activities accessible to seniors, including opportunities for social engagement and participation by assisted living seniors 10) Assistance for aging in place, especially within smaller communities.

Appendix 'A' Advertising and Promotion



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY

"One Region, One Future"

'My Sustainable North Okanagan' Age-Friendly Input and Comment



What kind of Region do you want to live in and what will it take to get there?

Age-Friendly Surveys

The *Regional Growth Strategy* establishes a common vision for how the North Okanagan accommodates growth over the next 20 years. The strategy will provide guidance on a variety of key growth issues that directly affect the quality of life for all residents throughout the North Okanagan.

We are looking for input from *all ages* on your vision of an ideal community and Region.

The *Your Thoughts About...Age-Friendly Communities Survey* has been designed for residents over 55. We want to know what are your priorities. *Survey ends on Nov. 30, 2009.*

PLEASE TAKE A FEW MOMENTS AND GIVE YOUR THOUGHTS BY FILLING OUT THE AGE-FRIENDLY SURVEY. DROP-OFFS ARE AT MUNICIPAL HALLS

Your priorities, your issues and your comments will contribute to growing as communities that respond to the needs of all ages.

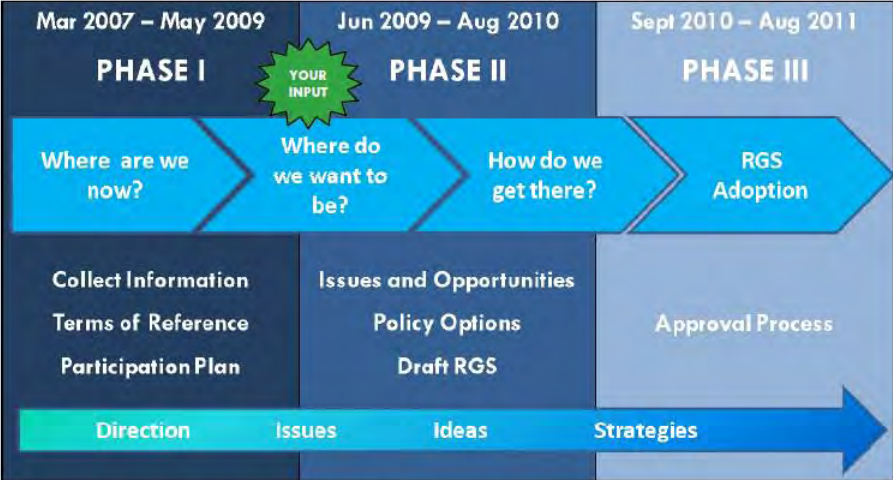
To find out more, please visit www.rdno.ca or contact Anthony Kittel, Regional Growth Strategy Coordinator at anthony.kittel@rdo.ca or (250) 550-3750.

Have your say—it's your Region!



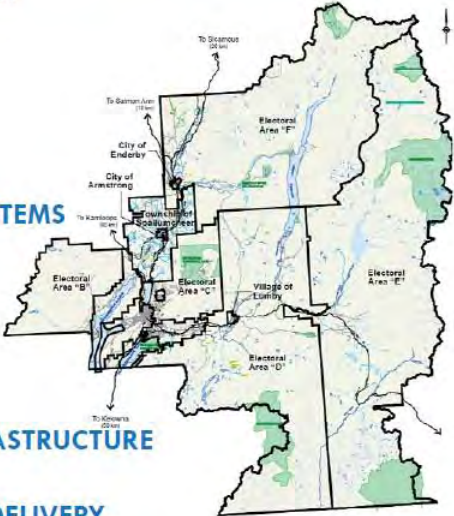
REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN
REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY
"One Region, One Future"

THE PROCESS!



EXPLORING OUR GROWTH ISSUES

- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- ENVIRONMENT
- WATER STEWARDSHIP
- AGRICULTURE/FOOD SYSTEMS
- AFFORDABLE HOUSING
- URBAN CONTAINMENT
- TRANSPORTATION/INFRASTRUCTURE
- GOVERNANCE/SERVICE DELIVERY



Appendix 'B': Your Thoughts About...Age-Friendly Survey



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN
REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY
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Your Thoughts About... Age-Friendly Survey

PLEASE RETURN BY NOVEMBER 30, 2009

The Regional District of North Okanagan is developing a Regional Growth Strategy that will guide over communities over the next 20 years. Your thoughts on the issues and the priorities you consider in urgent need of attention will assist in the development of an Strategy that responds to the entire North Okanagan. Thank you for providing your input, your thoughts and your concerns. Please fax, post or e-mail the survey or drop it off in your community when you're done. The information is on the back. There is an online version at: www.rdno.ca/rgs

Your Thoughts About Housing

There is enough housing for seniors in my community? **YES** **NO** **DON'T KNOW**

Housing for seniors is affordable in my community. **YES** **NO** **DON'T KNOW**

There is enough housing for younger people in my community. **YES** **NO** **DON'T KNOW**

Your Thoughts About Transportation

Public transportation to your destinations are sufficient. **YES** **NO** **DON'T KNOW**

Transportation options to medical appointments is sufficient. **YES** **NO** **DON'T KNOW**

Transportation options for people with disabilities is sufficient. **YES** **NO** **DON'T KNOW**

Public transportation options are affordable to seniors. **YES** **NO** **DON'T KNOW**

