

Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Project
Methodology Report

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Acknowledgements

From May 2006 to May 2007 the Peace River Regional District and the Community Development Institute at UNBC worked on a project to enhance the understanding of the housing and service needs of older residents. In the late Fall of 2006, a survey was circulated in the Regional District (outside of Fort St. John and Taylor, where an earlier survey had been completed). We would like to thank all those who took the time to complete and return the survey. Also, we would like to thank the community contacts who assisted in the distribution of the survey, including Mike Redfearn and Janine Disher of Chetwynd, Elaine Peterson of Dawson Creek, Mayor Lenore Harwood of Hudson's Hope, Peter Thomas of Pouce Coupe, and Roxanne Gale of Tumbler Ridge.

In the Winter of 2007, our research team visited Dawson Creek, Pouce Coupe, Tumbler Ridge, Chetwynd, Hudson's Hope, and rural areas of Electoral Areas B, C, D, and E of the Peace River Regional District. The research team conducted key informant interviews and roundtable discussions as part of the Peace River Regional District 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 participate in the interviews and roundtable discussions. Also, we would like to thank community contacts who assisted in the organization of the roundtable discussions, including Harold Borass, Barb Braun, Chris Broad, Darlene Campbell, Ian Campbell, Rose Colledge, Jill Copes, Elaine Ferguson, Doug Foerster, Marcie Fofonoff, Nicole Garbitt, Peter Kut, Annie Madden, Susan Michaud, Sharon Sullivan, John and Martha Wall, and Eleanor Wilfur. The response and enthusiasm demonstrates the importance of this issue within the region.

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Funding for this project came from the Peace River Regional District. We would like to extend a special thanks to Faye Salisbury for her assistance in coordinating the project, and for putting us in contact with key local individuals and groups across the Regional District.

Jamie Reschny, Chelan Hoffman, Don Manson, Greg Halseth, and Neil Hanlon
Prince George, May 2007

Availability

Copies of all reports associated with the Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Project are available in a number of locations. In Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Hudson's Hope, Pouce Coupe, Taylor, and Tumbler Ridge, copies are available at local municipal halls and public libraries. In Dawson Creek and Fort St. John, copies have been deposited with the Peace River Regional District offices. In Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Hudson's Hope, and Pouce Coupe, copies have also been given to the local seniors' hall. At the University of Northern British Columbia, copies have been deposited at the Geoffrey R. Weller Library. Reports can also be accessed on the Community Development Institute website:

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

Project Reports

- Methodology Report
- Population Background and Trends Report
- Survey / Interview Report
- Roundtable Theme Report
- Executive Summary Report

Contact Information

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Peace River Regional District 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 influences the decisions of individuals when choosing to retire in a community. In the Peace River Regional District, there were about 3,300 people over the age of 65 in 1991, but by 2001 there were about 4,350 people over age 65 (Statistics Canada, 1991; Statistics Canada, 2001a). The increase in the number of older residents, and the increase in the number of residents who wish to remain in the region 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's Community Development Institute and the Peace River Regional District are working together to assess the needs of older residents.

The purpose of the Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Project is to examine housing and support service needs for seniors in the communities and rural areas of the region. The work was carried out by a research team from UNBC with the goal of providing local leaders with information relevant to decision-making regarding community planning and infrastructure investments. The project was carried out in the Fall of 2006 and Winter of 2007 (Table 1.1).

This report provides details and background information on the methodology used for the Peace River Seniors' Needs Project. As a result of pressures associated with an aging population, a survey of older residents was undertaken in the Fall of 2006 (Table 1.1). The purpose of this study is to develop a socio-economic profile of this aging population, and to gauge their interest and needs with a range of services.

