

Embracing Population Change in Northern BC: Health Services as a Foundation for Community Development

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The Community Development Institute *Community Speakers Series*

Prince George, BC

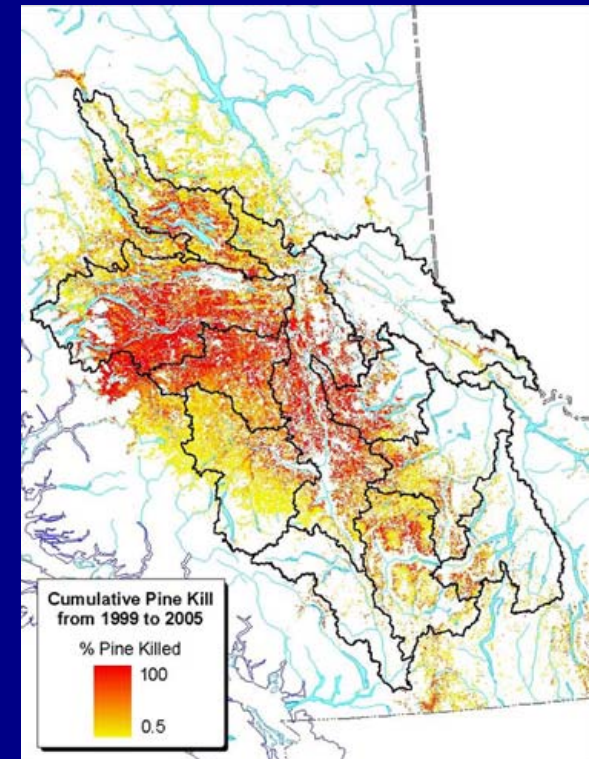
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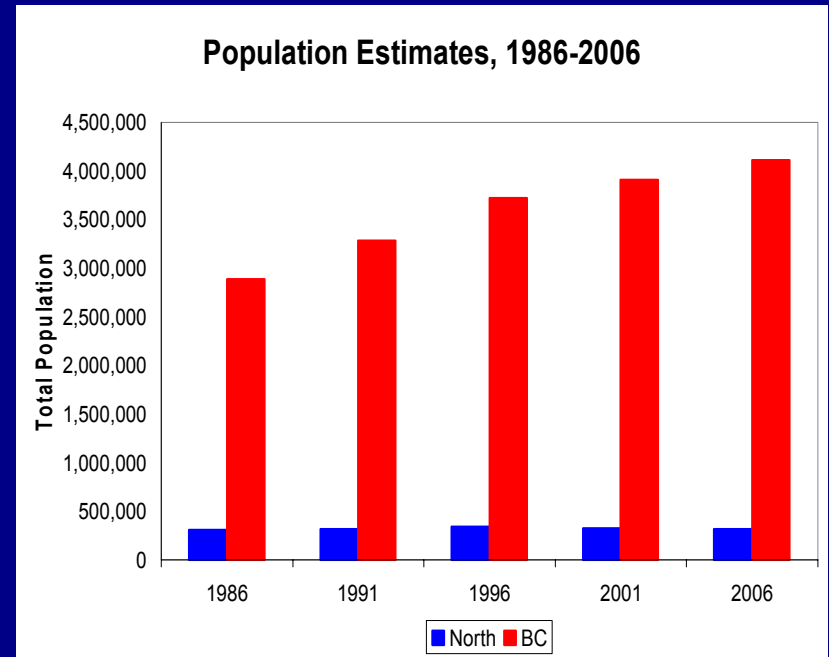
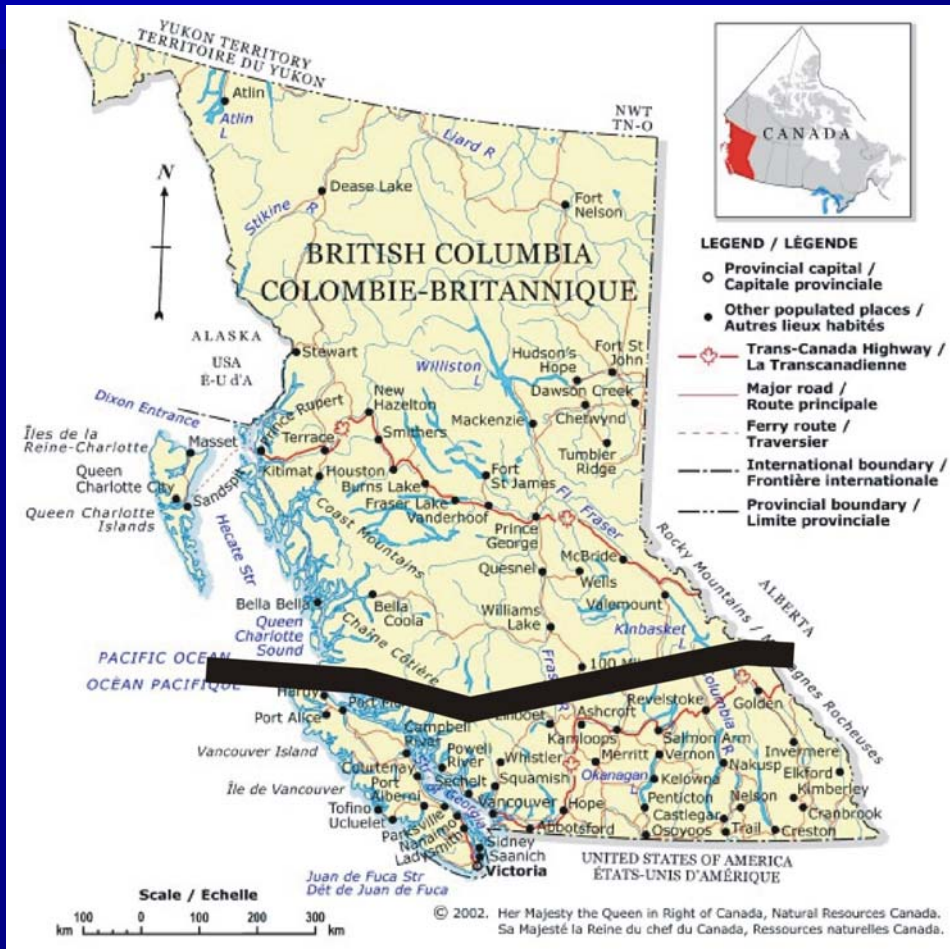
The Changing Landscapes of Northern BC





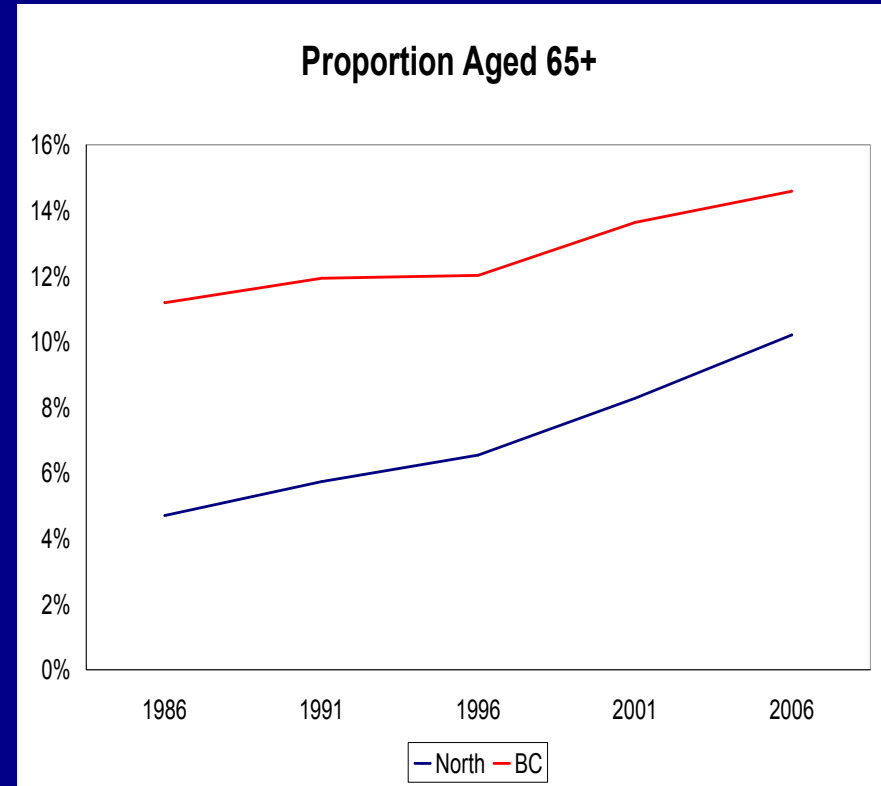
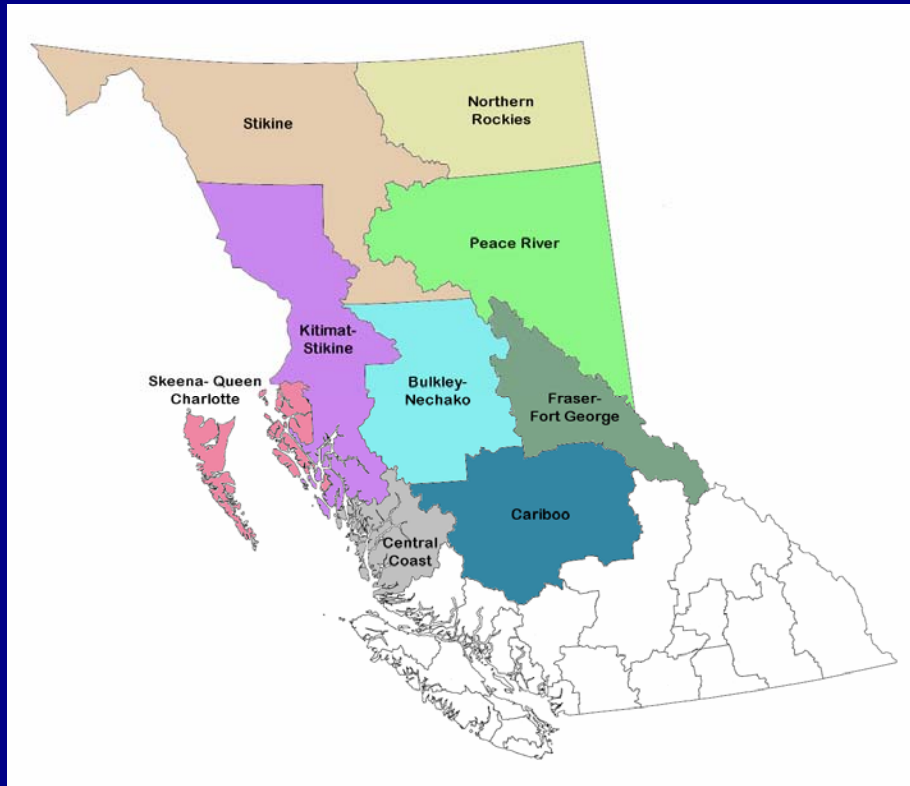


Population Change in Northern BC



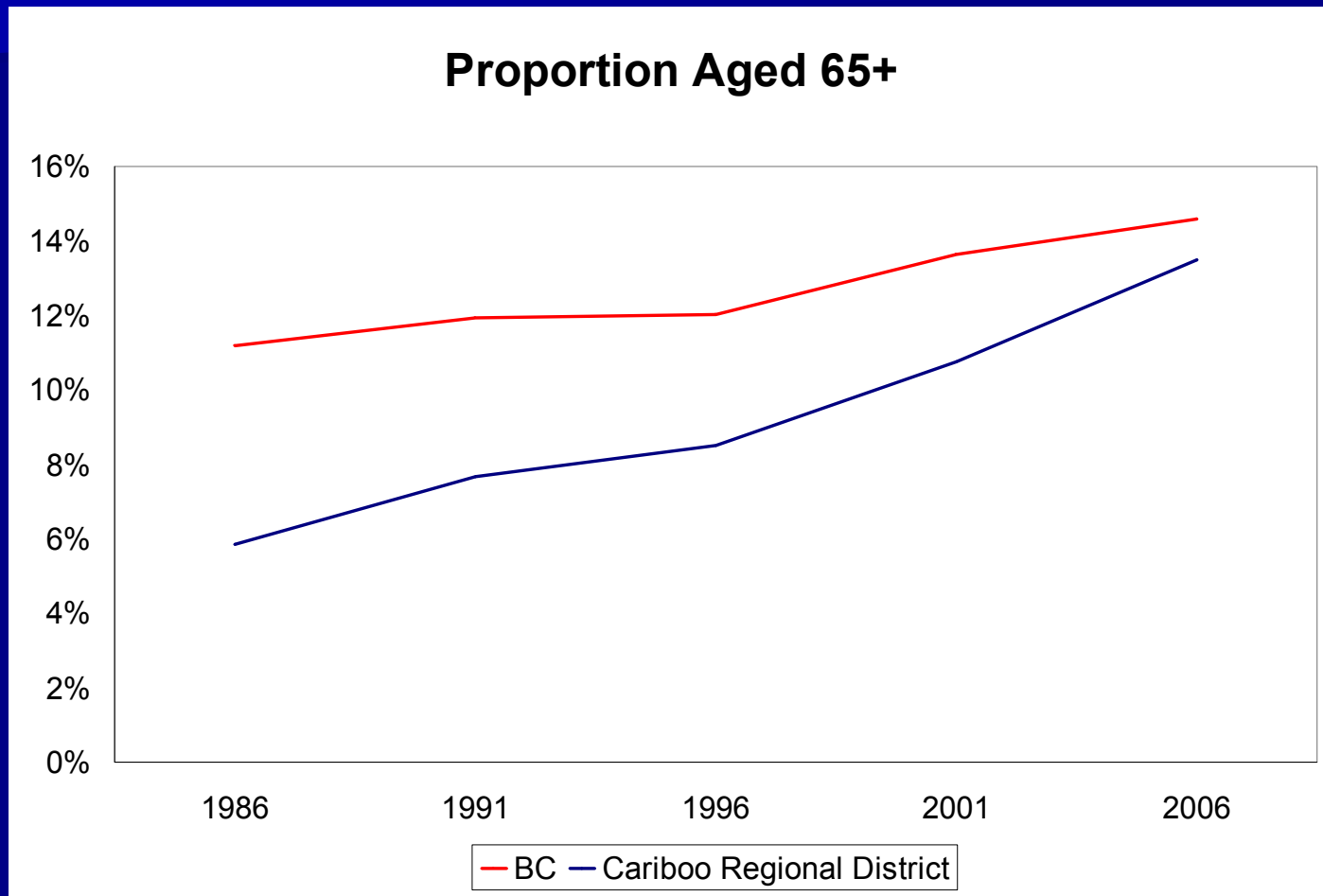
Source: Statistics Canada

Population Change in Northern BC



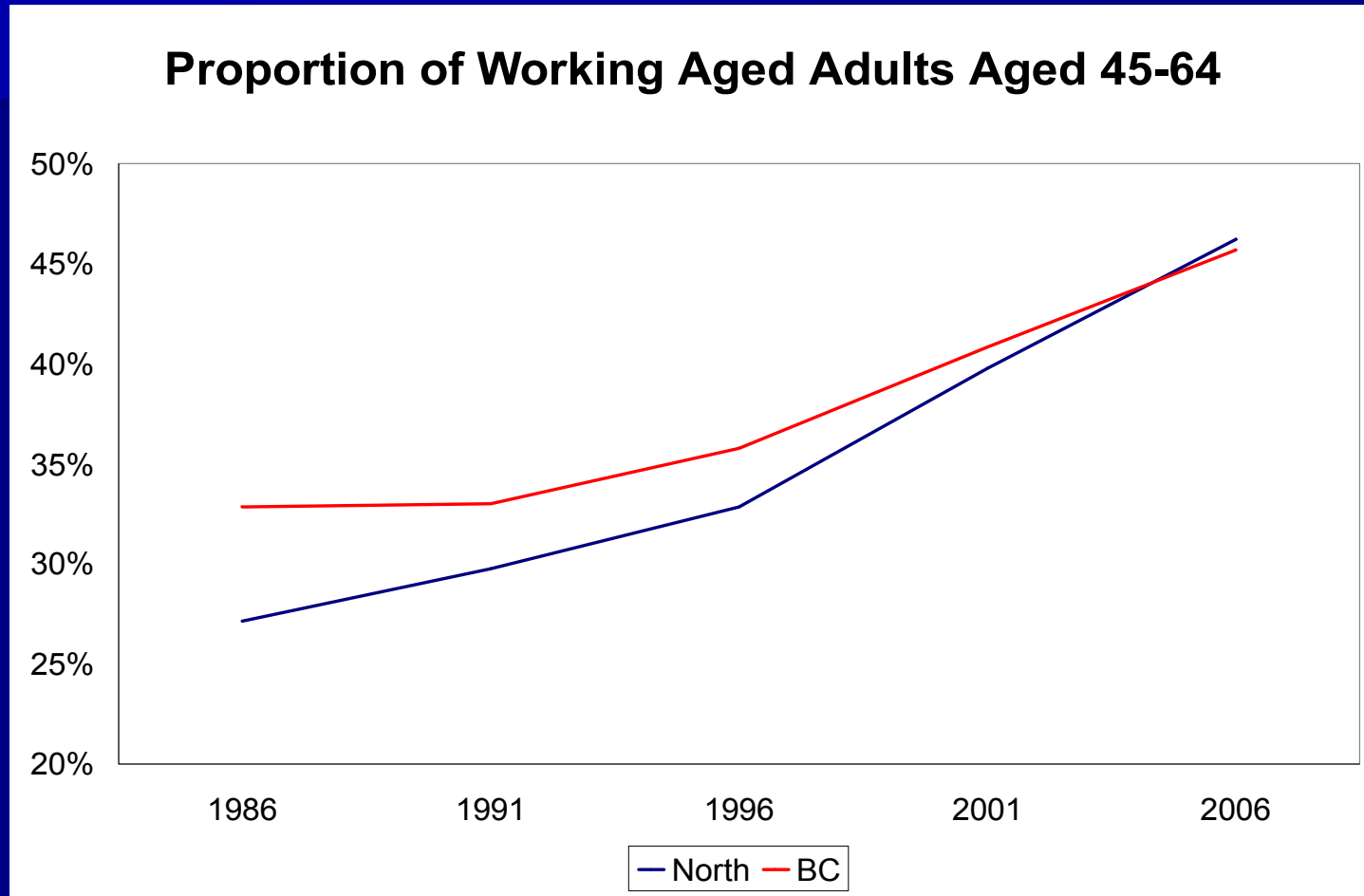
Source: Statistics Canada

Population Change in the Cariboo Regional District



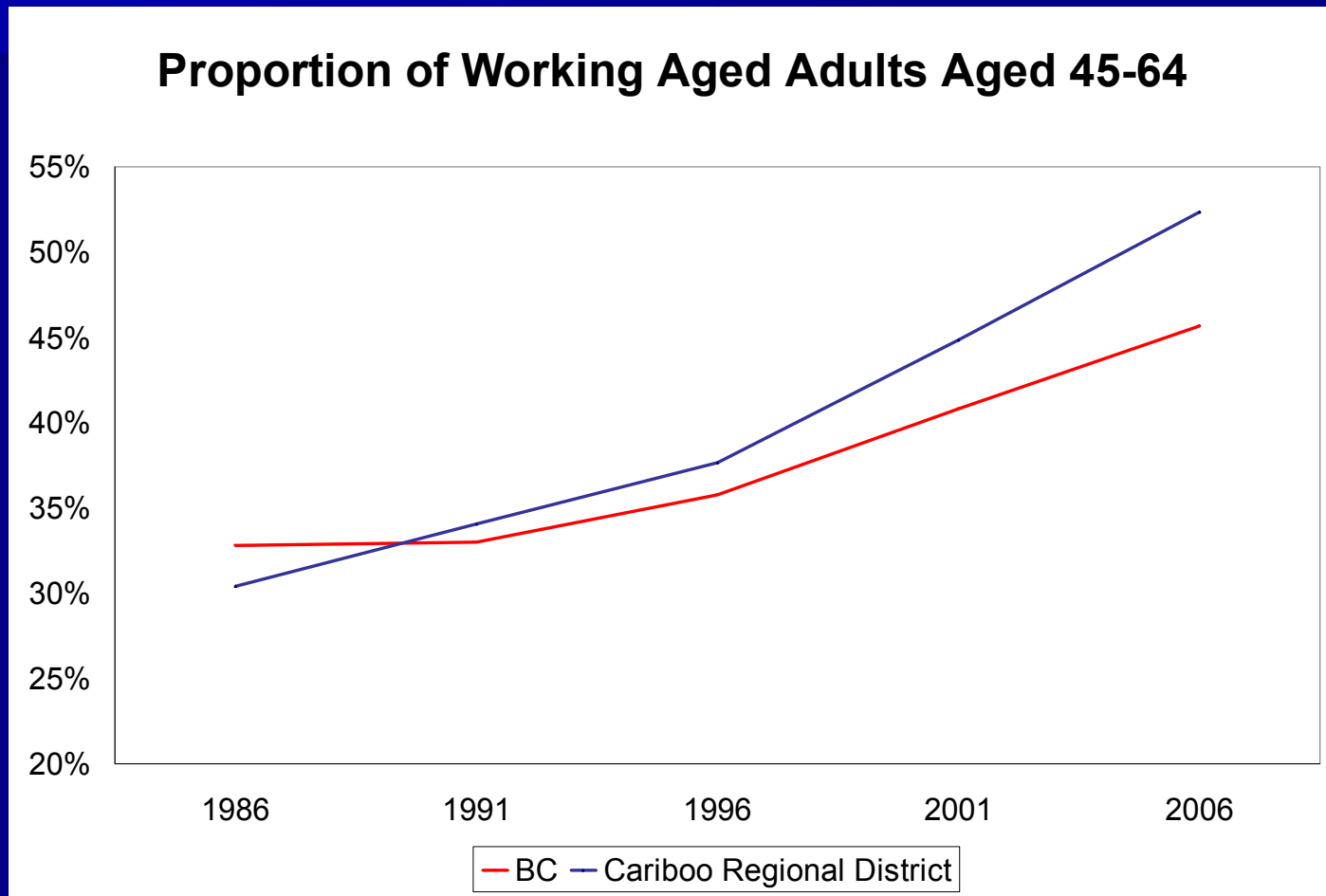
Source: Statistics Canada

Population Change in Northern BC



Source: Statistics Canada

Population Change in the Cariboo Regional District



Source: Statistics Canada

The Community Development Challenge

- Defining community development
 - Range of practices and efforts to support collective action, change and conditions for living
 - Means of transforming the physical and social environment of a geographical area (Chavis and Wandersman 1990)
 - “An incremental process through which individuals, families and communities gain the power, insight and resources to make decisions and take action regarding their well-being.” (Labonte 1996)