Your Thoughts About Services and Infrastructure

Local parks and walking trails are accessible to seniors. **YES** **NO** **DON'T KNOW**

I don't need a car to get to essential services. **YES** **NO** **DON'T KNOW**

Do I feel safe when I am walking or crossing the street? **YES** **NO** **DON'T KNOW**

Recreational activities are generally affordable to seniors. **YES** **NO** **DON'T KNOW**

There are programs that bring seniors and youth together. **YES** **NO** **DON'T KNOW**

The services that I use are sufficient for my needs.. **YES** **NO** **DON'T KNOW**



Your Thoughts About...Age-Friendly Survey

Your Thoughts About Social Inclusion

Seniors in my community are generally treated with respect. YES NO DON'T KNOW

Seniors serve in an advisory role in my community. YES NO DON'T KNOW

Community consultations specifically include all ages. YES NO DON'T KNOW

Planning processes in my community consider needs of seniors. YES NO DON'T KNOW

Your Thoughts About Community and Workforce Participation

There are enough volunteer opportunities for seniors. YES NO DON'T KNOW

There is enough recognition for seniors who volunteer. YES NO DON'T KNOW

There are enough paid opportunities for seniors. YES NO DON'T KNOW

What do you appreciate and enjoy about your community?

What are your top priorities in the North Okanagan. Please give details.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

YOUR INFORMATION

What is your age? 55-59 60-64 64-69 70+ Other Ages _____

Are you: MALE FEMALE Are you on a fixed income? YES NO

Where do you live? Armstrong Coldstream Enderby Lumby Spallumcheen
 Vernon Electoral Area _____

Thank you for taking the time to provide your thoughts on your communities. Please return to:
ANTHONY KITTEL, REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY COORDINATOR, 9848 ABERDEEN RD,
COLDSTREAM, BC V1B 2K9, FAX (250) 550-3750, e-mail anthony.kittel@rdno.ca

Appendix 'C': Survey Outcomes by Jurisdiction

Community: City of Armstrong

PROFILE

Sex		Age					Fixed Income	
Male	Female	55-59	60-64	65-69	70+	Other	Yes	No
4	10	0	2	1	3	7	7	7

SURVEY RESULTS

Survey Questions	Yes	No	Don't Know
Q1: Is there enough housing for seniors	2	9	3
Q2: Housing for seniors is affordable	2	7	5
Q3: Is there enough housing for younger people	2	6	6
Q4: Public transportation is sufficient	5	6	3
Q5: Transportation options to medical	4	6	3
Q6: Transportation for disabilities	5	4	5
Q7: Public transportation options are affordable	6	2	6
Q8: Local parks/trails accessible to seniors	6	5	3
Q9: I don't need a car	3	10	0
Q10: Safe when walking across the street	11	3	0
Q11: Affordable recreational activities	8	5	1
Q12: Programs bring youth and seniors together	5	4	5
Q13: Service I use are sufficient for my needs	10	4	0
Q14: Seniors are treated with respect	12	1	1
Q15: Seniors serve in an advisory role	9	1	4
Q16: Community consultations - all ages	10	1	4
Q17: Planning process consider seniors	7	1	6
Q18: Volunteer opportunities for seniors	8	3	3
Q19: Recognition for seniors that volunteer	4	4	6

COMMENTS

Profile: Age: 60-64: Sex: Female

Enjoy about Community:

- Smaller size with access to larger communities
- Friendly and helpful

Priorities:

- Fresh air
- Clean water
- Sewage systems
- Affordability
- Transit that makes connections to all our communities
- Affordable housing
- Health care

- Affordable dental

Profile: Age: 65-69: Sex: Female

Enjoy about Community:

- Easy to get around by walking – good sidewalks, not many hills

Priorities:

- Public transportation with more before and after hours

Profile: Age: 70+ Sex: Male

Enjoy about Community:

- Friendly and accessibility to services
- Lifestyle and services

Profile: Age: 70+: Sex: Female

Enjoy about Community:

- Quiet and a sense of place
- Opportunities for inter-generational and non-denominational interaction

Priorities:

- Assistance for all who are disabled
- Information and flyers about what activities are within the community (large print)
- Phone numbers for everything – not everyone has a computer
- A greater appreciation for disabilities and medical conditions
- Protection of Water Supply
- Bicycle routes in developed areas

Younger than 55

Enjoy about Community:

- Love the small town friendly atmosphere
- Small, safe and friendly
- Positive attitude among community members
- Free year-round family events
- Generally a safe community
- People
- The natural beauty
- The Okanagan Symphony Orchestra
- The beaches and trails
- Independent restaurants
- Nice and quite

Priorities:

- Access to outdoor activities
- Outdoor friendly development
- Develop a connected multipurpose trail system (2)
- Maintaining sufficient ALR lands

- Affordable housing
 - Maintain and ensure safe and affordable water
 - Improve public safety
 - Maintain and create employment opportunities
 - Promote regions popularity
 - Indoor pool for winter use
 - Preserving natural lands
 - Setting aside land for native plants and wildlife
 - Creating parks and trails
 - Encouraging self contained communities to reduce commuting
 - That our drivers do their jobs like they are suppose to
-

Community: District of Coldstream**PROFILE**

Sex		Age					Fixed Income	
Male	Female	55-59	60-64	65-69	70+	Other	Yes	No
5	34	1	5	2	28	2	31	8