Table 1.1 Timeline

May – July 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project application developed • Funding confirmed • Project Contribution Agreement confirmed • UNBC Research Ethics Board process completed • Research team established
August 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant local planning documents identified and obtained • Project logistics schedule completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Field work ○ Household survey
September 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft household survey • Draft interview guides • Draft roundtable guides
October 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of draft household survey and information letters by Project Advisory Group • Teleconference meeting with Project Advisory Group
November 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate household survey distribution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rural mail out ○ Municipal partnerships • Construct survey databases (SPSS and WORD) • Media releases to publicize household survey
December 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete household survey distribution • Household survey data entry begins • Finalize contacts for interviews and roundtables
January 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household survey data entry completed • Initiate population change report • Edit interview and roundtable guides
February 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize interviews and roundtables for assessment of seniors' needs • Preliminary analysis of household survey • Conduct key informant interviews • Conduct community roundtables
March 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of interview and roundtable data • Complete population analysis • Complete interview and roundtable analysis • Complete survey analysis
April 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete draft project reports
May 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of draft project reports with Regional District and Project Advisory Group • Final reports completed and distributed

2.0 Methodology

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

- a review of Census population data,
- a household survey,
- community roundtable discussions, and
- key informant interviews.

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 in the pre- and post-retirement age groups,
- 2) 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
- 3) an estimate of potential growth in the seniors' population based on the current age distribution of the population.

Data for the Peace River Regional District are derived from Statistics Canada's Census Division (CD) and Census Subdivision (CSD) categories. In BC, CDs correspond with the boundaries of Regional Districts and CSDs correspond with municipal boundaries and Indian Reserves. For the Electoral Areas of the Peace River Regional District (B, C, D and E), 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 municipality data. Instead, it is grouped with a larger area comprising part of the unorganized territory of the Peace River Regional District.

In addition, the boundaries of the Regional District and its electoral areas have changed over time. The earliest Census data obtained for this report from Statistics Canada is 1971. From this time until 1987, the Regional District comprised a much larger area and was known as the Peace-Liard Regional District. In 1987, the Peace-Liard Regional District was divided into the present day Northern Rockies Regional District and the Peace River Regional District. The data contained in this report for the 1991 Census and beyond are data specifically for the Peace River Regional District as we know it today.

In March 2007, Statistics Canada released the first round of results from the 2006 Census. This release included only the total population counts for CDs and CSDs. Where possible, these results have been used in this report.

Therefore, in some parts of this report, data are reported for the municipalities, 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. Census data collected from these groups has by Statistics Canada has been shown to ‘undercount’ First Nations and aboriginal population data.

Research Ethics

Each of the other three research methods used in the study (household survey, roundtable discussions, and key informant interviews) 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 household survey, roundtable discussion guide, and key informant interview script 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 throughout 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 roundtable and interview participant was given a copy of the appropriate consent form.

Household Survey

The initial stage of the project involved a household survey that was distributed across the study area. The survey was administered with the assistance of the Peace River Regional District in November and December of 2006. Each survey was accompanied by a cover letter outlining the purpose of the survey, the ethics and confidentiality arrangements, and how recipients should return their completed forms.

In the rural areas, the Peace River Regional District mailed copies of the survey to rural residents using the property tax roll list that is prepared by BC Assessment, but is managed by the Regional District. Additionally, publicity notices were made available to rural political leaders.

In the municipalities, a key contact was made with the local government to make arrangements for local distribution. Focal points were determined within the community to place surveys for pick up by older residents. Additionally, towns with local newspapers had stories and/or advertisements placed within them. In Tumbler Ridge, surveys were placed at the Recreation Centre, and local seniors’ groups were involved in the distribution of the surveys. In Dawson Creek, surveys were taken by a staff member of local government to more than a dozen locations

in the community. In Pouce Coupe, surveys were taken by a staff member of local government to the local store, the seniors’ centre, and the Village Office. In Chetwynd, surveys were available through the Municipal Office where meetings were held to help respondents understand the survey and to help them fill it out. Seniors’ groups were also involved. In Hudson’s Hope, the survey was available at the District Office and copies of the survey were taken to the seniors’ centre and to the Health Centre. In addition, researchers at UNBC made efforts to contact local recreation and hobby groups, service clubs, and other key people and organizations who are involved with seniors and older residents.

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 help the research team to understand the demographics of the area’s seniors, how people feel about current services, and what they think will be needed to meet the needs of an older population. A copy of the household survey is attached in Appendix A. A total of 7,167 surveys were distributed. The response rate of 22.3% to a general mail-out is considered quite good (Table 2.1).

Table 2.1: Survey Response Rate

Total Distributed	7,167
Total Completed and Returned	1,602
Response Rate	22.3 %

Source: Peace River Regional District Seniors’ Needs Project, 2007.

Evaluative Variables

The survey data reported in the Peace River Regional District 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 answer. 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 Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Hudson’s Hope, Pouce Coupe, Tumbler Ridge, or the Electoral Areas.

Rurality

Following the thought that where a person lives affects their experiences of services and housing needs, we will also compare responses by if a person lives in a municipality or a rural area. Municipalities include Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Hudson's Hope, Pouce Coupe, and Tumbler Ridge. Electoral areas B, D, and E of the Peace River Regional District have been classified as 'rural' areas. Although Electoral Area C is technically a rural electoral area, it is geographically the smallest of the four electoral areas and is the most populous, as it includes the area immediately surrounding Fort St. John and Taylor. As a result, Electoral Area C has unique circumstances and has not been classified as a municipality or a rural area, but has been considered on its own.

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 that they have had with aging and retirement. In our analysis, we compare responses and attitudes between people who were 55-74 years of age ('younger' seniors) and those who are 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 (CPP), but that people make their own decisions about plans such as RRSPs and RIFs, we created an evaluative variable that compares those with 'only CPP' 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 compares the actions and attitudes of 'newcomers' (10 years or less) with 'long-term' residents (more than 11 years).

Planning to retire locally

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

These six evaluative variables – community, rurality, 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 analysis, the evaluative variables are mentioned only if there are notable differences between the groups.

Roundtable Discussions

A further stage of the research project involved a series of roundtable discussions with local residents, including seniors and those who are involved and/or aware of seniors' needs. The purpose of the roundtable discussions was to collect information relevant to local communities, and to explore some of the preliminary survey results. Roundtables were conducted between February 19th and February 23rd, 2007. A copy of the roundtable consent form and discussion guide is attached (Appendix B).

Roundtable participants were identified in a number of ways. The Peace River Regional Hospital District Board identified potential groups in the area that might want to be involved with roundtable discussions; as well, several of the individuals and organizations contacted through the key informant interviews also volunteered to arrange roundtables to discuss seniors' issues. A total of 20 roundtables were held (Tables 2.2a and 2.2b).

Table 2.2a
Roundtables – by organization type

Seniors	9
Community Associations	4
Service Providers	3
Women's Organizations	3
First Nations	1

Source: Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Project, 2007.

Table 2.2b
Roundtables – by community

Rural	7
Chetwynd	4
Dawson Creek	3
Tumbler Ridge	3
Hudson's Hope	2
Pouce Coupe	1

Source: Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Project, 2007.

Potential roundtable hosts and participants were contacted by telephone to describe the project, how they were identified as a potential host or participant, and to ask if they would be interested in participating or helping to recruit other participants for a roundtable discussion. For those who were interested, we arranged a roundtable schedule at a time and place convenient to them. Prior to each roundtable 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 roundtables were facilitated by a member of the UNBC research team. A second research team member took notes and operated the tape recording equipment. Drafts of the roundtable summary notes were shared back with participants for clarification and to make sure that key points were captured. The roundtable information was then compiled into a thematic summary of issues and topics.

Key Informant Interviews

The third stage of the research project involved key informant interviews with individuals from community groups, service provision agencies, and local government in order to obtain views from people actively engaged in seniors' issues.

Key informant interviews were conducted between February 19th and February 23rd, 2007. A copy of the interview consent form and interview guide is attached (Appendix C). The key informants were selected from publicly available lists as well as from suggestions received from the Peace River Regional Hospital District. A total of 15 people were interviewed. Tables 2.3a and 2.3b show the distribution of sectors and communities from which information was obtained.