The Community Development Challenge

- Challenges *to* Community Development
 - Fixation on export-oriented resource extraction
 - Expected to solve resource dependency
 - Maintenance of existing service base, level of public funding and attraction of private capital

The Community Development Challenge

- The challenge *of* Community Development
 - Pursuit of CD for its own sake
 - Getting broad-based “buy-in”
 - Integration of CD objectives
 - Collaboration with neighbouring communities



Population Aging: Challenges/Opportunities

■ Health care

- Availability of primary health care
- Adaptations to practice and service delivery
- Rationing of acute and continuing care beds
- Access to geriatric specialists

Population Aging: Challenges/Opportunities

■ Housing

- Suitable
- Affordable
- Proximity to services and amenities
- Safe

Population Aging: Challenges/Opportunities

■ Community Services

- Seniors-friendly leisure and recreation
- Seniors' activity centre / clubs
- Public and private transportation

■ Infrastructure

- Sidewalks, walkways
- Snow and ice removal

Population Aging: Challenges/Opportunities

- Civic and Voluntary Sectors
 - Volunteer-provided services
 - Opportunities for voluntarism
 - Advocacy and voice in civic affairs

Embracing Population Change

- Be informed, not afraid
- Assess needs
- Recognize potential for development
- Network near and far
- Start preparing now, not later

Health Services as a Foundation for Community Development

- A “bridging” issue
- The networked community
- Re-imagining the community landscape

A realistic future?



Maybe more like this ...