SURVEY RESULTS

Survey Questions	Yes	No	Don't Know
Q1: Is there enough housing for seniors	5	25	9
Q2: Housing for seniors is affordable	5	27	7
Q3: Is there enough housing for younger people	4	12	22
Q4: Public transportation is sufficient	16	15	9
Q5: Transportation options to medical	16	19	9
Q6: Transportation for disabilities	4	23	12
Q7: Public transportation options are affordable	15	9	15
Q8: Local parks/trails accessible to seniors	27	8	4
Q9: I don't need a car	13	24	2
Q10: Safe when walking across the street	31	8	0
Q11: Affordable recreational activities	25	3	11
Q12: Programs bring youth and seniors together	6	13	20
Q13: Service I use are sufficient for my needs	34	5	2
Q14: Seniors are treated with respect	34	3	2
Q15: Seniors serve in an advisory role	14	2	23
Q16: Community consultations - all ages	4	5	30
Q17: Planning process consider seniors	9	6	23
Q18: Volunteer opportunities for seniors	27	2	16
Q19: Recognition for seniors that volunteer	19	6	23
Q20: Enough paid opportunities for seniors	3	8	28

COMMENTS**Profile: Age: 55-59: Sex: Male****Enjoy about Community:**

- Opportunities for work and investment
- Recreation and eco-tourism

Priorities:

- Infrastructure
- Retirement Service
- Accessibility

Profile: Age: 60-64: Sex: Male

Enjoy about Community:

- Trees
- Lack of industrial pollution
- Safety

Priorities:

- Coldstream needs food, gas and health services
- Need more retail and restaurants

Profile: Age: 60-64: Sex: Female

Enjoy about Community:

- The number of non-profits that offer valuable services to the community
- Open skies, low population, scenery
- Lifestyle
- Recreational opportunities

Priorities:

- Jobs for young people (encourage business)
- Property and water taxes too high
- “Rent-a-cow” scheme “farmers” beating the property tax system
- Looming pesticide ban and noxious weed bylaw are incompatible
- Need to design the community for safety – safe downtown, more policing, better street lighting
- Keep the livability of Greater Vernon – limit outward expansion, greater housing mix, balance urban, suburban and rural
- Make downtown Vernon walkable and have more housing opportunities
- Provide more housing options for all ages with amenities nearby

Profile: Age: 65-69: Sex: Male

Enjoy about Community:

- Rural living opportunity
- Safe and crime-free community
- Friendly neighbours

Priorities:

- Traffic congestion in Greater Vernon
- Vernon Hospital overcrowded, poor medical response time
- Highway 6 needs upgrading
- Urban sprawl and loss of agricultural lands

Profile: Age: 70+ Sex: Male

Enjoy about Community:

Schubert Centre

Profile: Age: 70+: Sex: Female

Enjoy about Community:

- Opportunities to garden and access the arts
- Genuine friendliness of its inhabitants(6)
- Good people (4)
- Lifestyle (3)
- Country setting
- Walking in the community
- Feel safe in my community
- Respect from people
- Good medical care
- Transportation has been easy and I can travel when I need to

Priorities:

- Better public transit – I need to walk 2km to catch a bus (3)
 - Downtown housing (decrease car use, increase walking)
 - Affordable housing for those who need it
 - Find solutions to the homeless problem
 - Need more accessible parks and recreation areas
 - Safer roads for pedestrians
 - More options for seniors to get around in the evening
 - Lack of shopping
 - Medical support
 - Having services available
 - People coming to visit me (2)
 - In assisted living –not much interaction with community
 - Need community meeting on important topics
 - Better entertainment options
-

Community: City of Enderby**PROFILE**

Sex		Age					Fixed Income	
Male	Female	55-59	60-64	65-69	70+	Other	Yes	No
1	22	8	1	1	12	1	17	3

SURVEY RESULTS

Survey Questions	Yes	No	Don't Know
Q1: Is there enough housing for seniors	1	18	4
Q2: Housing for seniors is affordable	6	14	3
Q3: Is there enough housing for younger people	2	18	3
Q4: Public transportation is sufficient	7	14	2
Q5: Transportation options to medical	8	13	2
Q6: Transportation for disabilities	3	8	12
Q7: Public transportation options are affordable	9	7	7
Q8: Local parks/trails accessible to seniors	13	6	4
Q9: I don't need a car	11	12	2
Q10: Safe when walking across the street	10	11	2
Q11: Affordable recreational activities	10	5	9
Q12: Programs bring youth and seniors together	5	10	8
Q13: Service I use are sufficient for my needs	13	7	2
Q14: Seniors are treated with respect	14	6	3
Q15: Seniors serve in an advisory role	7	5	11
Q16: Community consultations - all ages	6	4	13
Q17: Planning process consider seniors	9	5	9
Q18: Volunteer opportunities for seniors	13	3	6
Q19: Recognition for seniors that volunteer	8	8	7
Q20: Enough paid opportunities for seniors	3	10	10

COMMENTS**Profile: Age: 55-59: Sex: Female****Enjoy about Community:**

- I enjoy the small town atmosphere (3)
- Lots to do
- Citizens and businesses are helpful

Priorities:

- Affordable housing for seniors and young adults (3)
- Family doctors are hard to access since hospital closing
- Transportation to appointment

