

Boomers Come of Retirement Age: What Are the Prospects?

13TH ANNUAL JOHN K. FRIESEN CONFERENCE

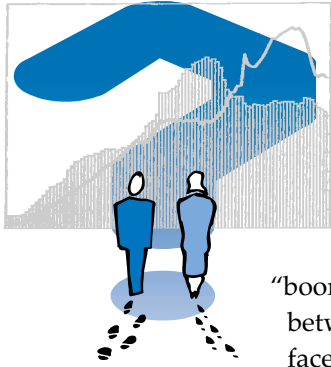
Thursday–Friday, June 6–7, 2002

Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre



SIMON FRASER
UNIVERSITY
AT HARBOUR CENTRE

Boomers Come of Retirement Age: What Are the Prospects?



Organized by the Gerontology Research Centre at Simon Fraser University, this conference will deal with major issues

“boomers”—people born between 1946 and 1964—will face when they retire later

this decade. These issues include health care, public and private pensions, financial planning and the role of the media in shaping public policy.

There has been a shift away from the notion of “entitlement” to serious consideration of privatization, meaning greater individual responsibility for one’s own future in retirement. This conference addresses the prevailing belief that population aging is creating a crisis with regard to sustainability of Canada’s social programs. It will contrast that perspective with one of “manageability.” Experts from the European Union and Canada will examine policy issues with a view to considering alternatives and options.

Questions to be addressed include:

- What are the experiences of countries with populations older than ours?
- What has been tried? What worked? What didn’t work?
- What options remain to be explored for the benefit of future retirees?
- Will “boomers” play a strong role in securing a sound retirement for themselves?

This conference will be of interest to “boomers” and their families, policy planners, health and social service practitioners, and those who produce and market goods and services to pre- and post-retirees.

Program

JUNE 6, 2002

9:00–9:15 am

Welcome and Introduction

Gloria Gutman, PhD, Director, Gerontology Research Centre, Simon Fraser University

9:15–10:15 am

Health Care and Caregiving: Whose Responsibility? International Perspectives.

- Speaker: **Alan Walker**, PhD, Department of Sociological Studies, University of Sheffield, England
- Chair: **Gloria Gutman**, PhD.

This session will examine major demographic trends regarding population aging and the impact of privatization of health care on both clients and carers, many of whom will be baby boomers. Dr Walker will raise questions about the responsibilities of individuals and governments, and discuss the implications of privatization. He will describe what is happening internationally, in particular, the impact of the changes that were implemented in Great Britain.

10:15–10:30 am

Refreshment Break

10:30 am–12:00 noon

The Future of Medicare: A Real or Invented Crisis?

- Speaker: **Evelyn Shapiro**, MA, Professor and Senior Scholar, Department of Community Health Services, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba
- Chair: **Michael Hayes**, PhD, Associate Director, Institute of Health Research and Education, SFU

Professor Shapiro’s presentation will address the following questions: 1) What is involved in the current health policy debate? 2) What is the evidence on key issues? 3) What changes should we be making in health care generally and in long term care specifically?

- Respondent: **Kimberlyn McGrail**, MPH, Doctoral Candidate, Dept. of Health Care and Epidemiology, UBC

The John K. Friesen Conference Series

This conference is the thirteenth offering in the John K. Friesen Conference Series in Gerontology. The series is designed to meet the continuing education needs of agencies and individuals responsible for planning, administering and providing services to the elderly. The series embraces two of John Friesen’s lifetime interests—the education of adults and the special needs of an aging population.

John Friesen is one of Canada’s leading contributors to the field of adult education. In his more than forty year career, Dr. Friesen served in university extension work in Canada and overseas and was involved in enhancing life in many different ways from community arts to credit unions. For his leadership role in adult education, Simon Fraser University awarded him an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree in 1985.

13TH ANNUAL JOHN K. FRIESEN CONFERENCE

12:00 noon–1:15 pm

Lunch

1:15–2:15 pm

What's Behind the Push to Privatize Pensions?

- Speaker: **Monica Townson**, BSc (Hons.), President, Monica Townson Associates, Toronto
- Chair: **Ellen Gee**, PhD, Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, SFU

Critics warn of a demographic time bomb waiting to explode, and an age war over pensions as the baby boom generation starts to retire. They say the answer is to scrap the Canada Pension Plan and have people contribute to their own personal savings plan instead. What would be the consequences of such a move? Is there a hidden agenda here?

