



## **September 2007 Project Communiqué**

### **'Aging with Disabilities'**

#### **Welcome everyone to our September Project Communiqué!**

Everyone is enjoying the lovely colourful leaves at this time of year. All of you have been very active with the project over the past few weeks and we appreciate your hard work. We are looking forward to our first two round table sessions in Manitoba and in Nova Scotia in October. Thanks for all of your contributions to this Communiqué. This is your vehicle to let all of us know across the country know about happenings related to Aging and Disability in your area. Looks like we have many things to share and explore.

#### **1. National and Provincial Advisory Committee Updates**

##### **National**

- Age Friendly Cities Guide was launched by the World Health Organization October 1, 2007. Please follow the link if you would like to download the guide or read the press release. [www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2007/pr53/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2007/pr53/en/index.html)
- International Federation of Aging Conference + exposition on aging and design will be held in September 2008 in Montreal CMHC might collaborate. International Federation on Ageing, 9th Global Conference <http://www.expoageing.com/2/home.html>

- Laurie and Olga will speak at CMHC National Housing Research Committee's Working Group on Distinct Needs in early November 2007 in relation to our visitable housing project.
- James Hunsberger a member of the national advisory committee is a member of Citizens with Disability-Ontario. They have developed an ad hoc committee for Aging and Disabilities with hopes to steer the focus in this direction for the future.

### **British Columbia**

- Measuring Up The North Project

Is a project in Northern British Columbia is a partnership between the North Central Municipal Association and the BC Paraplegic Association with supporting partners 2010 Legacies Now and the BC Healthy Communities Initiative. The goal of the project is to assist 41 communities and regional districts to develop livable, senior-friendly, disability-friendly, universally designed communities. The project will address both accessibility and inclusion and will use the "Measuring Up" tool created by 2010 Legacies Now Society as well as other relevant tools. With strong support through Northern BC, the project will assist communities through locally controlled initiatives potentially increase participation of seniors and people with disabilities, employment rates, tourism opportunities, economic development, sustainability, retirement living and cooperative ventures. The intent is to build better communities for all citizens. The project will engage local governments, disability and seniors organizations, businesses, and citizens in active dialogue, assessment and planning for their community. The project is funded by the Real Estate Foundation of BC, the Nechako Kitamaat Development Fund and United Way Prince

George. For more information, contact Laurie Ringaert, Project Director at: **250-563-6942** or at [measurenorth@bcpara.org](mailto:measurenorth@bcpara.org).

## **Manitoba**

- CCDS has received a \$10,000 grant from the Winnipeg Foundation– we will be looking at different neighbourhoods in Winnipeg, survey the neighbourhoods on how visitable our neighbourhoods are. This is in the development stages with Larry Hurtig and Harry Paine from the Manitoba Advisory Committee.
- CCDS's dissemination and information sharing strategy tested in Manitoba - project and related topics presentations to targeted groups (Post-polio Network on invitation of Larry Hurtig, member of Manitoba Advisory group)
- Active Living Coalition of Older Adults (ALCOA)- Manitoba  
ALCOA is a coalition of 43 Manitoba organizations that promote active living. On October 11, 2007 they hosted an event that officially launched their website and shared their programs with the public. They include a speakers bureau, which for now include topics of active living and falls prevention, links to all partner organizations and other resources for older adults.

Vision: ALCOA-MB envisions a society where all older Manitobans are leading active lifestyles thereby contributing to their physical and overall well-being.

Mission: ALCOA-MB, a partnership of organizations and individuals having interest in the field of aging, encourages older Manitobans to maintain and enhance their well-being through a lifestyle that embraces daily physical activities.

For more information visit [www.alcoamb.org/](http://www.alcoamb.org/)

- On September 24-25, 2007, Laura Rempel and Colleen Watters attended the "Disability, Health and Wellness: Options for Healthy Living" conference facilitated by the Society for Manitobans with Disabilities (SMD) and the Canadian Health Network Living with Disabilities Affiliate. CCDS purchased a booth at the conference in order to network and increase awareness of 3 projects, the current Aging with Disabilities project, and past Visitability and New Horizons for Seniors projects. The conference was designed to create awareness and begin the process of advancing the health and wellness of people living with disabilities or chronic health conditions. Over 350 delegates from various parts of Manitoba attended. Conference themes included: Healthy Living, Community Supports and Mental Health Promotion, Access to Health Care Services, Achieving Healthy Work and Supports, Information and Services. This included home and community care, care giving, respite care and transportation.
- The CCDS Board of Directors met with Laura Olsen Director, Programs Directorate of the Office for Disability Issues September 28 to share project progress and discuss future directions.