- Some roads have no sidewalks, need to clear roads and sidewalks during winter months (2)
- No bus shelters and bus times are limited
- Not enough parking
- Green space – too many trees cut
- Clean, safe drinking water
- Too much development
- Better planning – subdivisions on hillsides
- Inclusion of all groups in decision-making
- Long-term plan for roads
- Make the region people-friendly
- More housing choices, including small lot homes (2)

Profile: Age: 60-64: Sex: Male

Priorities:

- To get senior levels of government to listen to the average joe in the region
- More consultation with communities on provincial and federal plans and initiatives – be inclusive
- City planning considers seniors, senior levels of government never considers seniors or any other group

Profile: Age: 70+: Sex: Female: Fixed Income: Yes

Enjoy about Community:

- Great seniors centres in Vernon
- Summer
- Close to social activities
- Friendly people (3)
- Country life
- Great community
- Beauty of the Region
- Small enough that you can walk to your destination

Priorities:

- More housing options for seniors and young people (4)
- Need more jobs
- More youth programs
- Better opportunities for single mothers
- Medical transportation for seniors
- More activities aimed at seniors

Younger than 55

Enjoy about Community:

- Amenities within walking distance
- Strong volunteer network
- Small town sense of community

Priorities:

- Protecting the Shuswap River
 - Affordable housing for seniors and young families
 - Promoting Tourism
 - Air quality
-

Community: Village of Lumby**PROFILE**

Sex		Age					Fixed Income	
Male	Female	55-59	60-64	65-69	70+	Other	Yes	No
12	28	8	10	5	14	3	23	6

SURVEY RESULTS

Survey Questions	Yes	No	Don't Know
Q1: Is there enough housing for seniors	1	37	2
Q2: Housing for seniors is affordable	10	23	7
Q3: Is there enough housing for younger people	3	23	13
Q4: Public transportation is sufficient	8	26	5
Q5: Transportation options to medical	6	25	8
Q6: Transportation for disabilities	0	26	13
Q7: Public transportation options are affordable	5	17	15
Q8: Local parks/trails accessible to seniors	28	8	5
Q9: I don't need a car	9	27	2
Q10: Safe when walking across the street	26	14	0
Q11: Affordable recreational activities	23	9	7
Q12: Programs bring youth and seniors together	20	10	9
Q13: Service I use are sufficient for my needs	23	9	6
Q14: Seniors are treated with respect	29	7	4
Q15: Seniors serve in an advisory role	17	8	14
Q16: Community consultations - all ages	15	6	18
Q17: Planning process consider seniors	17	10	13
Q18: Volunteer opportunities for seniors	16	10	13
Q19: Recognition for seniors that volunteer	11	14	14
Q20: Enough paid opportunities for seniors	2	19	18

COMMENTS**Profile: Age: 55-59: Sex: Male****Enjoy about Community:**

- Close knit

Priorities:

- Affordable housing

Profile: Age: 55-59: Sex: Female**Enjoy about Community:**

- Small town feel (3)
- Inclusive and friendly (5)

Priorities:

- Transportation need to be available (3)
- Funding for programs needs to be fixed
- Need affordable housing options – major shortage (3)
- Need an indoor pool and larger hall for recreation
- Need more youth activities that are cheaper
- Traffic safety at intersections – need lights instead of stop signs
- More accessible medical care
- Fair-paying jobs
- More seniors housing options
- Water is a concern

Profile: Age: 60-64: Sex: Male**Enjoy about Community:**

- Quiet
- Able to walk to services and shops
- Kids
- Local businesses instead of box stores
- Farmers market
- Small size where you know most people (2)

Priorities:

- Water –not enough attention to our water needs
- Way too much dope culture, which leads to crime
- More art and spirituality
- Lack of development and diversity
- Education needs
- More seniors housing, including extended living housing

Profile: Age: 60-64: Sex: Female**Enjoy about Community:**

- Quiet community
- Lots of young partners
- Small community (2)
- Good access to outdoor activities

Priorities:

- Keep lakes and creeks clean – protect our water
- CO2 emissions reduction – protect the environment
- Better management of the forest
- Wildlife habitat conservation
- Need more RCMP
- Parents need to be held responsible for their kids
- Affordable seniors housing (2)

- Transportation options to Cherryville
- Clinic hours extended
- Transportation options to Vernon – better transit hour'
-

Profile: Age: 65-69: Sex: Male

Enjoy about Community:

- Very friendly small community (2)

Priorities:

- To have a safe place to stay
- To have an inexpensive place to stay
- To get to amenities
- To get to places easily
- Need to address homelessness
- Need more local medical support
- Water and sewage is an issue

Profile: Age: 65-69: Sex: Female

Enjoy about Community:

- Friendly, safe and most services are available (2)
- Community minded town (Lumby) (2)
- Local organizations provide a number of services and social functions (2)

Priorities:

- Accessing natural areas – need more trails
- More affordable seniors housing, especially assisted living (2)
- Need to keep small community medical centres (3)
- Politicians and the Regional District should listen to and access seniors' requests
- Need to keep small communities viable during hard economic times (2)
- Need to promote job creation (2)
- Funding for the Lumby Health Society (2)
- Proper funding for education (2)
- Our resource centre and seniors housing funded

Profile: Age: 65-69: Sex: Male

Enjoy about Community:

- A friendly place to live

Priorities:

- Volunteering

Profile: Age: 70+ Sex: Male

Enjoy about Community:

- Close to all necessities

Priorities:

- Build some new roads
- Clean up the river
- More policing for traffic violations
-

Profile: Age: 70+: Sex: Female

Enjoy about Community:

- Friendly people (5)
- Close to everything (4)
- Small town felling

Priorities:

- Assisted living for seniors in small communities (2)
- Safety in the home – vulnerabilities
- Adequate medical aid and facilities (3)
- More affordable seniors housing (2)
- Affordable housing with easy access
- Affordability of living in the community challenging
- More entertainment services in town
- More grocery stores (amenities) are needed
- More policing on weekends

Younger than 55

Enjoy about Community:

- Friendly people
- Rural setting – fishing, hiking, biking and outdoor opportunities

Priorities:

- Education
 - Health care
 - Outdoor recreation infrastructure (trails, etc.)
 - Expand recreational opportunities
-

Community: Township of Spallumcheen**PROFILE**

Sex		Age					Fixed Income	
Male	Female	55-59	60-64	65-69	70+	Other	Yes	No
3	8	1	2	1	4	3	4	3

SURVEY RESULTS

Survey Questions	Yes	No	Don't Know
Q1: Is there enough housing for seniors	2	8	1
Q2: Housing for seniors is affordable	1	7	3
Q3: Is there enough housing for younger people	1	9	1
Q4: Public transportation is sufficient	2	8	1
Q5: Transportation options to medical	1	9	1
Q6: Transportation for disabilities	1	10	0
Q7: Public transportation options are affordable	5	4	2
Q8: Local parks/trails accessible to seniors	5	4	2
Q9: I don't need a car	2	9	0
Q10: Safe when walking across the street	4	7	0
Q11: Affordable recreational activities	5	3	3
Q12: Programs bring youth and seniors together	3	6	2
Q13: Service I use are sufficient for my needs	6	4	1
Q14: Seniors are treated with respect	10	1	0
Q15: Seniors serve in an advisory role	4	3	3
Q16: Community consultations - all ages	3	5	3
Q17: Planning process consider seniors	5	4	2
Q18: Volunteer opportunities for seniors	5	5	1
Q19: Recognition for seniors that volunteer	4	5	2
Q20: Enough paid opportunities for seniors	0	7	4

COMMENTS**Profile: Age: 55-59: Sex: Female****Enjoy about Community:**

- The sense of community is strong

Priorities:

- Need to improve rural transportation
- Low cost recreational activities for youth

Profile: Age: 60-64: Sex: Male

Enjoy about Community:

- That there are so many older adults that are enthusiastic about participating

Priorities:

- Affordable housing in safe locations
- Health care services that are accessible and affordable
- Transportation that meets seniors needs
- That all seniors get important information

Profile: Age: 60-64: Sex: Female

Priorities:

- Need for low cost housing
- Need for more housing for seniors
- Need for country/city transportation

Profile: Age: 65-69: Sex: Female

Enjoy about Community:

- Quite, friendly small town

Priorities:

- Need affordable housing for seniors with low income
- Groceries cost too much
- No disability transportation

Profile: Age: 70+ Sex: Male

Enjoy about Community:

- My community is quiet, natural and small

Priorities:

- Keep the subdividers and developers out of rural farming, forestry and natural communities
- Allow Vernon to be the primary centre for medicinal, commerce and recreational needs
- Consolidate the 6 municipalities and 5 electoral areas into 5 municipalities – reduce # of elected officials and local/regional administration
- Politically stop the fracture in the North Okanagan

Profile: Age: 70+: Sex: Female

Enjoy about Community:

- Community spirit

Priorities:

- Community gardens
- Seniors activity centre
- Our medical centre is run by volunteers
- Need better medical care access

- Low cost housing
- Supplemental transportation
- Social interaction
- Information sharing
- Seniors involvement in city planning

Younger than 55

Enjoy about Community:

- People are caring and helpful
- Small town atmosphere
- Volunteers, NGOs and social groups that help people of all ages

Priorities:

- Affordable housing (2)
 - Would like to see bicycle paths in Armstrong so people can safely walk on the sidewalk
 - Better rural transit
 - Better, affordable recreational opportunities (2)
 - Good sidewalks with ramps
 - Proper signage at cross walks
-

Community: City of Vernon**PROFILE**

Sex		Age					Fixed Income	
Male	Female	55-59	60-64	65-69	70+	Other	Yes	No
33	113	14	19	27	72	15	98	32

SURVEY RESULTS

Survey Questions	Yes	No	Don't Know
Q1: Is there enough housing for seniors	9	109	33
Q2: Housing for seniors is affordable	16	110	24
Q3: Is there enough housing for younger people	15	86	50
Q4: Public transportation is sufficient	39	86	27
Q5: Transportation options to medical	40	73	38
Q6: Transportation for disabilities	25	65	61
Q7: Public transportation options are affordable	57	52	42
Q8: Local parks/trails accessible to seniors	63	50	38
Q9: I don't need a car	58	78	15
Q10: Safe when walking across the street	57	86	7
Q11: Affordable recreational activities	70	45	36
Q12: Programs bring youth and seniors together	28	52	70
Q13: Service I use are sufficient for my needs	93	50	10
Q14: Seniors are treated with respect	110	27	14
Q15: Seniors serve in an advisory role	70	22	61
Q16: Community consultations - all ages	42	26	89
Q17: Planning process consider seniors	49	36	67
Q18: Volunteer opportunities for seniors	100	24	26
Q19: Recognition for seniors that volunteer	55	61	37
Q20: Enough paid opportunities for seniors	10	65	74

COMMENTS**Profile: Age: 55-59: Sex: Male****Enjoy about Community:**

- I can walk to wherever I need to go
- The people of Vernon generally give their support to needy causes
- Quite living
- Friendly place
- Small community
- The diversity of people

Priorities:

- Lower unemployment

- Better traffic flow
- A bypass route for highway traffic
- More walking, biking trails
- More jobs for younger people
- More public transportation (2)
- Infill development, especially where there are older homes
- Safety, lighting and snow clearing on sidewalks – more sidewalks
- Environmental issues surrounding outer areas of North Okanagan

Profile: Age: 55-59: Sex: Female

Enjoy about Community:

- People working together
- Volunteer opportunities
- Quick to get around town
- There are lots of things to do (2)
- Small size of community
- The natural amenities
- Friendly people

Priorities:

- Affordable housing (5)
- Finances
- Housing
- Transportation
- Advocacy
- Dental
- Access to good health care (2)
- Providing as much info as possible to seniors
- Environment – building more trails and lanes that are safe, green space for all
- Better traffic flow
- Safer and better condition sidewalks (3)
- Adequate services for homeless and people on fixed income
- Grass roots organization instead of top down decision-making
- Better bus service
- Road repair (2)
- Less wastage of taxpayers' money
- Seniors housing in the downtown core
- Safer streets

Profile: Age: 60-64: Sex: Male

Priorities:

- Transportation availability
- Low income housing in decent condition
- Inclusive planning
- Low-income advocates for seniors and people with disabilities
- More green areas and preserve what we have

- Reduce building when we have so many unused buildings in the area
- Ensure that all seniors and handicapped people have access to all areas
- Take a long look at the transportation system – service to all areas and for all persons

Profile: Age: 60-64: Sex: Female

Enjoy about Community:

- Nothing
- The friendships developed while working in the organizations I have joined (2)
- Friendly people (2)
- Opportunities and availability for all service and programs for everyone
- Small enough to maintain a vibrant community atmosphere
- Can drive anywhere is 10 minutes or less
- Places to walk to
- Beautiful location
- Climate
- Downtown is well kept and beautiful

Priorities:

- Low or no cost medical
- Affordable housing needs – not just one small room (4)
- Staying healthy – good air, quality food (2)
- Safe place to walk (2)
- Need places where people on the street can shower
- Better and more accessible health and medical services (4)
- Safety issues (2)
- Employment
- Transportation issues
- Help for seniors
- Saving the environment
- Ozone depletion
- Service for disabled people
- Transportation corridors
- Affordable transportation for low income people (2)
- Funding for the arts and restructure Vernon Community Arts Centre
- Winter snow removal
- Expanding Ribbons of Green trail network (2)
- Seniors activities
- Better communication system for seniors in homes and facilities
- Creating a pleasant, litter free, clean air environment
- Make the seniors centres more accessible to low income seniors
- Sidewalks need better snow removal/deicing in the winter months
- Education (better educational services) (2)
- New library
- Support for visiting family members of hospital patients
- Growth – encourage new stores and businesses
- Employment – jobs that provide real income

Profile: Age: 65-69: Sex: Male**Enjoy about Community:**

- Good weather, small community

Profile: Age: 65-69: Sex: Female**Enjoy about Community:**

- Seniors centres (2)
- Performing arts centre, arts and culture (2)
- Good food box program
- Places to volunteer
- Mostly friendly people (3)
- Senior-oriented (2)
- Small community (4)
- You can walk everywhere and be safe (2)
- Seniors activities and recreational opportunities
- Lots of volunteer opportunities for seniors
- Climate (2)
- Caring volunteers
- Beautiful location (2)
- Recreational opportunities (2)
- Natural areas with lakes and mountains
- Farm land and good farmers markets
- I enjoy everything

Priorities:

- Affordable housing (910)
- Groceries within walking distance
- Better, more accessible and more affordable health care (4)
- Safety on sidewalks, need more sidewalks (3)
- Blind stop signs
- More accessible transportation (5)
- Bike trails, hiking trails and tracks for running (2)
- More transportation options for disabled
- Transit after 6:00pm (3)
- Better bus shelters and stops throughout town, especially on Anderson Way
- A safe community for all ages
- Too much urban sprawl
- Fix the roads
- Lower taxes for single seniors
- Representatives for government do not listen to populace
- Organized services for driving seniors to appointments
- Reinstate Meals on Wheels
- Walking trails along waterfront
- Clean, healthy environment
- Environmental laws
- Preserving farm land

- More housing options for seniors, especially seniors-oriented independent living complexes

Profile: Age: 65-69: Sex: Male

Enjoy about Community:

- All available activities
- Friendly community
- Services available to all ages provided by government and non-government agencies
- Beautiful surroundings
- Can walk to most of my needs

Priorities:

- Senior housing
- Senior services
- Transportation
- Preservation of natural areas, parks, bicycle paths and lack access
- A vibrant downtown with a residential component
- An end to urban sprawl
- Amalgamation – it has been successful in Kelowna and Kamloops
- Health
- Education
- Free from taxes (no income tax)

