

Age-Friendly Communities in Manitoba

Summary of Survey Findings - Arborg

May, 2009

Centre on Aging
University of Manitoba

As part of the Age-Friendly Awareness Luncheon held in Arborg on March 31, 2009, individuals from Arborg were asked to complete a brief questionnaire designed to collect information on the age-friendliness of their community. A total of 22 questionnaires were completed; all individuals were from Arborg. This report summarizes the findings from the 22 individuals who completed the Age-Friendly Communities Survey; 27% identified themselves as a senior.

FINDINGS

Thoughts/Opinions About Housing

Housing	Percent Responding		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
There is enough housing for seniors in my community.	22.7	72.7	4.5
Housing for seniors is affordable in my community.	57.1	23.8	19.0
There is enough subsidized housing for low-income seniors in my community.	19.0	52.4	28.6
The waiting times to get into senior housing, such as assisted living, are reasonable in my community.	23.8	52.4	23.8
There is enough housing for younger people in my community.	9.5	71.4	19.0

Thoughts/Opinions About Transportation

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 in my community.	45.5	40.9	13.6
The public transportation (not provided by family or friends) to and from medical appointments is sufficient in my community.	61.9	23.8	14.3
The transportation that is available for individuals with disabilities (e.g., Handi-Van) is sufficient in my community.	81.8	4.5	13.6
The public transportation (not provided by family or friends), including Handi-Van that is available in my community is affordable for seniors.	81.0	4.8	14.3

Thoughts/Opinions About Infrastructure

Infrastructure	Percent Responding		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
The road signs in my community are adapted to needs of older drivers (e.g., large signs).	59.1	27.3	13.6
There are sidewalks linking residences and essential services in most or all areas of my community.	54.5	45.5	0.0
Sidewalks in most or all areas of my community are well maintained (paved, even and not a lot of cracks).	47.6	52.4	0.0
Snow clearing in my community is done in a timely manner.	85.7	14.3	0.0
There are enough street crosswalks in <i>business areas</i> in my community.	33.3	52.4	14.3
There are enough street crosswalks in <i>residential and/or recreation</i> areas in my community.	30.0	55.0	15.0
There are enough public washrooms in key areas of my community (e.g., business and recreation areas).	40.9	54.5	4.5
Most or all businesses in my community are readily accessible to seniors (e.g., have wheelchair ramps, automatic doors).	38.1	57.1	4.8

Thoughts/Opinions About Safety

Safety	Percent Responding		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Crime and vandalism are a problem in my community.	16.7	66.7	16.7
Seniors feel safe when walking alone during the <i>day</i> in my community.	85.7	9.5	4.8
Seniors feel safe when walking alone during the <i>night</i> in my community.	57.1	28.6	14.3

Thoughts/Opinions About Social Participation/Recreation

Social Participation/Recreation	Percent Responding		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Local parks or walking trails in my community are accessible to seniors.	75.0	25.0	0.0
There are enough exercise classes specifically for seniors in my community.	14.3	61.9	23.8
There are enough recreation programs specifically for seniors in my community (e.g., card games, arts, crafts).	45.0	35.0	20.0
There are enough lifelong learning programs specifically for seniors in my community (e.g., computer courses).	9.5	52.4	38.1
There are enough programs in my community that bring seniors and children together (e.g., school reading programs, children going to nursing homes).	9.5	61.9	28.6
Recreational activities, such as exercise and other recreational programs, are generally affordable for seniors.	38.1	23.8	38.1

Thoughts/Opinions About Community/Work Force Participation

Community/Work Force Participation	Percent Responding		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
There are enough volunteer opportunities for seniors in my community.	52.6	26.3	21.1
There is enough official recognition for seniors who volunteer in my community (e.g., an appreciation banquet or volunteer awards).	42.9	33.3	23.8
There are enough paid job opportunities for seniors in my community.	9.5	52.4	38.1
The job opportunities in my community accommodate the needs of seniors (e.g., part-time work is available).	23.8	42.9	33.3

