

# *Community Age-Friendly Priorities*

*Morris, Manitoba*

Age-Friendly Morris Advisory Committee  
Community Meeting Summary  
October 27, 2008

Community consultations are being held with seniors and community members in a number of communities in Manitoba as part of a larger AgeFriendly Initiative. The goal of these community consultations is to assist communities to prioritize issues that will help them form action plans to make the community as age-friendly as possible. In October of 2008, fifteen individuals in Morris, Manitoba came together to talk about age-friendly priorities and issues within their community. The following is a summary of the age-friendly priorities identified at the meeting.



## Priority

### Expand housing options for seniors in Morris

- ▶ **More intermediate housing**
- ▶ **Affordable housing options**

#### Potential Actions:

- Review accessibility at existing housing units, (e.g., doorways, bathtubs)
- Assess waiting lists for local facilities and inform prospective tenants
- Develop new housing accommodations in the community
  - Increase range of choice and affordability
  - Intermediate housing and assisted living options (that provide meals, health services etc.) are needed
  - Consider the proximity to essential services (e.g., grocery store)
  - Examine Housing Report (August 2008) for information and recommendations



## Priority

### Improve communication and increase awareness



#### Potential Actions:

- Increase awareness and educate seniors and their families about available programs and seniors' services
- Develop a Directory of Seniors' Services
- Use multiple methods of communication to spread information (e.g., word of mouth, ads in newspaper, town newsletter, poster in housing units, public bulletin boards, digital sign, etc.)
- Ensure that communication efforts are ongoing

## Priority

### Improve access to buildings in Morris including businesses, restaurants, and the medical clinic

#### Potential Actions:

- Increase awareness and address access issues
- Attention needs to be focused on building entrances (e.g., heavy doors, steep ramps, uneven and 'bumpy' thresholds, etc.)



## Priority

Consider the development of a seniors' centre in the existing Davidson Memorial Centre meeting area



### Potential Actions:

- Having a place that seniors can call their own is important
- Leadership and coordination of seniors' activities and programs is essential to their success
- Consider changing the name of the Davidson Memorial Centre to the Davidson Memorial Seniors' Centre

## Priority

Improve access to and development of the Morris Centre

### Potential Actions:

- Pave the Morris Centre parking lot, especially the entranceway, to make it more accessible for those with mobility challenges
- Develop existing space beside the fitness area into a gathering place for seniors to socialize
- To further promote socialization, consider the creation of a coffee shop with staff that serve beverages (as opposed to drink machines)
- Offer supervision at the exercise facility so seniors can use equipment/machines more confidently



## Priority

Develop more trails/pathways in Morris and better utilize existing green space so people of all ages can benefit from outdoor physical activity



### Potential Actions:

- In addition to current plans to create a new walking trail in Morris, also consider the development of bicycle trails
- Offer a variety of activities on existing green spaces (e.g., lawn bowling, Frisbee)

## Priority

Promote more intergenerational activities and further opportunities for people of all ages to interact in Morris



### Potential Actions:

- Recommend programs such as: Adopt-a-Grandparent Program
- Suggest visits by school children to seniors' residences, etc.

## Priority

Assess means of developing sustainable respite care services

### Potential Actions:

- Suggest use of personal care home beds instead of hospital acute care beds



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