Table 2.3a
Key Informant Interviews – by sector

Government	8
Health Care	4
Housing	1
Seniors	1
Social Support Services	1

Source: Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Project, 2007.

Table 2.3b
Key Informant Interviews – by community

Tumbler Ridge	5
Dawson Creek	4
Chetwynd	2
Pouce Coupe	2
Hudson's Hope	1
Rural	1

Source: Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Project, 2007.

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 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. Following the interview, a draft of the notes was shared back with the interviewee to ensure that all key points were properly captured. Themes that emerged from the interviews were then used in conjunction with the survey data to generate the survey report.

List of References

Statistics Canada. 2001. *Census Population*.

Statistics Canada. 1991. *Census Population*.

Additional Sources of Information

Fort St. John Seniors' Needs Project (2006)

Hoffman, C., C. Martin, C. Fraser, L. Van De Keere, L. Ryser, G. Halseth, and N. Hanlon. 2006. *Fort St. John and Area Seniors' Needs Project: Interview Themes Report*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC.

Van De Keere, L., C. Hoffman, G. Halseth, and N. Hanlon. 2006. *Fort St. John and Area Seniors' Needs Project: Seniors' Survey Report*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC.

Terrace and Area Seniors' Needs Project (2006)

Halseth, G., L. Ryser, C. Martin, and N. Hanlon. 2006. *Terrace and Area Seniors' Needs Project: Executive Summary Report*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC. Available online:
http://web.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/greg/publications/TerraceSeniors/Executive_Summary_Report.pdf.

Mackenzie and Area Seniors' Needs Project (2004)

Halseth, G., N. Hanlon, V. Pow, and R. Clasby. 2004. *"Looking to the Future, Now" Mackenzie and Area Seniors' Needs Project: Executive Summary*. Prince George, BC: Community Development Institute, UNBC. Available online:
<http://web.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/greg/publications/SeniorsNeeds/ExecSummary.pdf>.

**Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Project
Appendices**

Appendix A: Household Survey (Cover Letter and Survey)

Appendix B: Roundtable Materials
(Consent Form, Discussion Guide, and Preliminary Survey Results)

Appendix C: Interview Materials (Consent Form and Interview Guide)

**Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Project
Appendix A**

**Household Survey
Cover Letter
Survey**

Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Project

Since the 1950's, Canada's population has been aging. In small towns, the provision of housing, services, and facilities influence people's choices to retire in a community. As a result, the Community Development Institute at UNBC and 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 Regional District.

We are especially interested in households with people aged 50 and over. If you know someone who did not get a survey, please ask them to call the Regional District at 1-800-670-7773

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 people 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 place it into the enclosed postage paid envelope and deposit the postage paid return envelope into any mailbox.

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 local City Halls, the Regional District Office, local libraries, and from the research team.

Thank you for your time. Sincerely,

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Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Project

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 the Peace River Regional District. The information you provide will help decision-makers and community groups make informed decisions over community planning and infrastructure investments.

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)*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dawson Creek | <input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Area B; community: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tumbler Ridge | <input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Area C; community: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chetwynd | <input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Area D; community: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hudson's Hope | <input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Area E; community: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pouce Coupe | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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>	

A12. Does anyone in your household require special medical attention?

- Yes If Yes, please specify: _____
- No _____

Please complete the following questions ONLY if you are married or living with a partner. If you do not have a spouse or partner, please skip to the next section.

A13. What is your spouse’s/partner’s 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: _____

A14. Please describe your spouse’s/partner’s 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: _____

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 your community.

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

B6a. 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.)*

B6b. If your dwelling is in need of MINOR or MAJOR repairs, do you need financial assistance to pay for these repairs?

- Yes
- No – if NO – go to Question B7

B6c. If YES, have you ever applied to the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) via the Regional District?

- Yes – if YES – go to Question B7
- No

B6d. If NO, would you be interested in finding out more about the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP)?

- Yes
- No

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? \$ _____

B9a. For OWNERS only:

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

- None
- \$ _____

B9b. 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, etc)

- Yes
- No

Please explain: _____

B12a. What types of housing should your community have to meet the needs of older residents?
(Please check all categories that you feel apply)

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

B12b. FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN RURAL AREAS:

What types of housing should the nearest town or regional centre have to meet the needs of older residents from the area? (Check all that apply)

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

B12c. Where: _____

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 housing are you looking for?

- Single Family Dwelling Unit
 Apartment
 Condominium
 Seniors' Housing – Long term care
 Seniors' Housing – Intermediate care

 Other _____

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"/> HandiDART | <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. 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
_____	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 facilities? *(Please circle your answers)*
 Answer all that may apply.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Not Applic.
Swimming pool	1	2	3	4	5	6
Fitness room	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	1	2	3	4	5	6

D4. How satisfied are you with the following services in your community?
 (Please circle your answers) Answer all that may apply.

	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 IN RURAL AREAS:

Do you think that the nearby town or regional centre needs more housing for older residents from your area?

- Yes
- No

D6c: 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 in rural areas:

Do you think that the nearby town or regional centre needs a seniors' activity centre for older residents from your area?

- Yes
- No

D6c. If YES, Where: _____

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
Other: _____	1	2	3	4
Other: _____	1	2	3	4

D8. Who do you think should be responsible for providing additional services to older residents living in rural areas?

(Please check all that apply)

- Municipal / Band Government
- Provincial Government
- Federal Government
- Private sector
- Voluntary sector
- The people who live in it
- Other, please explain: _____

Comments: _____

D9. 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 PICK ONLY THREE
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"/> Heavy doors |
| <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 paved sidewalks
- Canopies / covered entrances / awnings
- Automatic entrance doors on stores/offices
- 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 the area.

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"/> Not Applicable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: _____ | |

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: _____
- Other, 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 area.

G1. Are you retired?

- Yes – if yes how long ago did you retire? _____Years [Go to G3.]
- 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?

**Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Project
Appendix B**

Roundtable Materials

Consent Form

Discussion Guide

Preliminary Survey Results

**Peace River Regional District Seniors’ Needs Project
Roundtable Consent Form**

Purpose – The purpose of this project is to examine housing, service, and support needs for older residents in the Peace River Regional District. 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 roundtables with seniors, decision-makers, service providers, and residents, and a mail-out survey to seniors living in the area.

How Respondents Were Chosen - The roundtable participants were selected from suggestions made by a community advisory group from the Peace River Regional District as individuals with an interest in seniors’ housing and support topics. The roundtable 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 roundtable discussions means that we will be sharing information amongst everyone present. However, all information shared in this roundtable 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 roundtable 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 roundtable 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 roundtable 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)

Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Overview ROUNDTABLE GUIDE

Roundtable: _____

Facilitator: _____

Notes take by: _____

Date: _____ Place: _____

Interview Time: Start _____ Finish _____

A. Opening Questions

Around the table, what is your name and how long have you lived in the area?

B. Migration/Mobility

With respect to seniors:

What are the advantages to retiring in the area?

Prompts:

- Do you agree with the lists? **[see sample Table]**
- Which 3 do you agree with the most?
- Other?

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

Prompts:

- Do you agree with the lists? **[see sample Table]**
- Which 3 do you agree with the most?
- Other?

C. Housing

What types of housing do you think the area will have to develop to meet the needs of seniors?
[Table 3.2]

Key:

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*)

Long term care facilities (*i.e. nursing home*)

Respite care facilities (*i.e. adult daycare facility designed to provide temporary relief for primary care givers of seniors with ongoing needs*)

Palliative care (*i.e. facility designed to provide care for terminally ill*)

For rural seniors, where should housing be located for:

Prompts:

- Independent living?
- Long-term care?

D. Health Care

In general, how well do you think the health care system responds to the needs of area seniors?