### **Nova Scotia**

- The NS Seniors Secretariat is now a government department called Department of Seniors
- A home builder (Harmony Homes in Windsor) has made a commitment to universal designed housing in Nova Scotia. The link to more information is in the article link provided below. <http://easternviews.blogspot.com/2007/09/no-place-like-home.html>

- Designing for Inclusion Symposium, October 20, 2007 in Halifax hosted by Dalhousie University, School of Occupational Therapy and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.
- October 17, 2007- Fall Consultation with the Department of Seniors of the Nova Scotia government (formerly the NS Seniors Secretariat) will host a consultation for representatives from seniors groups around the province. This meeting provides seniors and senior servers with an update on what is happening in government around senior issues. The consultation is by invitation only. It is suggested that the Action Plan, which was to flow out of the NS Strategy for Positive Aging, will be presented at this meeting.
- Building Links between the Aging and Developmental Disability Sectors in Nova Scotia  
The Next Stage: Retirement Planning for Older Adults with Developmental Disabilities Project Update

This three-year project, funded through a financial contribution by the Public Health Agency of Canada and led by Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) in collaboration with community partners, is in its third and final year of activities. It is focused on building links between the aging and developmental disability sectors, for the purpose of fostering social inclusion. The project grew from an expressed need of service providers for information about healthy aging and community opportunities for older adults who might want to retire. To date, there has been little information about the needs of aging adults with developmental disabilities and little attention focused on program and service options for them. This project offers an opportunity to learn what is needed to support participation in their communities and to "age in place". The project has many

components, reflecting a belief of the project team that many avenues of activity are needed to influence change. For more information about the project, please contact the Project Coordinator at NSCC, [Samantha.butler@nsc.ca](mailto:Samantha.butler@nsc.ca).

## **2. Summary of Project Activities**

### **Environmental Scan and Annotated Bibliography**

The first draft of the environmental scan and annotated bibliography was completed at the end of August. Advisory members were asked to comment and provide information on any gaps that may exist in the documents. The project team is in the process of following up with all of the suggestions and will distribute another draft that includes all of the additional services, initiatives and documents the advisory committee identified.

### **Interviews, Roundtables and On-line Survey**

The interview questions and the roundtable themes were developed and have been approved by the CCDS Ethics Committee. The project team will also interview some participants of the roundtables, primarily those in the area of government policy. Roundtables in Manitoba and Nova Scotia will be occurring this month. Interviews will be completed by the project team to provide consistency in methodology.

The On-line survey will be developed in the next month with an expected launch in November. This will incorporate themes raised in the roundtable discussions. These questions will also go

through CCDS Ethics approval before placement on the on-line survey tool called 'Survey Monkey'.

### **Recommendations for Criteria for the Framework**

Recommendations for the development of 'criteria' will be provided based on complete analysis of environmental scan, annotated bibliography, individual interviews and round tables. We plan to have 3 round table discussions in each target provinces speaking with our advisory members, service providers and consumers. Our first draft of recommendations should be completed by the end of October, after completion of the first two round tables.

### **Website**

The Aging with Disabilities website is now on-line! Before we begin to advertise its existence we ask for feedback from the advisory committee. The advisory committee and other affiliates of CCDS will be asked to post a link to the website on their organizations websites.

Please take a look at [www.agingwithdisabilities.com](http://www.agingwithdisabilities.com)

### **Project Description Handout**

Taking into consideration the feedback we received from the advisory committee the one page handout was modified. The final handout is attached to the email. Please feel free to make copies and distribute this document to your colleagues or anyone interested in the project. Please help us spread the word!

## **3. Calendar of Events**

- **British Columbia Advisory Meeting**

November 1, 2007 11:45 am-12:30 pm (MB time)

- **Manitoba Advisory Meeting**

November 2, 2007 2:00-3:00pm (MB time)

- **National Advisory Meeting**

November 7, 2007 10:30 – 11:30am (MB time)

- **Nova Scotia Advisory Meeting**

November 7, 2007 12:45-1:45pm (MB time)

- **Round Tables**

October 12, 15 and 16 – Manitoba

October 22- 24 – Nova Scotia

January 9-11 – British Columbia

- **National Conference** – tentative date

March 4-7, 2008 – National "Aging with Disabilities" conference

#### **4. Keep those News Items Coming In!**

Thank you to everyone for their comments and contributions to the project over the past month. Remember to send in your news items for placement in the Communiqué to Laura by the end of the third week of each month.

Should you have any questions as we move along in the project, please do not hesitate to contact us.

- Olga Krassioukova-Enns ([executivedirector@disabilitystudies.ca](mailto:executivedirector@disabilitystudies.ca))

- Laurie Ringaert (Iringaert@bcpara.org)
- Laura Rempel ([research3@disabilitystudies.ca](mailto:research3@disabilitystudies.ca))

**Have a Wonderful Month!**