

AGING WITH DISABILITIES

Development of a Comprehensive Knowledge-based Framework to Address
the Needs of Canadians with Long-Term Disabilities who are Aging



HOUSING

CAREGIVERS/ SUPPORTS

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

TRANSPORTATION

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Welcome to our October & November 'Aging with Disabilities' Project Communiqué!

We are combining the last two months worth of updates, as this time has been extremely busy and productive. All of you have been very active with the project over the past few weeks and we appreciate your contribution, commitment and hard work. We are looking forward to the final roundtables, interviews and conference planning. Thank you for all of your contributions to this Communiqué. This is your vehicle to let all of us know about happenings related to Aging and Disability in your area and across the country.

1. National and Provincial Advisory Committee Updates

An updated list of Advisory Committee Members was requested by a member, please find the list attached to the email.

National

- Visitable Housing Communiqué (November 2007). This update will be distributed every two months to provide an update of Canadian visitability initiatives to maintain and build our national network that began as part of CCDS' project on "Understanding the Status of Visitability in Canada" funded by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Province of Manitoba. Please see the attached document.
- Advisory member Chris Stark shared information that supplemental oxygen hearings for air travel were taking place, and will determine the availability of services and ability to fly. More information available on www.cta.gc.ca

- Advisory member Peggy Stewart attended a conference put on by Halton Region in Burlington, Ontario on accessible and visitable housing and aging and disability. **Creating an Accessible Future: Housing in Halton Region** event is part of a short term priority to develop design guidelines for accessible housing - both market and publicly supported housing in Halton Region. They are looking at other policies, tools and resources to facilitate the creation of, and access to, more accessible housing. This initiative is part of the Region's Comprehensive Housing Strategy.

British Columbia

- Towns for Tomorrow opens the door for B.C.'s smaller communities to improve their local infrastructure and become even better places to live and work. The Province is providing \$21 million for capital investments that enhance community infrastructure and create legacies for the future. Projects supported include water quality and energy improvements, enhancement of protective and emergency infrastructure services, as well as the development of recreation, tourism or cultural amenities with long-term benefits for local citizens. Project selection criteria include:
 - Contribution towards community greenhouse gas emissions reductions;
 - Improved public and environmental health;
 - Advancing ActNow BC's principle of being more physically active; and
 - Building seniors-friendly and disability-friendly communities.

Local governments with populations of 5,000 or less and the Central Coast Regional District can apply to Towns for Tomorrow for grant funding. Under the cost-share program, the Province will provide 80% of the funding for approved projects up to \$500,000, with communities funding the remaining 20%. A total of \$7 million is available each year. Source: www.townsfortomorrow.gov.bc.ca/program_description.html

- LocalMotion Program
Province of BC - Ministry of Community Services and Ministry of Transportation - to promote, enhance active living in their communities and promote the age and disability friendly initiatives.

LocalMotion provides local governments funding assistance for capital projects that make communities greener, healthier and more active and accessible places in which to live. This program provides extra resources for projects that encourage people to get out and be more active, support a reduction in car dependency and associated greenhouse gas emissions and meets the mobility needs of seniors and people with disabilities.

The Province is providing \$40 million for investment in capital projects that build bike paths, walkways and greenways and build seniors-friendly

and disability-friendly communities. LocalMotion funds are also available for projects that support community playgrounds and children's parks activities. Source: www.localmotion.gov.bc.ca/

Manitoba

- "How Visitable are our Communities? A Winnipeg Case Study" project funded by Winnipeg Foundation– A meeting is scheduled between builders, community newspapers and an MLA on December 20, 2007 to gain support for the inclusion of visitable housing as an option in a new development in Winnipeg called Sage Creek.
- Development of a Mayor's Seniors Committee for Winnipeg. Wednesday, October 24, 2007. Mayor Sam Katz has named 13 people to a new Seniors Advisory Council that will begin meeting in November, the mayor's office announced Tuesday. The council will advise the mayor's office on neighbourhood safety, transportation, recreation and other issues, the mayor's office said. CCDS President of the Board, George Dyck is a member of this council.
- Centre On Aging, University of Manitoba, receives Funding. An article in the Winnipeg Free Press on October 25 indicates that the Centre on Aging will receive \$1 million for a study on aging in Manitoba is expected to examine areas of public transit, housing, social services and medical care.