Prompts:

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

E. Services

From the list of services, which are most urgent in your community?

Prompts:

- Please identify the top 5. [see sample Table]

Does your community need a seniors' activity centre?

Prompts:

- Do you agree with the top cluster of 7? [see sample Table]

For rural seniors, where should a seniors' activity centre be located?

F. Transportation

What do you think are the key transportation needs for area seniors?

Prompts:

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

G. Physical Environment

What physical barriers prohibit seniors from walking around the community?

Prompts:

- Do you agree with the list? [**see sample Table**]
- What are the top 2 most important to you?
- Other barriers?

H. Concluding Question

From the experiences you have had in the community, do you have anything else that has not been touched on here that you would like to comment on?

**Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Project
Appendix C**

Interview Materials

Consent Form

Interview Guide

**Peace River Regional District 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 Peace River Regional District. 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 roundtables 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 Peace River 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; halseth@unbc.ca) 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)

**Peace River Regional District Seniors' Needs Overview
INTERVIEW SCRIPT**

Interviewee Name: _____

Contact Information: _____

Interviewer: _____

Date: _____ Place: _____

Interview Time: Start _____ Finish _____

Interview Notes:

SECTION A: Background Information Questions

The first section of questions asks you how long you have been in the Peace River Regional District, and the benefits or drawbacks of retiring in the community.

A1. How long have you lived in the area?

A2. What do you think are the advantages to retiring in the area?

A3. What are the drawbacks or disadvantages to retiring in the area?

SECTION B:

Housing

In this section, I would like to ask you some questions relating to the housing situation in Peace River Regional District for older and senior residents.

B1. Would you say the current housing situation in your community meets the needs of seniors?

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

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

Key:

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*)

Long term care facilities (*i.e. nursing home*)

Respite care facilities (*i.e. adult daycare facility designed to provide temporary relief for primary care givers of seniors with ongoing needs*)

Palliative care (*i.e. facility designed to provide care for terminally ill*)

B4. What would be the best location for:

Prompts:

Independent living units?

Long term care units?

If not locally, where should they be located?

B5. Who should be responsible for developing and maintaining seniors' housing?

Prompts:

Municipal Government, Federal Government, Provincial Government

Private funding

Voluntary sector

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 Peace River Regional District.

C1. In general, how well do you think the health care system responds to the needs of area seniors?

C2. What do you think are the most useful health care services now provided to area seniors?

C3. What do you think are the critical health care service needs for area seniors?

C4. 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 Peace River Regional District.

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 in your community?

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

D2. What are some of the ways that information on seniors programs and services could be better provided?

Prompts:

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 area needs most?

Prompts:

Social support (meals on wheels, home maintenance)

House cleaning

Yard work

Support groups

Retail / shopping

Information (health resources)

Delivery of services and goods

Service Providers (including government):

****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 responsibility of your organization with respect to seniors in your community?

D5. Please explain how the services provided by your organization are delivered:

Prompts:

- Partnerships?
- Volunteers / staff?
- Funding?
- Workshops, appointments, etc.?

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

Prompts:

- 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 Peace River Regional District.

E1. Would you say the current types of transportation options in the 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 the region for health or other services, what types of transportation services do you think should be provided?

SECTION F

Physical Environment

In this next section, I would like to ask you some questions relating to the physical environment in the Peace River Regional District.

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

Prompts:

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

F2. What are some of the things that need to be done to allow seniors to move about the community and go to various stores and buildings?

Prompts:

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

SECTION G

Social Environment

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

G1. What types of recreation or leisure programs are available for seniors?

G2. 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

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

Prompts:

Belonging - private/safe seniors' space

Becoming - participate within the community

H2. In your opinion is the cost of living in the 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.?

H3. Does the cost of living in the area affect seniors' quality of life?

1. Yes

2. No

If **YES**, describe how:

SECTION I:

Concluding Questions

II. From the experiences you have had in the Peace River Regional District, 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?