Profile: Age: 70+ Sex: Male

Enjoy about Community:

- Small town (2)
- Friendly people (3)
- I love Vernon and like being here
- Climate (3)
- Accessible parks
- Easy to access goods and services (2)
- Variety of cultural activities
- Seniors centres
- Walkable and interesting downtown
- Living in the Okanagan is like being in heaven

Priorities:

- Affordable meals
- More home support
- Receiving information from the community
- Protection for seniors who are alone
- Affordable housing (6)
- Prevent sprawl
- Safe parks
- Compact living best for seniors (3)
- Chamber of Commerce always gets what it wants
- Better crosswalks
- Better transportation (2)

- Lowering food prices
- Better and more accessible health services
- HandyDart needs to operate on weekends
- Enforcement concerns with handicapped parking
- Federal OAS does not meet cost of living requirements
- To continue working at jobs I can still do
- Better relations between all forms of government
- Keeping an eye on our government in Victoria
- Concern for speeding and reckless driving in our city
- Concerns over our lakes and rivers
- The affordability of living in the region
- Recreation is unaffordable
- Healthy activities
- Facilities for the homeless and people with addictions
- Clean and safe drinking water
- Seeing the full use of the expanded hospital
- Proper funding for our schools
- Public-private funding of the arts and cultural activities
- An end to political fiefdoms
- Expanded bus service, including night-time hours (2)
- More park space
- More trees for shade
- Conserving water and keeping it clean
- Low impact, green industry
- Transportation options for people with disabilities
- Transportation options for medical appointments
-

Profile: Age: 70+: Sex: Female

Enjoy about Community:

- The beauty of the place (11)
- Small size (6)
- Friendly community (13)
- Seniors centre – Schubert Centre (7)
- Safe and I can go about my business easily (3)
- It provides all the essential services I need and other activities are available if I want to use them (6)
- Climate (4)
- General respect for seniors
- Respect and opportunities for all ages
- There is nothing to enjoy
- Lots of entertainment, even in the daytime
- Everything, just glad to be here
- Volunteering opportunities
- I live close to stores and the library
- Everything
- I can walk to my downtown destinations
- Friends near by

- Traffic is not hectic yet – assists seniors

Priorities:

- No raising of property taxes – do not need a new library (2)
- Large fleet of small HandyDarts
- Transportation (3)
- More financial responsibility
- More focus on parental responsibility (2)
- Cleaner air
- Better public transit – longer hours (4)
- Crackdown on drivers who treat pedestrians as if they are available
- Sustainable planning for future growth
- Affordable housing for seniors and younger people (8)
- Safety for crossing the streets (3)
- Better and more accessible health care (13)
- Need housing for mental and psychological adults (drug addiction)
- More seniors apartments and complexes where there are more social activities and people who cooperate
- Good planning for future water supply
- Clean streets under good repair
- Good walking paths (2)
- Better bus service with longer hours
- Safer sidewalks (6)
- Programs for youth
- Traffic reduction and management (2)
- Seniors centres and opportunities that are accessible and affordable (2)
- Indoor swimming pool with warm water
- For seniors to get more consideration for their pension
- More seniors discounts
- Our young people are very important – more thinking about the future
- Volunteering
- Safety (3)
- Large department store downtown
- Seniors treated fairly in our area – lower store prices
- More day trips
- Accessible evening entertainment opportunities
- More option to access affordable prepared foods
- Government support for cooperative housing too allow seniors to purchase housing of their choice (no security through rentals)
- No roundabouts – no space and they are hard to navigate
- Take away green spaces and make sidewalks for people
- Build smaller businesses and comfortable small restaurants to relax in
- No HST
- Helping homeless
- Need for governments to be more generous to seniors

Younger than 55

Enjoy about Community:

- The outdoors and beaches
- The health care available
- Warm winters
- Places like Columbus Centre and Schubert Centre
- Friendly people (3)
- Lots to do if you want to get involved
- Recreation activities available
- Communication of events is very good
- Silverstar Mountain
- Kalamalka Lake
- The arts centre
- I have learned from the seniors in my community – they are a wealth of information

Priorities:

- Affordable and safe housing (4)
 - Safety in community generally
 - Vacant properties should be cleaned up
 - Transportation (3)
 - Affordable services for seniors and low-income people
 - Medical expenses are too high
 - Tuition is too expensive
 - Access to all services and resources (3)
 - Need more extended care facilities to reduce hospital bed load
 - Pedestrian and bike safety measures and lanes – make cars slow down (2)
 - Newer recreation centre, other than the Recreation Complex
 - Create a bypass so the downtown can be safe and calm
 - Stop widening streets in town so seniors can get across them
 - Improve driver skill so fewer pedestrians are hit
 - Improve and increase the level of HandyDart service
-

Community: Electoral Areas**PROFILE**

Sex		Age					Fixed Income	
Male	Female	55-59	60-64	65-69	70+	Other	Yes	No
5	9	3	3	2	3	3	8	2

SURVEY RESULTS

Survey Questions	Yes	No	Don't Know
Q1: Is there enough housing for seniors	0	10	4
Q2: Housing for seniors is affordable	1	9	3
Q3: Is there enough housing for younger people	1	10	3
Q4: Public transportation is sufficient	2	12	0
Q5: Transportation options to medical	1	11	2
Q6: Transportation for disabilities	2	8	4
Q7: Public transportation options are affordable	3	8	3
Q8: Local parks/trails accessible to seniors	8	5	1
Q9: I don't need a car	3	11	0
Q10: Safe when walking across the street	5	8	1
Q11: Affordable recreational activities	4	7	2
Q12: Programs bring youth and seniors together	1	9	4
Q13: Service I use are sufficient for my needs	4	10	0
Q14: Seniors are treated with respect	7	6	1
Q15: Seniors serve in an advisory role	8	4	2
Q16: Community consultations - all ages	3	5	6
Q17: Planning process consider seniors	2	6	6
Q18: Volunteer opportunities for seniors	6	6	2
Q19: Recognition for seniors that volunteer	7	4	3
Q20: Enough paid opportunities for seniors	0	9	5

COMMENTS**Profile: Age: 55-59: Sex: Male****Enjoy about Community:**

- (F) It's small and no big businesses will move in

Priorities:

- Family
- Work
- Protection

Profile: Age: 55-59: Sex: Female

Enjoy about Community:

- (D) Friendly
- (B) The rural lifestyle on the BX
- (B) Small town feel that is disappearing
- (B) The hiking trails and surrounding beauty

Priorities:

- (D) Better health care services and medical staff
- (B) Adequate water supply at affordable cost to grow a garden, clean drinking water
- (B) More hiking opportunities – complete the Grey Canal trail
- (B) Bike trails around Swan Lake
- Much more public access to our lakes as is seen in every other valley community

Profile: Age: 60-64: Sex: Male

Enjoy about Community:

- (D) Small friendly community close to the amenities of Vernon (2)

Priorities:

- (D) Jobs to keep our youth in the area (good paying)
- (D) Better access to medical services
- (D) More affordable housing options for seniors that require assisted living

Profile: Age: 60-64: Sex: Female

Enjoy about Community:

- Not too large and busy yet

Priorities:

- Better health care
- Affordable housing
- Less wait times for better operations

Profile: Age: 65-69: Sex: Male

Enjoy about Community:

- (D) Small friendly slow paced community

Priorities:

- (D) Need more seniors public housing
- (D) Community forest
- (D) Rural economic development
- (D) Rural high speed internet

Profile: Age: 65-69: Sex: Female

Enjoy about Community:

- (D) Small rural community
- (D) People care about other people

Priorities:

- (D) Affordable housing for seniors or others
- (D) More frequent transit to and from Vernon
- (D) More transportation options of seniors who do not drive
- (D) Professional councillors for seniors, youth and families

Profile: Age: 70+ Sex: Male

Enjoy about Community:

- (F) Being a member of the Grindrod Recreation Society and the community keeps a very close watch and contact with me.

Priorities:

- (F) Block Watch
- (F) Maintain the environment (2)
- Health services
- More financial help to maintain my home

Profile: Age: 70+: Sex: Female

Priorities:

- (F) To be able to live in my own home and be independent
- (F) Affordable housing – including maintaining the family home
- (F) A seniors facility that offers services and rides
- (F) Public transportation is needed
- (F) Streets need to be better maintained

Younger than 55

Enjoy about Community:

- Very supportive community
- Everything is very close to our residence

Priorities:

- Affordable housing for seniors
 - Better medical services
 - Better entertainment options
 - Access to better local amenities
-

Community: UNKNOWN**PROFILE****No profile information indicated on survey****SURVEY RESULTS**

Survey Questions	Yes	No	Don't Know
Q1: Is there enough housing for seniors	1	8	1
Q2: Housing for seniors is affordable	0	6	4
Q3: Is there enough housing for younger people	1	7	2
Q4: Public transportation is sufficient	0	8	2
Q5: Transportation options to medical	1	5	4
Q6: Transportation for disabilities	2	6	2
Q7: Public transportation options are affordable	1	5	4
Q8: Local parks/trails accessible to seniors	5	5	0
Q9: I don't need a car	4	6	0
Q10: Safe when walking across the street	4	6	0
Q11: Affordable recreational activities	5	4	1
Q12: Programs bring youth and seniors together	2	4	4
Q13: Service I use are sufficient for my needs	5	5	0
Q14: Seniors are treated with respect	6	2	1
Q15: Seniors serve in an advisory role	4	3	2
Q16: Community consultations - all ages	3	2	4
Q17: Planning process consider seniors	2	3	4
Q18: Volunteer opportunities for seniors	7	1	1
Q19: Recognition for seniors that volunteer	3	5	1
Q20: Enough paid opportunities for seniors	0	6	3

COMMENTS**Enjoy about Community:**

- Small town feel
- Friendly and helpful citizens
- Caring community
- Tolerable winters
- There are functions for seniors
- Vernon is a small friendly City
- No fear of walking anywhere
- Small is good

Priorities:

- Development of small (<1000 sq ft) single family housing
- More bus service to Salmon Arm
- Expanded bus service hours (2)

- Affordable HandyDart service available to seniors and people with disabilities
- Better seniors recreational facilities
- Shopping and arts are too far away to use
- Need more classes and recreational activities aimed at seniors
- More seniors days at grocery stores
- Blood clinic
- Cheap housing for seniors and young
- Permanent RCMP officer in town