Nova Scotia

- An advisory member informed us that the Nova Scotia Department of Health has new funding for a Housing Assistance Program to help people age in place. The program intends to be up and running in Spring 2008.

2. Summary of Project Activities

Environmental Scan

The national and provincial environmental scans have gone through multiple revisions, with advisory members from all provinces checking over the programs, services, organization descriptions, gaps and sources to check for accuracy, relevance and usability of the document.

December 17, 2007 is the last chance for changes to be submitted to the project team.

Annotated Bibliography

The research team is continuing to add to the annotated bibliography as the advisory committees or research team locate new information.

Roundtables

From the two roundtables that were conducted in Manitoba and Nova Scotia we developed an unanalysed roundtable summary for the advisory committees to review. We have begun to analyze the data and will continue to conduct secondary analysis in the future once the British Columbia Roundtables are

complete. A big thank you goes to both project partners and our roundtable facilitator for all of their hard work.

The main topic areas that were raised include:

- Participation, inclusion and accessibility
- Identity, language, attitudes and independence
- Poverty makes all of the topics we are addressing more difficult
- Inaccessible built environment (communities)
- Adequate transportation as it links all services, housing and communities.
- Affordable, adequate, accessible housing. Seniors housing seems to be segregated from the community
- Caregiving- formal and informal care providers
- Rural and urban issues
- Information sharing between consumers, service providers and disability and seniors organizations
- Demand for services has increased and the provinces haven't followed with increased resources.

Manitoba

Manitoba hosted 3 roundtables discussions on October 12, 15-16 and gained rich information from the group of 6 advisory members, 10 consumers and 10 service providers. Of all participants who attended the roundtables 15 people were wheelchair or scooter users, three had mobility disabilities that did not require the use of a wheelchair, one person was a caregiver and had mobility disabilities, another was an individual who is Deaf-Blind and the remaining six people did not have disabilities. Participants ranged in age from their early 50s to their mid-80s. The roundtables were hosted by our partner organization TenTen Sinclair Housing.

Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia hosted 3 roundtables discussions on October 22, 23 and 24 and gained rich information from the group of 5 advisory members, 11 consumers and 9 service providers. Of all participants who attended the roundtables seven individuals identified as persons with disabilities, one had an intellectual disability, seven others had various physical disabilities ranging from arthritis to MS, Muscular Dystrophy and Polio. One individuals also indicated he had heart difficulties in addition to his physical disabilities. Nine other participants did not indicate whether they had disabilities. Participants ranged in age from their 50's to their 70's. The roundtables were hosted by our partner organization Let Abilities Work Partnership Society in the Disabled Persons Commission boardroom.

British Columbia

Roundtable planning of the British Columbia for January 9, 10 and 11 is ongoing. BC Paraplegic Association, our Partner Organization, are planning logistics, sending out invitations to key individuals and organizations in British Columbia and working with the project.

Interviews

We are in the process of reviewing the interview questions, to better investigate themes raised at the roundtable discussions. Interviews will commence in January. If required we will bring the questions back to through the ethics review process. Interview participants are being identified in the three provinces as to who will best provide additional depth of information provided to us by the roundtable participants.

Website

Aging with Disabilities Web Forum is now active! Please visit the website, register then start the dialogue on a national and inter-provincial scale. You can ask questions, inform people about initiatives you are working on, share documents, reports and learn about other organizations' work on Aging with Disabilities. There are 4 forums running, one for the broad topic of Aging with Disabilities, then one for each of our topics of Housing, Transportation and Caregiving/ Supports. By registering to the main forum you will have access to all four forums. If you have any questions please contact Laura Rempel.

www.agingwithdisabilities.com/forum

Inter-Provincial Conference

There are many ideas in development. One idea we are planning is to connect provincial government Seniors Secretariats and Disability Issues Offices to discuss the recent reports on age friendly cities in relation to disability and our project topics, and potential for further collaboration of the two sectors. We plan to fund 3-5 advisory members from each province to participate in the meetings.

3. Calendar of Events

- **Roundtable**
January 9-11 – Vancouver, British Columbia
- **Inter-Provincial Conference**– tentative date
March 10-12, 2008

4. Keep those Updates Coming In!

Thank you to everyone for your comments and contributions to the project over the past two months. 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)
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Have A Wonderful Holiday Season!