- Respondent: **Greg Hurst**, Manager, Pension Division, Heath Lambert Benefits Consulting, Vancouver

2:45–3:00 pm

Refreshment Break

3:00–4:00 pm

Incomes of Younger Retired Women: The Past 30 Years

- Speaker: Katherine Marshall, MA, Senior Analyst, Labour and Household Surveys Analysis, Statistics Canada, Ottawa
- Chair: **Meredith Kimball**, PhD, Psychology / Women's Studies, SFU

This session will examine changes in the source, distribution and level of individual income of younger (65–69) retired women that reflect the development and maturation of public and private pension plans. The speaker will also look at the increase of women in the labour force as a reason for the reduction in the income gap between older men and women.

The Gerontology Research Centre

The Gerontology Research Centre was established in 1982 both to stimulate and to undertake research on topics relating to aging and the aged. The research focus of the Centre is on applied gerontology with concentration on prevention of victimization and exploitation of the elderly; population aging and changing lifestyles; health and aging; aging and the built environment and older adult education. The Centre publishes two newsletters, books, reports and factsheets, and organizes conferences and workshops. The Centre also provides information and consulting services.

JUNE 7, 2002

9:00–10:30 am

Buy? Hold? Prosper? The Efficacy of Financial Planning

This session will open with case histories of a retired woman, a man and a couple. The cases will be analyzed and their implications for financial planning by “boomers” will be discussed by:

- **Gina M Macdonald**, BA, RFP, McDonald, Shymko & Co. Ltd. Vancouver
- **Peter Brow**, CA, Retirement Counsellor, VanCity Investment
- Chair: **Lillian Zimmerman**, MSW, Gerontology Research Centre, SFU

10:30–10:45 am

Nutrition Break

10:45 am–12:45 pm

Boomers in the News: Media, Power and Social Policy

- Speaker: **Robert Hackett**, PhD, School of Communication, SFU and Co-Director, Newswatch Canada
- Chair: **Michael Kane**, personal finance columnist, *Vancouver Sun*

Historically, the commercial press was the modern world's first mass medium. It was born with a profound democratic promise: to present information without fear or favour, to make it accessible to everyone, and to foster public rationality based on equal access to relevant facts. Dr Hackett will look at how closely the media practice these goals and their effect on influencing public policy.

Response Panel:

- **Chris Wood**, journalist and author
- **Paul Sullivan**, President and Director of Strategy, Sullivan Media
- **Ellen Gee**, PhD, Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, SFU
- **Rick Salutin**, freelance writer and columnist, *Globe and Mail*

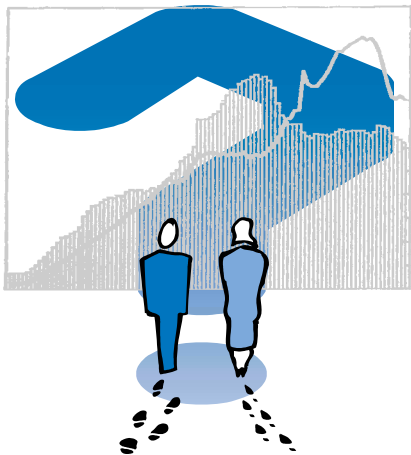
12:45–1:00 pm

Wrap-up

- **Gloria Gutman**, Director, Gerontology Research Centre, SFU

Conference Registration // Boomers Come of Retirement Age

The 13th Annual John K. Friesen Conference // Gerontology Research Centre, Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre



Boomers Come of Retirement Age June 6–7, 2002

REGISTRATION FEES

- Early Bird: \$100 (before May 1, 2002)
- Regular: \$125
- Student/senior: \$50 (please attach photocopied proof of student status to registration)

THREE WAYS TO REGISTER

1. Online at www.harbour.sfu.ca/gero
2. Fax this form to 604-291-5066
3. Mail to: Friesen Conference
Gerontology Research Centre
Simon Fraser University
at Harbour Centre
2800–515 West Hastings Street
Vancouver BC, Canada V6B 5K3

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Registration Fees

The conference registration fee includes participation in all sessions, morning and afternoon nutrition breaks, lunch on June 6, printed materials, and the Goods and Services Tax (GST). BN 11852 0725 RT.

My payment of

- \$100 (Early bird—register before May 1, 2002)
- \$125 (regular registration fee)
- \$50 (student/senior—please attach photocopied proof of student status)

Will be made by

- Cheque/Bank Draft
- VISA
- MasterCard

(Please make cheques payable to "Gerontology Research Centre Friesen Conference")

Card Number _____ Expiry Date _____

Cardholder's Name _____ Cardholder's Signature _____

Cancellation Policy

Registration cancellations must be received by **June 1, 2002**. There will be no refunds after this date. Refunds will be processed after the conference. Substitute delegates are welcome.

We respect your privacy. We will keep your name on the Gerontology Research Centre's mailing list and send you information about future gerontology-related events. However, if you do not wish to be on the Centre's mailing list, please let us know by checking the box and signing below.

- I do not want my name included on the Gerontology Research Centre mailing list.

Signature: _____



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