Thoughts/Opinions About Information/Advocacy

Information/Advocacy	Percent Responding		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Information about community events is readily available to seniors in my community.	57.1	23.8	19.0
Information about services and programs provided by various organizations is readily available to seniors in my community.	61.9	19.0	19.0
Official, written information, such as forms or brochures is adapted to the needs of seniors (e.g., large print).	14.3	38.1	47.6
Public telephone answering services in my community are adapted to the needs of seniors (e.g., instructions are given slowly enough).	23.8	38.1	38.1
There is enough assistance available in my community for completing official forms (e.g., help with filling out income tax forms).	30.0	25.0	45.0
There are enough seniors' advocacy services available in my community (e.g., ombudsman).	19.0	33.3	47.6

Thoughts/Opinions About Respect and Social Inclusion

Respect and Social Isolation	Percent Responding		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Seniors in my community are generally treated with respect.	100.0	0.0	0.0
Seniors serve in an advisory role to municipal government in my community (e.g., there is a seniors' council).	52.4	19.0	28.6
Community consultations in my community specifically include seniors.	30.0	25.0	45.0
Planning processes in my community specifically consider needs of seniors.	52.4	9.5	38.1

Thoughts/Opinions About Health and Community Services

Health and Community Services	Percent Responding		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
The home care services for seniors are sufficient in my community.	42.9	33.3	23.8
The services that help seniors around the home (e.g., snow removal, lawn care, garbage brought to the street) are sufficient in my community.	28.6	47.6	23.8
The congregate meal programs available (e.g., lunch at recreation or senior centre) are sufficient in my community.	66.7	23.8	9.5
The meal delivery services that bring meals to seniors' homes are sufficient in my community.	28.6	47.6	23.8
The health care services that are provided in my community meet needs of seniors (e.g., hospital, physicians).	42.9	42.9	14.3
Public transportation (not provided by family or friends) to health care services that are <i>not</i> provided in my community is sufficient.	38.1	38.1	23.8
Access to health care services that are <i>not</i> provided in my community is generally convenient (e.g., services not too far away, appointment times are convenient).	28.6	38.1	33.3

Summary of the Most Age-Friendly and Least Age-Friendly Areas

The following is a list of the ***most age-friendly aspects***, defined as those areas in which 70% or more of the respondents indicated 'yes'.

- Seniors in my community are generally treated with respect (100.0%).
- Snow clearing in my community is done in a timely manner (85.7%).
- Seniors feel safe when walking alone during the day in my community (85.7%).
- The transportation that is available for individuals with disabilities (e.g., Handi-Van) is sufficient in my community (81.8%).
- The public transportation (not provided by family and friends), including Handi-Van that is available in my community is affordable for seniors (81.0%).
- Local parks or walking trails in my community are accessible to seniors (75.0%).

The following is a list of the ***least age-friendly aspects***, defined as those areas in which 20% or less of the respondents indicated 'yes'.

- There are enough seniors' advocacy services available in my community (e.g., ombudsman) (19.0%).
- There is enough subsidized housing for low-income seniors in my community (19.0%).
- Official, written information, such as forms or brochures is adapted to the needs of seniors (e.g., large prints) (14.3%).
- There are enough exercise classes specifically for seniors in my community (14.3%).
- There is enough housing for seniors in my community (9.5%).
- There are enough lifelong learning programs specifically for seniors in my community (e.g., computer courses) (9.5%).
- There are enough programs in my community that bring seniors and children together (e.g., school reading programs, children going to nursing homes) (9.5%).
- There are enough paid job opportunities for seniors in my community (9.5%).

PRIORITY AREAS

Individuals were also asked to write down the top five issues they felt needed to be most urgently addressed in their community. Eleven participants (50.0%) identified at least one priority area. These written comments were grouped into the priority areas as shown in Figure 1: **streets/sidewalks** (e.g., more sidewalks, sidewalk repair and maintenance, need for crosswalks, poor night lighting on streets); **services/activities** (e.g., meal delivery, more structured activities and exercise groups for seniors, more opportunities for intergenerational activities), **access** (e.g., curbs are too high, more ramps and automatic doors, need easier access to many buildings), **healthcare** (e.g., more doctors needed, improve home care services); **transportation** (e.g., more senior transportation, affordable transportation to larger cities); **housing** (e.g., more affordable housing for low income seniors); and **job opportunities** (e.g., more senior job opportunities).

Figure 1: Priority Areas Identified by Participants

