

Housing



Community Consultations

In 2008, the Manitoba government launched the Age-Friendly Initiative, formally inviting communities throughout Manitoba to join the Initiative and work toward becoming more age-friendly.

Age-Friendly Manitoba Initiative communities are provided with an opportunity to participate in a community consultation as a way of identifying priorities. The consultations are made possible through a partnership between the Manitoba Seniors & Healthy Aging Secretariat and the University of Manitoba's Centre on Aging, as part of the Age-Friendly Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) project. During the community consultations, which are facilitated by CURA staff, people are invited to discuss their views on how age-friendly their community is and what areas need improvement. Prior to the group discussion, a survey is distributed to get individual views on how age-friendly the community is.

By the end of March 2011, the Age-Friendly CURA team conducted consultations in 46 communities. Forty-nine (49) communities completed an age-friendly survey for a total of 1274 surveys. Summarized here are the collective group discussions and survey responses related to housing.

Group Discussion Summary

During the community consultation, participants engage in a facilitated group discussion to identify priorities needed to make their community more age-friendly. By highlighting what is working well in the community and what needs improvement, the CURA team prepares a report for each community reflecting the discussion. The completed report is shared with the community's Age-Friendly Committee.

The CURA team combined and summarized priorities and potential actions from all the community consultation reports (until March 2011). In total, 44 of the 46 communities mentioned priorities related to housing. What follows is a summary of the most commonly identified housing-related themes that emerged from the discussions.

Community consultation reports can be found on the Age-Friendly Manitoba website: <http://www.agefriendlymanitoba.ca>

Common Themes

Availability

- Develop assisted living housing.
- Develop a personal care home.
- Increase housing for families.
- Increase rental options.
- Develop 55+ housing.
- Provide housing with a continuum of care.

Affordability

- Ensure affordable housing.
- Increase range of choice and cost options.
- Develop subsidized housing.
- Encourage developers to build affordable housing for seniors, including 55+ housing.

Access

- Review accessibility at existing housing units for seniors.
- Make door entries more accessible.

General

- Offer social programs for residents of seniors' apartments.
- Assess current housing need (review wait lists).
- Assess/plan for upcoming need.

Housing Survey Summary

The following section summarizes responses from the 49 communities to the housing-related questions of the survey:

- Over 60% of those that completed the survey felt that there is not enough housing that meets the needs of seniors in their community.
- Approximately 42% of respondents agreed that housing for seniors in their community is affordable.
- Less than one-fifth of those that completed the survey felt that there is enough subsidized housing for low-income seniors and that the wait times to get into senior housing that provides supports to seniors are reasonable.
- One-half of respondents indicated that there is not enough housing for younger people in their community.

	Percent Responding (%)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
There is enough housing that meets the needs of seniors in my community.	19.3	64.4	16.4
Housing for seniors is affordable in my community.	41.9	28.4	29.7
There is enough subsidized housing for low-income seniors in my community.	15.7	53.5	30.7
The waiting times are reasonable to get into senior housing that provides supports to seniors (e.g., assisted living, nursing homes).	17.9	50.1	31.9
There is enough housing for younger people in my community.	29.0	49.5	21.5



This handout was developed by the Age-Friendly Community CURA, which is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Download the PDF from <http://umanitoba.ca/centres/aging/>

Centre on Aging, University of Manitoba | 338 Isbister Building | Winnipeg MB R3T 2N2
 Tel: (204) 474-8754 | Fax: (204) 474-7576 | E-mail: aging@umanitoba.ca



**UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA**