

Fort St. John and Area Seniors' Needs Project
Methodology Report

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Acknowledgements

This spring, our research team visited Fort St. John, Taylor, and Electoral Area C (Charlie Lake) of the Peace River Regional District to conduct key informant interviews and focus groups as part of the Fort St. John and Area Seniors' Needs Project. We wish to thank all the residents, community groups, business members, service providers, policy makers, and municipal staff who took the time to help out and to answer our many questions. Specific thanks to members of the local advisory group who helped provide input and feedback on the project. This includes Jeanne Clelland, Jean Leahy, Ella Fraser, and Pastor Alvin Oberhammer.

We would also wish to extend our sincerest appreciation to all of the residents in Fort St. John and area who took the time to participate in the interviews, focus groups, and who responded to the survey we circulated within the communities. The response and enthusiasm demonstrates the importance of this issue within the community.

Funding for this project came from the City of Fort St. John, with assistance from the District of Taylor and the Peace River Regional District. We would like to extend a special thanks to Janet Prestley and Carol Susak.

Chelan Hoffman, Carla Martin, Greg Halseth, and Neil Hanlon
Prince George
November 2006

Availability

Copies of all reports associated with the Fort St. John and Area Seniors' Needs Study are available in a number of locations. In Fort St. John, copies have been deposited with the City and with the public library. Copies have also been deposited with the District of Taylor and the Peace River Regional District. At the University of Northern British Columbia, copies have been deposited at the Weller Library or can be accessed on the Community Development Institute website:

<http://www.unbc.ca/cdi/research.html>

Project Reports

- Methodology Report
- Population Background and Trends
- Survey Report
- Theme Report

Contact Information

For further information about this topic and the project, feel free to contact Greg Halseth, Acting Director of UNBC's Community Development Institute:

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Fort St. John and Area Seniors' Needs Project Methodology Report

1.0 Project Description

Since the 1980s, Canada's population has been aging. In small towns, the provision of housing, services, and facilities influence the decisions of individuals when choosing to retire in a community. In the City of Fort St. John, there were about 775 people over the age of 65 in 1991, but by 2001 there were about 1005 people over age 65 (Census, 2001). The increase in the number of older residents, and the increase in the number of residents who wish to remain in the area when they retire, have raised the level of interest in how the community, local services, and available housing options will meet the needs of a growing seniors' population. As a result, UNBC, together with the City of Fort St. John, the District of Taylor, and the Peace River Regional District, are working together to assess the needs of older residents.

The purpose of the Fort St. John and Area Seniors' Needs Project is to examine housing and support service needs for seniors in the greater Fort St. John area. The work was carried out by a research team from UNBC with the goal of providing local leaders with information relevant to decision-making over community planning and infrastructure investments. The project was carried out in the spring and summer of 2006.

Table 1.1 Timeline

May 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project application developed• Funding confirmed• Project Contribution Agreement confirmed• UNBC Research Ethics Board process completed• Local meeting with research team
June 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review with Community Advisory Group• Initiate review of local population data and preparation of population change report• Organize interviews and focus groups for assessment of seniors' needs• Conduct key informant interviews• Conduct focus groups• Mail out household survey
July – August 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete population change report• Analysis of interview and focus group data• Analysis of household survey
September 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete interview and focus group analysis• Complete survey analysis
October – November 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete draft project reports• Review of draft project reports with Community Advisory Group
December 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final reports completed and distributed

2.0 Methodology

The data and information for this project was collected through 4 methods. These include:

- a review of Census population data,
- key informant interviews,
- community focus groups, and
- a household survey sent out to seniors.

Census Data

As noted in the Population Background and Trends Report, population data were collected from Statistics Canada's Census database. The Census is undertaken every five years and provides information on the age distribution of local populations. From this, we were able to reconstruct the recent population history of the study area. Analysis of the population data assessed the following issues:

- 1) the rates of population growth,
- 2) the changing age structure of the population,

- 3) the rates of seniors' retention, as estimated by the age structure of the population over time and the number of seniors remaining in the community, and
- 4) an estimate of potential growth in the seniors' population based on the current age distribution of the population.

Data for the City of Fort St. John and the District of Taylor are derived from Statistics Canada's 'Census Subdivision' (CSD) category. In BC, CSDs correspond with the boundaries of our incorporated municipalities. For the Electoral Area 'C' of the Peace River Regional District (the Charlie Lake area), however, it must be noted that population information is not as straightforward to obtain or compare. It is not collected at a geographic scale that would allow it to be simply added to the Fort St. John and Taylor data. Instead, it is grouped with a larger area comprising part of the unorganized territory of the Peace River Regional District.

Therefore, in some parts of this report, data are reported for the City of Fort St. John, the District of Taylor, the Peace River Regional District, and the province of BC. The goal is to provide a range of contexts against which the local population changes can be compared.

A final caution concerns the Census recording of First Nations and aboriginal population data. Such has proved to be a challenge for Statistics Canada, and the data should be treated as 'undercounting' First Nations and aboriginal population data.

Research Ethics

Each of the other three research methods used in the study (key informant interviews, focus groups, and the household survey to seniors) involved interactions with local residents. Because this is a university based research team, we are bound by standard protocol which identifies that all research conducted with people be sent to UNBC's Research Ethics Board for review and approval. The key informant interviews, the focus group script, and the household survey each passed through this review.

Key to ethics review is that participants are advised of the purposes of the study and that their participation is voluntary. This information is given in the consent forms attached in the respective Appendices. In addition, it is important that participants be advised as to how the research shall protect their anonymity and confidentiality through the process, as well as how through the analysis no linkages are made between the data and the individuals, and that no individuals should be identifiable through the analysis. Again, these points are described in the applicable consent forms. Each participant was given a copy of the consent form.

Key Informant Interviews

Key informant interviews were conducted between June 6th and June 23rd, 2006. A copy of the interview guide is attached (Appendix A).

Key informants were drawn from community groups, service provision agencies, and local government in order to obtain views from people actively engaged in seniors' issues. The key informants were selected from publicly available lists as well as from suggestions received from the Community Advisory group. A total of 28 people were interviewed. Table 2.1a shows the distribution of sectors from which information was obtained (please note, some interviewees were counted in more than one category due to their experiences or knowledge).

Table 2.1a
Key Informant Interviews – by sector

Health Care	5
Housing	6
Government	2
Transportation	1
Social Support Services	4
Social and Recreational Services	3
Non-profit Societies	5
Business Groups	2
Seniors	9
First Nations	3

Source: Fort St. John and Area Seniors' Needs Interviews, 2006.

Table 2.1b
Key Informant Interviews – by community

FSJ	31
Taylor	6
Charlie Lake / Rural	3

Source: Fort St. John and Area Seniors' Needs Interviews, 2006.

Potential interview participants were contacted by telephone to describe the project, how they were identified as a key informant, and to ask if they would be willing to participate. For those willing to participate, we arranged a meeting at a time and place convenient to the key informant. Prior to the interview, they were again advised about the purpose of the research, the issues in the consent form outlining ethics and confidentiality arrangements, and the completed consent form was collected. During the interview, the interviewer took handwritten notes for the responses.

Information from the key informant interviews also helped to identify topics and issues for the seniors' survey. All interviewees received a copy of the final project report.

Focus Groups

A further stage of the research project involved a series of focus groups with local seniors. The purpose of the focus groups was also to help identify topics and issues for the seniors' survey. Focus groups were conducted between June 6th and June 23rd, 2006. A copy of the focus group discussion guide is attached (Appendix B).

Focus group participants were identified in a number of ways. The Community Advisory group identified potential organizations in the area that might wish to host a focus group, as well, several of the individuals and organizations contacted through the key informant interviews also volunteered to arrange focus groups to discuss seniors' issues further. A total of 7 focus groups were held (Tables 2.2a and 2.2b).

Table 2.2a
Focus Groups – by sector

Seniors	3
Service Providers	1
Care Givers	1
Non-profit Societies	1
Business groups	1

Source: Fort St. John and Area Seniors' Needs Focus Groups, 2006.

Table 2.2b
Focus Groups – by community

FSJ	5
Taylor	0
Charlie Lake / Rural	2

Source: Fort St. John and Area Seniors' Needs Focus Groups, 2006.

Potential focus group participants were contacted by telephone to describe the project, how they were identified as a potential participant, and to ask if they would be interested in participating. For those who were interested, we arranged a focus group schedule at a time and place convenient to them. Several of the focus group events were held in UNBC's Fort St. John offices. Prior to each focus group session, participants were again advised about the purpose of the research, the consent form issues around ethics and confidentiality, and completed consent forms were collected.

The focus groups were facilitated by a member of the UNBC research team. A second research team member took notes and operated the tape recording equipment. The focus group information was then compiled into a thematic summary of issues and topics.

All focus group participants received a copy of the final project report.

Seniors' Survey

The final stage of the project involved a survey of seniors which was distributed across the study area. The survey was administered with the assistance of the City of Fort St. John in June 2006. Each survey was accompanied by a cover letter outlining the purpose of the survey, the ethics and confidentiality arrangements, and how they should return their completed forms. The City of Fort St. John looked after the photocopying of the survey materials, the mailing out of the surveys to area seniors, and the local collection of completed surveys by people who wanted to drop them off rather than mail them back.

The survey included both open-ended and closed response questions on eight topic areas. These included household questions, housing, transportation, services, physical environment, family, friendships and care networks, retirement plans and pension information. The topic areas will help the research team to understand the demographics of the area's seniors, how these seniors felt about current services, and what they thought would be needed to meet the needs of an older population. A copy of the seniors' survey is attached in Appendix C. There was local promotion of the survey and a total of 805 surveys were distributed. The responses rate of nearly 38% is very good.

Table 2.3: Response Rates

Total Distributed	805
Total Completed and Returned	301
Response Rate	37.4 %

Source: Fort St. John and Area Seniors Needs survey, 2006.

Evaluative Variables

The survey data reported in the Fort St. John and Area Seniors Needs project presents the totals for respondent answers to the various questions asked. However, in undertaking any analysis of this sort, it is common practice to ask about whether particular issues or characteristics play a role in affecting how people answered. For example, does the age of the respondent affect their views on the availability of local services, or is the respondent's perception of how the community meets the needs of seniors influenced by where they are planning to retire? As a result, our analysis also used a set of 'evaluative variables' that may point out differences from the 'overall' pattern of responses. These evaluative variables include:

Community

The experiences which people have living in different places can affect their opinions around services and housing needs for older residents. Thus, we will compare responses by whether people live in Fort St. John, Taylor, or Electoral Area C (Charlie Lake).

Age

Age is a very important factor in any study of the service and housing needs of older residents. Other research shows that there are differences between age groups, often reflecting the experiences they have had with aging and retirement. In our analysis, we compared responses and attitudes between people who were 65-75 years of age ('younger' seniors) and those who were over 75 years old ('older' seniors).

Pension access

The benefits, and the amount of income, provided by an individual's pension plan can influence their quality of retirement life and their choices with respect to meeting housing and service needs. Those individuals with substantial pensions (i.e.: a comfortable amount of income, and where medical, dental, and health care travel costs are covered) may have more choice in where they retire. Given that all Canadians are covered by the Canada Pension Plan, but that people make their own decisions about plans such as RRSPs and RIFs, we created an evaluative variable that compares those with "only CCP" coverage to the others.

Length of residency

The length of time over which people have lived in a community is a good indicator of the degree to which they have a vested interest in the service and housing needs of its residents. Given this, our analysis compared the actions and attitudes of "newcomers" (5 years or less) with "long term" residents (more than 20 years).

Planning to retire locally

We also included a review of potential differences in actions or attitudes between those who are retired locally, or planning to retire locally, and those who are not planning to retire locally.

In the analysis, five evaluative variables – community, age, pension access, length of residency, and plans to retire locally – are used to explore possible differences in responses across the survey sample. In the discussion that accompanies the analysis, the evaluative variables are mentioned only if there are notable differences between the groups.

**Fort St. John and Area Seniors' Needs Project
Appendix A**

**Interview Materials
Consent Form
Interview Guide**

**Fort St. John, Taylor, Charlie Lake Area Seniors' Needs Project
Interview Consent Form**

Purpose – The purpose of this project is to examine housing, service, and support needs for older residents in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area. The work will be carried out by a research team from the Community Development Institute at UNBC with a goal to provide decision-makers and community groups with information relevant to community planning and infrastructure investments. The project will involve an analysis of local population trends, interviews and focus groups with seniors, decision-makers, service providers, and residents, and a mail-out survey to seniors.

How Respondents Were Chosen - The interview participants were selected from publicly available information lists from community groups, service provision agencies, as well as from suggestions made by a community advisory group from the City of Fort St. John, District of Taylor, and the Regional District. The interviewees were selected for their potential to provide information about issues relevant to present and future seniors' housing and service needs so as to inform community planning.

Anonymity And Confidentiality - The names of participants will not be used in any reporting, nor will any information which may be used to identify individuals. All information shared in this interview will be held within strict confidence by the researchers. All records will be kept in a locked research room at UNBC and will be accessible only to the research team. The information will be kept until the final project report is complete. After this time, shredding will destroy all information related to the interview.

Potential Risks And Benefits - This project has been assessed by the UNBC Research Ethics Board. The project team does not consider there to be any risks to participation. We hope that by participating you will have a chance to provide input into issues relevant to seniors' housing, service, and support needs in the area so as to guide future planning and investments.

Voluntary Participation - Your participation in the research project is entirely voluntary and, as such, you may chose not to participate. If you participate, you may choose to not answer any questions that make you uncomfortable, and you have the right to end the interview at any time and have all the information you provided withdrawn from the study.

Research Results - In case of any questions that may arise from this research, please feel free to contact Dr. Greg Halseth (250-960-5826) in the Geography Program at UNBC. The final project report will be distributed to all interviewees.

Complaints - Any complaints about this project should be directed to the Office of Research, UNBC (250) 960-5820 <reb@unbc.ca>.

I have read the above description of the study and I understand the conditions of my participation. My signature indicates that I agree to participate in this study.

(Name -please print)

(Signature)

(Date)

**Fort St. John, Taylor, and Area Seniors' Needs Overview
INTERVIEW SCRIPT**

Interviewee Name: _____

Contact Information: _____

Interviewer: _____

Date: _____ Place: _____

Interview Time: Start _____ Finish _____

SECTION A: Background Information Questions

The first section of questions asks you how long you have been in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area, and the benefits or drawbacks of retiring in the community.

A1. How long have you lived in the area?

A2a. Are you retired?

1. Yes – go to A2b
2. No – go to A3

A2b. How long ago did you retire? – go to A4

A3. Are you planning on retiring in the area?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Not sure

A3a. If **NO**, where are you going to retire? Please explain why.

A3b. If **NOT SURE**, why? Please explain.

A4. What is / was your main employment here in town?

Prompt:

What sector

A5. What do you think are the advantages to retiring in the area?

A6. What are the drawbacks or disadvantages of retiring in the area?

SECTION B: Housing

In this section, I would like to ask you some questions relating to the housing situation in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area for older and senior residents.

B1a. Would you say the current housing situation in your community meets the needs of seniors?

**If the interviewee is a senior, not in seniors' housing, go to B1b

**If they are in seniors' housing, go to B1c:

**If the interviewee is not a senior, go to B2:

B1b. If you require seniors' housing:

- are you on a waiting list?
- for which facility?
- how long have you been waiting?
- what level of care will you need in the new housing?

B1c. If you are already in seniors' housing:

- did you have to go on a waiting list first?
- how long was the placement waiting period?
- what level of care does this senior housing facility provide? Does it provide multiple levels of care?

B2. Do you think the ***design, location, and availability*** of housing in your community is supportive of seniors' independence? Why?

Prompt:

Number of housing units

B3. What types of housing do you think your community needs to have for seniors?

Prompt:

To maintain their independence
For assisted living (nursing homes; home care; meals on wheels; visiting)
For intermediate living facilities
For long term care facilities, respite care facilities, palliative care facilities

B3a. FOR PEOPLE OUTSIDE OF FORT ST. JOHN

What types of housing do you think the regional centre of Fort St. John needs to have for seniors from the region?

Prompt:

To maintain their independence
For assisted living (nursing homes; home care; meals on wheels; visiting)
For intermediate living facilities
For long term care facilities, respite care facilities, palliative care facilities

B4. Who should be responsible for developing and maintaining seniors' housing?

Prompt:

Municipal Government, Federal Government, Provincial Government
Private funding
Voluntary sector

B5. Who should pay for seniors' housing?

Prompt:

Municipal Government, Federal Government, Provincial Government
Private funding
Residents of housing

SECTION C:

Health Care

In this section, I would like to ask you some questions about health care needs for yourself and to seniors in general in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area.

C1. In general, how well do you think the health care system responds to the needs of seniors in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area?

C2. What do you think are the most useful health care services now provided to seniors in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area?

C3. What do you think are the critical health care service needs for seniors in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area?

C4a. Does anyone in your household require special health services?

C4b. If yes, please specify the types of services that are needed?

C4c. How long did it take for this health condition to be diagnosed?

C5. Are there any other health care issues related to seniors that you would like to raise?

SECTION D: Social / Support Services

In this section, I would like to ask you some questions about social / support services for seniors in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area.

D1a. Please describe the key organizations that provide social / support services for seniors in your community.

D1b. What are the strengths of current seniors' services? Compared to 10 years ago?

D1c. What are the weaknesses of seniors' services in your community?

D2a. Do you think people are aware of / hear about programs and services provided for seniors?

Yes / No – explain

D2b. What are some of the ways that information on seniors programs and services could be better provided?

Prompt:

- Newspaper
- Television / radio
- Word of mouth
- Telephone
- Information brochures
- Flyers
- Website
- E-mail
- Other

D3. What new / additional services for seniors do you think the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area need most?

Prompt:

- Social support (meals on wheels, home maintenance)
- Support groups
- Retail
- Recreation and leisure
- Information (library, health resources)

Service Providers:

****If they work / volunteer with an organization that deals with seniors ask:**

Preamble: I would now like to ask you some questions about the services provided by your organization.

D4. What are the roles and responsibilities of your organization with respect to seniors in your community?

D5a. Please explain how the services provided by your organization are delivered:

Prompt:

Partnerships?

Volunteers?

Funding?

Workshops, appointments, etc.?

D5b. How does your organization promote / advertise programs / services provided for seniors?

D6. What are some of the challenges facing your organization with respect to delivering services in your community?

Prompt:

Funding

Limited partnerships

Lack of expertise

Economies of scale

Lack of volunteers

Volunteer burnout

Change in government mandate

First Nations / non-aboriginal services

SECTION E

Transportation

In this section, I would like to ask you some questions relating to transportation for seniors in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area.

E1. Would you say the current types of transportation options in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area meets the needs of seniors?

Please explain.

E2a. What types of transportation services do you think should be provided for senior citizens?

E2b. In the case where seniors need to travel out of town for health or other services, what types of transportation services do you think should be provided?

E3. In your opinion, are the following well maintained in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area?

SIDEWALKS

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
1	2	3	4	5

Prompt:
Any specific concerns?

ROADS

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
1	2	3	4	5

Prompt:
Any specific concerns?

WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
1	2	3	4	5

Prompt:
Any specific concerns?

SECTION F

Physical Environment

In this next section, I would like to ask you some questions relating to the physical environment in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area.

F1. Are there any physical barriers that prohibit seniors from moving / walking around the community? If so, where?

Prompt:

- Weather
- Distance
- Snowclearing
- Doorways / Access
- Stairs / Ramps
- Sidewalks

F2a. What are some of the things that need to be done to allow seniors to move about the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area and go to various stores and buildings?

Prompt:

- Elevators
- Wheelchair ramps
- Snow and ice clearing in parking lots and sidewalks
- Sidewalks / paths
- Canopies / covered entrances / awnings

F2b. Who should be responsible for paying for these changes?

Prompt:

- Municipal government
- Provincial government
- Federal government
- Private sector
- Non-profit sector
- Residents
- Partnership: please specify _____

F3. Are there enough handicap / seniors' parking spaces in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area?

Yes / No – explain

SECTION G

Social Environment

In this next section, I would like to ask you some questions regarding the social environment for seniors.

G1. Please describe the key community groups or clubs that are available for seniors?

G2. What types of recreation or leisure programs are available for seniors?

G3. What types of social / recreational activities or programs should be provided to help seniors maintain their health and independence?

Social Prompts:

- Recreation and leisure programs
- Community clubs
- Social events
- Library
- Volunteer groups
- Visiting

Daily Living Service Prompts:

- Shopping
- House cleaning
- Yard work
- Delivery of services and goods

G4. Are there any other social or recreational issues related to seniors that you would like to raise?

SECTION H

Quality of Life and Cost of Living

In this next section, I would like to ask you some questions concerning the quality of life and cost of living for older residents.

H1. What factors do you think contribute to the quality of life of seniors living in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area?

Positive factors:

Negative factors:

H2. Do you feel there are adequate opportunities to be involved / participate within the community?

Prompt:

Belonging - private / safe seniors' space
Becoming - participate within the community

H3. In your opinion is the cost of living in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area is reasonable for older residents? Explain.

Prompts:

Recreation
Groceries
Assisted Living (meals on wheels, home care nursing)
Home maintenance
Retail services
Health Costs (prescription, specialists)
Heating, electricity, gas, etc.?

H4. Does the cost of living in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area affect seniors' quality of life?

1. Yes
2. No

If **YES**, describe how:

SECTION I:

Informal and Formal Care Networks

In this section, I would like to ask you some questions about informal and formal care networks available to yourself and to seniors in general in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area.

****Ask older respondents only.**

I1. Do you have family or friends in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area who could be thought of as a support network, or who you could turn to for help when needed?

I2. What organisations are available to support or provide assistance to seniors who do not have family or friends to rely on for help?

Prompt:

Home care nursing
Home occupational therapy
Health Unit
Community groups
Adult day care programs
Meals-on-Wheels
Visiting programs
Volunteer sector
Cleaning services

SECTION J:

Concluding Questions

J1. From the experiences you have had in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area, do you have anything else that has not been touched on here about meeting the needs of older and senior residents that you would like to comment on?

J2. Can you suggest any community members [50 years or older, service providers, government offices] who are interested in seniors' issues who would possibly be interested in participating?

Prompt:

Name
Phone
Address

**Fort St. John and Area Seniors' Needs Project
Appendix B**

**Focus Group Materials
Consent Form
Discussion Guide**

**Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area Seniors' Needs Project
Focus Group Consent Form**

Purpose – The purpose of this project is to examine housing, service, and support needs for older residents in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area. The work will be carried out by a research team from the Community Development Institute at UNBC with a goal to provide decision-makers and community groups with information relevant to community planning and infrastructure investments. The project will involve an analysis of local population trends, interviews, focus groups, and a mail-out survey to seniors living in the area.

How Respondents Were Chosen - The focus group participants were selected from suggestions made by a community advisory group from the City of Fort St. John, the District of Taylor, and the Regional District as individuals with an interest in seniors' housing and support topics. The focus group participants were selected for their potential to provide information about issues relevant to present and future seniors' housing and service needs so as to inform community planning.

Anonymity And Confidentiality – The names of participants will not be used in any reporting, nor will any information which may be used to identify individuals. The nature of focus group discussions means that we will be sharing information amongst everyone present. However, all information shared in this focus group will be held within strict confidence by the researchers. All records will be kept in a locked research room at UNBC and accessible only to the research team. The information will be kept until the final project report is complete. After this time, material and information related to the focus group will be destroyed.

Potential Risks And Benefits - This project has been assessed by the UNBC Research Ethics Board. The project team does not consider there to be any risks to participation. We hope that by participating you will have a chance to provide input into issues relevant to seniors' housing, service, and support needs in the area so as to guide future planning and investments.

Voluntary Participation - Your participation in the research project is entirely voluntary and, as such, you may chose not to participate. If you participate, you may choose not to answer any questions that make you uncomfortable, and you have the right to end your participation in the focus group at any time and have all the information you provided withdrawn from the study.

Research Results - In case of any questions that may arise from this research, please feel free to contact Dr. Greg Halseth (250-960-5826; halseth@unbc.ca) in the Geography Program at UNBC. The final project report will be distributed to all focus group participants.

Complaints - Any complaints about this project should be directed to the Office of Research, UNBC (250) 960-5820 <reb@unbc.ca>.

I have read the above description of the study and I understand the conditions of my participation. My signature indicates that I agree to participate in this study.

(Name -please print)

(Signature)

(Date)

**Fort St. John, Taylor, Charlie Lake area Seniors' Needs Overview
FOCUS GROUP GUIDE**

Focus group: _____

Facilitator: _____

Flip chart notes taken by: _____

Date: _____ Place: _____

Focus Group Time: Start _____ Finish _____

TOPIC AREAS:

- Opening Questions
 - Migration/Mobility
 - Housing
 - Services
 - Transportation
 - Informal and Formal Care Networks
 - Physical Environment
 - Quality of Life
 - Health Care
 - Concluding Question
-

A. Opening Questions

Around the table, what is your name and how long have you lived in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area?

What do you like about living in the area?

What do you dislike about living in the area?

B. Migration/Mobility

With respect to seniors:

What are the advantages to retiring in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area?

What are the drawbacks or disadvantages of retiring in the area?

C. Housing

Would you say the current housing situation in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area satisfies the needs of seniors?

Prompts:

- Advantages of available housing
- Disadvantages of available housing

What types of housing do you think the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area will have to develop to meet the needs of seniors?

Prompts:

- Maintain their independence
- Assisted living (nursing homes)
- Intermediate living facilities
- Long term care facilities
- Respite care facilities
- Palliative care facilities

D. Health Care

In general, how well do you think the health care system responds to the needs of seniors the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area?

Prompts:

- Most useful health care services now provided to seniors?
- Critical health care service needs for seniors?

Does anyone in your household require special health services?

Prompts:

- Types?
- How long did it take for this health condition to be diagnosed?

E. Services

Do you think local services currently meet the needs of seniors in the area?

Prompts:

- Health
- Social support (meals on wheels, home maintenance)
- Retail
- Recreation and leisure
- Information (library, health resources)

What additional services for seniors do you think the area needs the most?

F. Transportation

What do you think are the key transportation needs for seniors in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area?

Prompts:

- Inside the community
- Travel out-of-town (i.e. medical)

G. Informal and Formal Care Networks

We wanted to ask about family and friends and their role as an informal care network.

Do you have family and / or friends living in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area who might do this?

What are your options if you need assistance with your daily activities, and your family and friends are unable to provide you with assistance?

Prompts:

- Home care nursing
- Home occupational therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Adult day care programs
- Meals on Wheels

H. Physical Environment

What physical barriers prohibit seniors from walking around the community?

Prompts:

- Weather
- Safety issues
- Distance to services
- Snowclearing
- Parking spaces
- Doorways/ access
- Stairs/ ramps

I. Quality of Life

What community activities and programs should be provided to help seniors maintain their health and independence?

Prompts:

- Recreation and Leisure Programs
- Community clubs
- Social events
- Library
- Volunteer Groups

J. Concluding Question

From the experiences you have had in the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Charlie Lake area, do you have anything else that has not been touched on here that you would like to comment on?

**Fort St. John and Area Seniors' Needs Project
Appendix C**

**Senior's Survey
Cover Letter
Survey**

Fort St. John, Taylor, Charlie Lake and Area Seniors' Needs Survey

Since the 1950's, Canada's population has been aging. In small towns, the provision of housing, services, and facilities influence the decisions of individuals when choosing to retire in a community. As a result, UNBC, the City of Fort St. John, the District of Taylor, and Area C of the Peace River Regional District are working together to assess the housing and service needs for older residents.

Input from all area seniors is needed in order to understand housing, care, and service needs. This is why the survey is being distributed across the Fort St. John, Taylor, and Area C region.

Your participation is voluntary and if you examine the survey you will see that there is no way to identify individual respondents. Ideally, we would like you to answer all of the questions that apply to you, but please feel free to ignore any questions you would rather not answer. All information shared in this survey will be held in strict confidence and no results will be presented such that any individual could be identified. The survey information will be stored in a locked research room at UNBC, will be accessible only to the research team, and will be kept only until the project is completed. At the end of the project, all surveys and data will be destroyed. The research team considers that this project poses no risk to participants. The project has also been evaluated by the UNBC Research Ethics Board.

When you have finished filling out the survey, please drop it into one of the locked drop boxes located at the North Peace Leisure Pool, Royal Canadian Legion, Fort St. John Senior Citizen's Hall, Totem Mall (lotto booth), the Fort St. John City Hall, the Taylor District Office, the Charlie Lake General Store.

The experiences of local residents are important for the success of this study. If you have any questions about this research, please feel free to contact Greg Halseth, UNBC Geography Program at (250) 960-5826 (halseth@unbc.ca). Any complaints about this project should be directed to the Office of Research, UNBC (250) 960-5820 (reb@unbc.ca).

The results will be published in a report that will be available at the Fort St. John Public Library, the Fort St. John City Hall, the Taylor District Office, and from the research team.

Thank you for your time. Sincerely,

Greg Halseth
Geography Program, UNBC
Prince George, B.C. V2N 4Z9
Tel: (250) 960-5826 Fax: (250) 960-5539
Email: halseth@unbc.ca

Fort St. John, Taylor, Charlie Lake, and Area Seniors' Needs Study

Since the 1950's, Canada's population has been aging. In small towns, the provision of housing, services, and facilities influence the decisions of individuals when choosing to retire in a community.

This survey will help to learn more about the housing and service needs for middle-aged and older residents in Fort St. John, Taylor, Charlie Lake, and area. The information you provide will help decision-makers and community groups make informed decisions over community planning and infrastructure investments. While the focus of the survey is upon potential needs for older residents, input from residents is very important.

Thank you.

Section A Household Questions

In this section, we would like to ask about you and your family. These questions are important because they help to create a profile of the community. The answers are completely confidential.

A1. Where do you live? *(Please check one)*

- Fort St. John
- Taylor
- Charlie Lake
- Other, please specify: _____

A2. How long have you lived in the community? _____ Years.

A3. Please fill out the following chart to describe your household composition. *(Complete for as many people as applicable)*

	Age	Male or Female
Yourself		
Person 1		
Person 2		
Person 3		
Person 4		
Person 5		
Person 6		
Person 7		

A4. What is your highest level of education? *(Please check one)*

- Elementary school
- Secondary school (incomplete)
- Secondary school (graduated)
- Some trade, technical, business or community college
- Diploma or certificate from trade, technical, business or community college
- Some university
- University degree (bachelor's)
- Graduate work at University
- Other, please specify: _____

A5. Please describe your employment status. *(Please check one)*

- Employed full-time (35 hours or more per week)
- Employed part-time (under 35 hours per week)
- Temporary & full-time (35 hours or more per week & specific end date)
- Temporary & part-time (less than 35 hours per week & specific end date)
- Casual or call-in (hours vary from week to week)
- Self-employed (full-time)
- Self-employed (part-time)
- Contract worker

- Student
- Retired
- Homemaker
- Not employed but looking for work
- Not employed by choice
- Maternity leave
- Workers Compensation leave

- Other, please specify: _____

A6. In what sector do / did you work? *(Please check one)*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accommodation | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Artisan | <input type="checkbox"/> Business services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Communication and utilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education services | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance, insurance, real estate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food and beverage | <input type="checkbox"/> Government services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health and social services | <input type="checkbox"/> Information technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing | <input type="checkbox"/> Mining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retail trade | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism services, eco-tourism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale trade |
-
- Forestry: Logging
 - Forestry: Silviculture
 - Forestry: Sawmilling
 - Forestry: Value added processing
 - Forestry: Pulp / paper making
-
- Oil and Gas Industry: Exploration
 - Oil and Gas Industry: Pipeline
 - Oil and Gas Industry: Oilfield services
-
- Other, please specify: _____

A7. If you have worked in a number of sectors over the years, please list all of your job sectors here: _____

A8. What is your marital status? *(Please check one)*

- Single - never married
- Married
- Live-in partner or common-law partner
- Separated
- Divorced
- Widowed

A9. Do you have any dependants in your household? *(Please check all that apply)*

- Children
- Elderly
- Special needs
- Other, please specify: _____

A10. What is your total household income for the past year, before taxes and deductions?
(Please check one)

- 0 - \$19,999
- \$20,000 - \$39,999
- \$40,000 - \$59,999
- \$60,000 - \$79,999
- \$80,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 - \$119,999
- \$120,000 - \$139,999
- \$140,000 - \$159,000
- \$160,000 or more
- Do not know

A11. What portion of your total household income came from the following sources?

Type of Income	% of Total Income
Wages and salaries	
Income from self-employment	
Farm income	
Dividends and interest (ie: on bonds, savings)	
Employment insurance	
Worker's Compensation	
Benefits from Canada or Quebec pension plan	
Retirement pensions, superannuation or annuities	
Old age security	
Guaranteed income supplement	
Child tax benefit	
Provincial or municipal social assistance or welfare	
Child support	
Alimony	
Other <i>(Please specify)</i> :	

A15. In what sector does / did your spouse / partner work? *(Please check one)*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accommodation | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Artisan | <input type="checkbox"/> Business services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Communication and utilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education services | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance, insurance, real estate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food and beverage | <input type="checkbox"/> Government services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health and social services | <input type="checkbox"/> Information technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing | <input type="checkbox"/> Mining |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retail trade | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism services, eco-tourism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale trade |
-
- Forestry: Logging
 - Forestry: Silviculture
 - Forestry: Sawmilling
 - Forestry: Value added processing
 - Forestry: Pulp / paper making
-
- Oil and Gas Industry: Exploration
 - Oil and Gas Industry: Pipeline
 - Oil and Gas Industry: Oilfield services
-
- Other, please specify: _____

A16. If your spouse / partner has worked in a number of sectors over the years, please list all of their job sectors here: _____

Section B Housing

Questions in this section relate to your housing, and to the housing situation for older residents in Fort St. John, Taylor, Charlie Lake, and area.

B1. Do you live in a: *(Please check one)*

- Single detached house
- Duplex
- Row housing
- Mobile home park
- Apartment
- Condominium / town house
- Basement suite
- Seniors' housing complex
- Other, please specify: _____

B2. Is this dwelling? *(Please check one)*

- Owned (even if it is still being paid for)
- Rented

B3. How many rooms are there in this dwelling?

(Include kitchen, bedroom, finished rooms in attic or basement, etc.)

_____ How many of these are bedrooms? _____

B4. Are there stairs between the main living section of the house and the bedrooms?

- Yes
- No

B5. Are there stairs to enter the house by the main entrance?

- Yes
- No

B6. Is this dwelling in need of any repairs? *(Please check one)*

- No, only regular maintenance is needed *(ie: painting, furnace, cleaning, etc.)*
- Yes, minor repairs are needed *(ie: missing or loose floor tiles, bricks or shingles, defective steps, railing or siding, etc.)*
- Yes, major repairs are needed *(ie: defective plumbing or electrical wiring, structural repairs to walls, floors or ceiling, etc.)*

B7. For this dwelling, what are the YEARLY payments for:
Heating?

- None
- \$ _____

Electricity?

- None
- \$ _____

Water and other services?

- None
- \$ _____

B8. For RENTERS only; what is the monthly rent for this dwelling? \$ _____

Does this include utilities? Yes No

B9. For OWNERS only:

What are the total regular monthly mortgage or loan payments for this dwelling?

- None
- \$ _____

Are the property taxes included in this amount?

- Yes
- No

B10. Is this dwelling part of a registered condominium?

- Yes
- No

If YES, what are the monthly condominium fees?

\$ _____

B11. Would you say the current housing situation in your community meets the needs of seniors? (ie: design, location, number of housing units)

- Yes
- No

Please explain: _____

B12b. What types of seniors housing should your community have to meet the needs of older residents? *(Please check all categories that you feel apply)*

- Independent living units *(i.e.: private apartments with available meals, housekeeping, laundry, and home care)*
- Assisted living units *(i.e.: like independent living but with greater care in meals, grooming, medication, and home care)*
- Intermediate living units *(i.e.: like assisted living but with all meals provided, greater care in grooming, medication, and supervision)*
- Long term care facilities *(i.e.: nursing home)*
- Respite care facility *(i.e.: adult daycare facility designed to provide temporary relief for primary caregivers of seniors with ongoing needs)*
- Palliative care *(i.e.: facility designed to provide care for terminally ill residents)*

B12b. For people living outside of Fort St. John:

What types of seniors housing should the regional centre of Fort St. John have to meet the needs of older residents from the area? *(Check all that apply)*

- Independent living units
- Assisted living units
- Intermediate living units
- Long term care facilities
- Respite care facility
- Palliative care

B13. Who should pay for building housing for older residents?

(Please check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal / Band Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Private sector |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary sector | <input type="checkbox"/> The people who will live in it |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please explain: _____ | |

B14. Who should be responsible for maintaining housing built for older residents?

(Please check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal / Band Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Private sector |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary sector | <input type="checkbox"/> The people who live in it |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please explain: _____ | |

B15a. Do YOU need accommodation at this time?

- Yes
- No

B15b. If yes, how much are you willing to pay?

- \$_____ per month to rent
- \$_____ purchase price

B15c. What kind of seniors housing are you looking for?

- Single Family Dwelling Unit
- Apartment
- Condominium
- Independent living units
- Assisted living units
- Intermediate living units
- Long term care facilities
- Respite care facility
- Palliative care

- Other _____

B15d. Are you currently waiting for seniors housing?

- Yes
- No

If YES, how long have you been waiting?

B15e. Have you thought about / planned for your future housing needs?

- Yes
- No

B15f. Do you need assistance planning for your future housing needs?

- Yes
- No

Section C Transportation

In this section, questions relate to local transportation issues.

C1. How do you normally travel within your community (to work, shopping, etc.)?

(Please check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Car / truck | <input type="checkbox"/> Taxi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carpool | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends / Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking | <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HandyDART | <input type="checkbox"/> Transit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please explain: _____ | |

C2a. Do you think the roads are well maintained in your community?

- Yes
 No

C2b. Do you think the roads are well maintained in the region?

- Yes
 No

C3a. Is winter road maintenance adequate in your community?

- Yes
 No

C3b. Is winter road maintenance adequate in the region?

- Yes
 No

C4. Do you think the sidewalks are well maintained in your community?

- Yes
 No

C5. Is winter sidewalk maintenance adequate in your community?

- Yes
 No

C6. Do you require assistance walking? (*do you use a cane, walker, wheelchair, etc..*)

- Yes
 No

C7. What types of transportation services should be provided for older residents?

Section D Services

In this section we would like to ask you some questions about local services.

D1. Please list all the clubs and organizations you do / did participate in, and rate your satisfaction level with these clubs / organizations. *(Please circle your answer)*

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Don't Know
_____	1	2	3	4	5	6
_____	1	2	3	4	5	6
_____	1	2	3	4	5	6
_____	1	2	3	4	5	6
_____	1	2	3	4	5	6

D2. If your participation has changed in any of the above groups, why has it changed?

D3. How satisfied are you with the following community facilities? *(Please circle your answers)*

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Not Applic.
Swimming pool	1	2	3	4	5	6
Fitness facilities	1	2	3	4	5	6
Hockey rink	1	2	3	4	5	6
Curling rink	1	2	3	4	5	6
Aerobic / Multi-purpose room	1	2	3	4	5	6
Library	1	2	3	4	5	6
Community outdoor rink	1	2	3	4	5	6
Cross-country ski trails	1	2	3	4	5	6
Your local golf course	1	2	3	4	5	6
Baseball diamonds	1	2	3	4	5	6
Tennis courts	1	2	3	4	5	6
Grocery shopping	1	2	3	4	5	6
Other shopping	1	2	3	4	5	6
Health unit / hospital	1	2	3	4	5	6
Seniors housing facilities	1	2	3	4	5	6
Cultural Centre	1	2	3	4	5	6
Seniors citizens hall	1	2	3	4	5	6

D4. How satisfied are you with the following services in your community?
 (Please circle your answers)

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Not Applic.
Recreation / leisure services	1	2	3	4	5	6
Community clubs	1	2	3	4	5	6
Service clubs	1	2	3	4	5	6
Churches	1	2	3	4	5	6
Volunteer groups	1	2	3	4	5	6
Delivery of services / goods	1	2	3	4	5	6
Medical care	1	2	3	4	5	6

D5a. Do you think your community needs a housing complex / more housing for older residents?

- Yes
 No

If YES, where would be the best location?

D5b. For people living outside of Fort St. John:

Do you think that the regional centre of Fort St. John needs more housing for older residents from the area?

- Yes
 No

If YES, where would be the best location?

D6a. Do you think your community needs a seniors' activity centre?

- Yes
 No

D6b. For people living outside of Fort St. John:

Do you think that the regional centre of Fort St. John needs a seniors' activity centre for older residents from the area?

- Yes
 No

D7. If created, what activities should a seniors' activity centre provide? (*Please circle*)

	Not Needed	Needed but Not Very Important	Important	Very Important
Activity groups	1	2	3	4
Fitness programs	1	2	3	4
Barber / Beauty salon	1	2	3	4
Health and wellness clinics	1	2	3	4
Foot care clinics	1	2	3	4
Dances / lessons	1	2	3	4
Arts and crafts	1	2	3	4
Workshop / tool lending	1	2	3	4
Computer lessons / Internet	1	2	3	4
Card games	1	2	3	4
Pool tables / Shuffle board	1	2	3	4
Darts	1	2	3	4
Bingo	1	2	3	4
Hot lunches	1	2	3	4
Coffee and snacks	1	2	3	4
Coordinate seasonal lights tours	1	2	3	4
Coordinate other bus tours	1	2	3	4
Special event nights	1	2	3	4
Floor Curling	1	2	3	4
Carpet bowling	1	2	3	4
Seniors Housing Workshop	1	2	3	4
Other: _____	1	2	3	4
Other: _____	1	2	3	4

D8. What services do you think are needed to help older residents maintain their health and independence?

Services	Is it needed? Please write <u>yes</u> or <u>no</u>	Please indicate the top 3 most important services. 1 = most needed 2 = second most needed 3 = third most needed
Nursing care		
Home Care		
Personal care (<i>ie: bathing, foot care</i>)		
Respite care (<i>ie: caregiver relief program</i>)		
House cleaning (<i>ie: cleaning, laundry housework</i>)		
Yard work (<i>ie: gardening, snowclearing</i>)		
Home repair and maintenance		
Help with shopping		
Delivery of services and goods		
Meals-on-wheels		
Help with meal preparation		
Visiting (<i>informal or formal</i>)		
Assistance with medical trips		
Transportation to doctor's appointments		
Other – please specify:		

Section E Physical Environment

In this section of the survey, we would like to ask you about the physical environment in your community.

E1. What barriers prohibit older residents from walking around the community? *(Please check all that apply)*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weather | <input type="checkbox"/> Snow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concern over safety | <input type="checkbox"/> Distances |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doorways / Access into buildings | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of sidewalks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice on sidewalks | <input type="checkbox"/> Stairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loose gravel on roads and walkways | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: _____ | |

E2. What are some of the things that need to be done to allow older residents to move about the community / local stores more easily? *(Please check all that apply)*

- Elevators
- Wheelchair ramps
- Snow and ice clearing in parking lots
- Snow and ice clearing on sidewalks
- More sidewalks
- Canopies / covered entrances / awnings
- Other, please specify: _____

Section F Family, Friendships, and Care Networks

In this section, we would like to ask about your family and friendship networks, and about the care networks available to yourself and to older residents in Fort St. John, Taylor, Charlie Lake, and the surrounding areas.

F1. Do you have family in the area?

- Yes – how many family members live in the area? _____
 No

If YES, do family connections make you want to stay in the area?

- Yes
 No

F2. Do you have close friends in the area?

- Yes
 No

F3. Do friendships make you want to stay in the area?

- Yes
 No

F4. Do you have family or friends in the area who could be thought of as a support network?
(*People to whom you could turn when help is needed*)?

- Yes
 No

F5. In the past 12, months have you needed help from another person or an organization to do any of the following activities: (*Please check all that apply*)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meal preparation and clean up | <input type="checkbox"/> House cleaning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry and sewing | <input type="checkbox"/> House maintenance, outside work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Managing medications | <input type="checkbox"/> Banking or bill paying |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping for groceries or other necessities | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driving | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: |

- Not Applicable
-

F6. If you needed assistance with these activities, what was the reason? (*Check all that apply*)

- Because of the way these activities are shared in your household?
- Because time constraints do not allow you to do it by yourself?
- Because of your longer-term health or physical limitations?
- Because of temporary or difficult times?
- Other? _____
- Not applicable

F7. What is the relationship to you of the person(s) who provided assistance with these activities? (*Please check all that apply*)

- Family
- Friend
- Neighbor
- Government
- Private organization, please specify: _____
- Volunteer organization, please specify: _____
- Not applicable

F8. Does this person live with you?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

Section G Retiring

This section asks about the possibilities, benefits, and potential drawbacks of retiring in the Fort St. John, Taylor, Charlie Lake, and surrounding areas.

G1. Are you retired?

- Yes – if yes how long ago did you retire? _____ Years
- No

G2. If NO, are you planning on retiring in the area? *(Please check one)*

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

If NO, where are you going to retire? Please explain.

G3. In your opinion, is the local cost of living reasonable for older residents?

- Yes
- No

G4. Does the local cost of living affect older residents' quality of life?

- Yes
- No

G5. What are the advantages of retiring in the area?

G6. What are the disadvantages of retiring in the area?

Section H Pensions

In this section, we would like to ask you some questions about pensions.

H1. Do you belong to any of the following types of pension plans?

(Please check all that apply)

- Canada Pension Plan (CPP)
- Old Age Security
- Military pension
- Personal – RRSP / RIF
- Union, please specify which union: _____
- Company, please specify which company: _____
- Private, please specify: _____
- Other, please specify: _____

H2. If you are already retired, do you draw from more than one pension?

- Yes
- No

If YES, which ones?

H3. Does / will your pension cover out-of-town medical travel or expenses?

- Yes
- No

Conclusion

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey. We appreciate your assistance.

From your experiences, do you have anything else to add that was not touched on here about meeting the needs of older residents?
