

Transportation



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 transportation.

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, 36 of the 46 communities mentioned priorities related to transportation. What follows is a summary of the most commonly identified transportation-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

Handi-Van and Volunteer Driver Availability

- Create regular scheduling.
- Expand services (times, evening/weekends).
- Promote trip times.
- Recruit and train more drivers.
- Coordinate existing volunteers.

Affordability

- Ensure all options are affordable.
- Coordinate cost-saving ways for groups to travel to urban centres.
- Acquire a community van to transport seniors affordably.
- Investigate subsidies for handi-van users.

General

- Ensure reliable service.
- Promote all forms of transportation.
- Perform a needs assessment of transportation.

Transportation Survey Summary

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

- One-half of those that completed the survey felt that public transportation to shopping, senior centres, and other events is not sufficient in their community; and close to one-half also felt that public transportation to and from medical appointments is insufficient.
- Nearly one-half of respondents agreed that transportation available for individuals with disabilities, such as the Handi-van, is sufficient in their community.
- Approximately one-half of respondents agreed that public transportation (including the Handi-van) is affordable for seniors and that there are enough volunteer drivers available.
- While 70 percent of those that completed the survey indicated that there are enough parking spaces close to services and stores in their community, only around one-half felt that there are enough designated handi-cap parking spaces.

	Percent Responding (%)		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
The public transportation (not provided by family or friends) to shopping, senior centres, religious/cultural events, and so forth is sufficient.	31.9	50.7	17.4
The public transportation to and from medical appointments is sufficient.	32.3	47.4	20.3
The transportation available for those with disabilities (e.g., Handi-van) is sufficient.	47.9	30.5	21.7
The public transportation, including Handi-van, that is available is affordable for seniors.	49.3	20.2	30.6
There are volunteer drivers available for seniors who need transportation.	49.9	18.3	31.8
There are enough parking spaces close to services and stores.	70.5	21.2	8.3
There are enough "handicap" parking spaces close to services and stores.	49.0	37.5	13.5

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

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