Inclusive Environmental Design and Social Considerations
The 27th Annual John K. Friesen Conference
May 16, 2018
“It is fair to say that our current suburbs are no place to grow old. “

Glenn Miller, “No Place to Grow Old: How Canadian Suburbs Can Become Age-Friendly” (IRPP Insight, March 2017)
“The work being carried out to make communities more age-friendly is still removed from the formal planning and development processes that determine the physical form of urban and suburban neighbourhoods.”

Glenn Miller, “No Place to Grow Old: How Canadian Suburbs Can Become Age-Friendly”
CMHC’s Community Indicators for an Aging Population

- Neighbourhood walkability
- Transportation
- Safety
- Housing
- Access to services
- Community engagement
National Housing Co-Investment Fund

High-performing
- Energy-efficient
- Viable
- Responds to need

Affordable
- 30% of units must have rents at less than 80% of median market rents
- Minimum of 20 years.

Inclusive
- Proximity to services
- Accessible
- Priority groups
- Integrated services

Partnerships
Universal Design Aims at the Whole Population

The design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size and ability.
Universal Design Principle 1 – Equitable Use

example: a tilt mirror for optimal viewing
Principle 2 – Flexibility in Use

example: a wheeled cabinet glides easily in and out of place
Principle 3 – Simple and Intuitive

example: visually contrasting, tactile stove and oven controls are easy to interpret and use
Principle 4 – Perceptible Information

example:
clearly visible steps and handrail
Principle 5 – Tolerance for Error

example:
automatic shut-offs for heating elements or taps; temperature-limiting controls for taps and showerheads
Principle 6 – Low Physical Effort

example:
lever door handles, D-shaped drawer handles, pull-down shelves in the upper cabinet
Principle 7 – Size and Space for Approach and Use

example: light switches and electric outlets at convenient height
Exterior Spaces Design Considerations

- Site layout
- Wayfinding
- Pathways and walkways
- Safety
- Maintenance
- Protection from the elements
- Accessible entrances

Photos by Ron Wickman
Visitability

- An economical approach to universal design
- Three basic access features:
  - no-step entry
  - wider doors and doorways on the main floor
  - at least a half-bath on the main floor

Photos by Ron Wickman and CMHC
Partnership Approach to Social Inclusion

- Identify barriers and resolve issues
- Promoting inclusive design through a partnership approach
  - Engage community stakeholders
  - Identify resources
Resources for Local Governments

Outlines the broad steps to creating a housing strategy for an age-friendly community.

Free download from:
www.cmhc.ca/observer
Access via Housing Observer Online

www.cmhc.ca/observer
ESDC New Horizons for Seniors Program

Supporting projects led or inspired by seniors

Do you have an idea for a project that promotes seniors’ volunteerism, engagement and social networking?

SUBMIT YOUR PROJECT PROPOSAL

Provides funding up to $5,000 and up to $25,000 for projects for seniors

APPLY NOW

Until June 15, 2018 for funding for your organization’s project

CLOSE TO 1,905 COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS APPROVED IN 2017

Program objectives

- Promote volunteerism among seniors
- Engage community seniors through mentoring of others
- Support social inclusion and participation of seniors
- Provide capital assistance for community seniors projects and/or programs
- Expand awareness of elder abuse, including financial abuse

Visit Canada.ca/funding-new-horizons-seniors-community