

Community Age-Friendly Priorities

Pinawa, Manitoba

Age-Friendly Pinawa Advisory Committee
Community Meeting Summary
November 10, 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 November of 2008, sixteen individuals in Pinawa, 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 **Encourage health professionals to relocate to Pinawa and assess the town's need for additional health and community resources**

▶ **Doctors**

▶ **Health support services**

Potential Actions:

- Encourage doctors to live and practice in Pinawa
- Review the need for provision of professional health services in Pinawa (e.g., optometrists, mental health workers, support workers)
- Assess the community's need for services such as: Meals on Wheels, grocery delivery, and pharmacy delivery
- Determine whether Pinawa needs a 'safe place' for children, teens, and women in abusive relationships and families



Priority **Invest in Pinawa's youth**

▶ **Assistance**

▶ **Resources**



Potential Actions:

- Develop resources and community supports that encourage youth of all socio-economic groups to participate in activities. For example:
 - Offer a child and youth breakfast program
 - Provide sports equipment and musical instruments to youth in need of assistance (e.g., lending program, subsidization, 'recycling' program)

Priority **Improve communication and increase awareness**

Potential Actions:

- Educate community members about existing programs/activities and transportation options
- Ensure that ways of communicating are 'age-friendly'. For example:
 - Enlarge the font on seniors' brochures
 - Examine whether the local community television channel can be made 'age-friendly' (i.e., increase text; reduce speed)
- Display upcoming community events at a central location (e.g., large sign near the mall)



Priority **Encourage people of all ages to volunteer and provide more volunteer recognition**

Potential Actions:

- Find ways to attract volunteers of all ages, especially young people
- Formally recognize volunteers for their contributions

Priority **Develop a place for the seniors' club that can also function as a multi-use, multi-age facility**

Potential Actions:

- A physical space for seniors' daytime activities is needed
- Examine and assess potential options in the community
- Expand seniors' programs (e.g., exercises, meal program)

Priority **Assess the need for more creative use of outdoor spaces**

▶ **Multi-generational use**

▶ **Maintenance of outdoor spaces**

Potential Actions:

- Improve outdoor spaces for multigenerational use by including creative activities such as: shuffleboard, lawn bowling, benches and tables, gazebos, etc.
- Ensure that outdoor spaces are properly maintained (e.g., grass is cut regularly)

Priority **Improve building access and safety**



Potential Actions:

- Improve approaches to buildings (e.g., between Book Break and the mall)
- Buildings need better wheelchair access and signage that indicates that the building is wheelchair accessible
- Replace heavy doors or add adequate timed automatic door option
- Increase and maintain the lighting around buildings such as the mall
- Improve washroom accessibility and add clear signage
- Increase rest areas (e.g., benches)

Priority **Improve safety and accessibility of sidewalks and trails**

Potential Actions:

- Sidewalks
 - Ensure there are sufficient sidewalks so people can safely walk to buildings without having to walk on the road (e.g., connect sidewalks to the new senior residence)
 - Ensure that sidewalks are safe through ongoing maintenance: cleared of snow accumulation, sanded when ice covered, level (uneven blocks and cracks are repaired)
 - Improve sidewalk curbs so they have slanted access for people with scooters, wheelchairs, or strollers
- Trails
 - Even trail surfaces for safe walking
 - Develop a trail circuit around town that would accommodate scooters and strollers
- Roadway safety/traffic issues
 - Increase the number of marked crosswalks
 - Enforce traffic rules (e.g., vehicles must stop at stop signs)



Priority **Expand housing options for seniors in Pinawa**

► **Accessibility**

► **More intermediate housing**

Potential Actions:

- Review accessibility at existing housing units
- Develop new accommodations in the community:
 - Increase range of choice and affordability
 - Assisted living and supportive housing (that provide meals, activities, housekeeping, health services, etc.) are needed
 - Longer term goal: Build a personal care home in Pinawa



Priority **Improve transportation options for seniors in Pinawa**

► **Reliable**

► **Affordable**

Potential Actions:

- Increase communication about available transportation options
- Ensure transportation options are affordable and reliable
- Coordinate the Handivan transportation service between municipalities so it is available on a regular basis (e.g., Pinawa to Lac du Bonnet)
- Assess the need for transportation between Pinawa and larger centres (such as Winnipeg and Selkirk) for appointments, medical services, events and shopping

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