

Community Economic Benefit: The Upside of an Aging Population

Greg Halseth¹

Marleen Morris²

¹Community Development Institute, UNBC

²Marleen Morris & Associates

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Outline

- Population Aging Trends
- Characteristics of an Aging Population
- Seniors' Spending Patterns
- Case Studies
- Retaining and Attracting Seniors



Population Aging Trends

Population Aging Trends

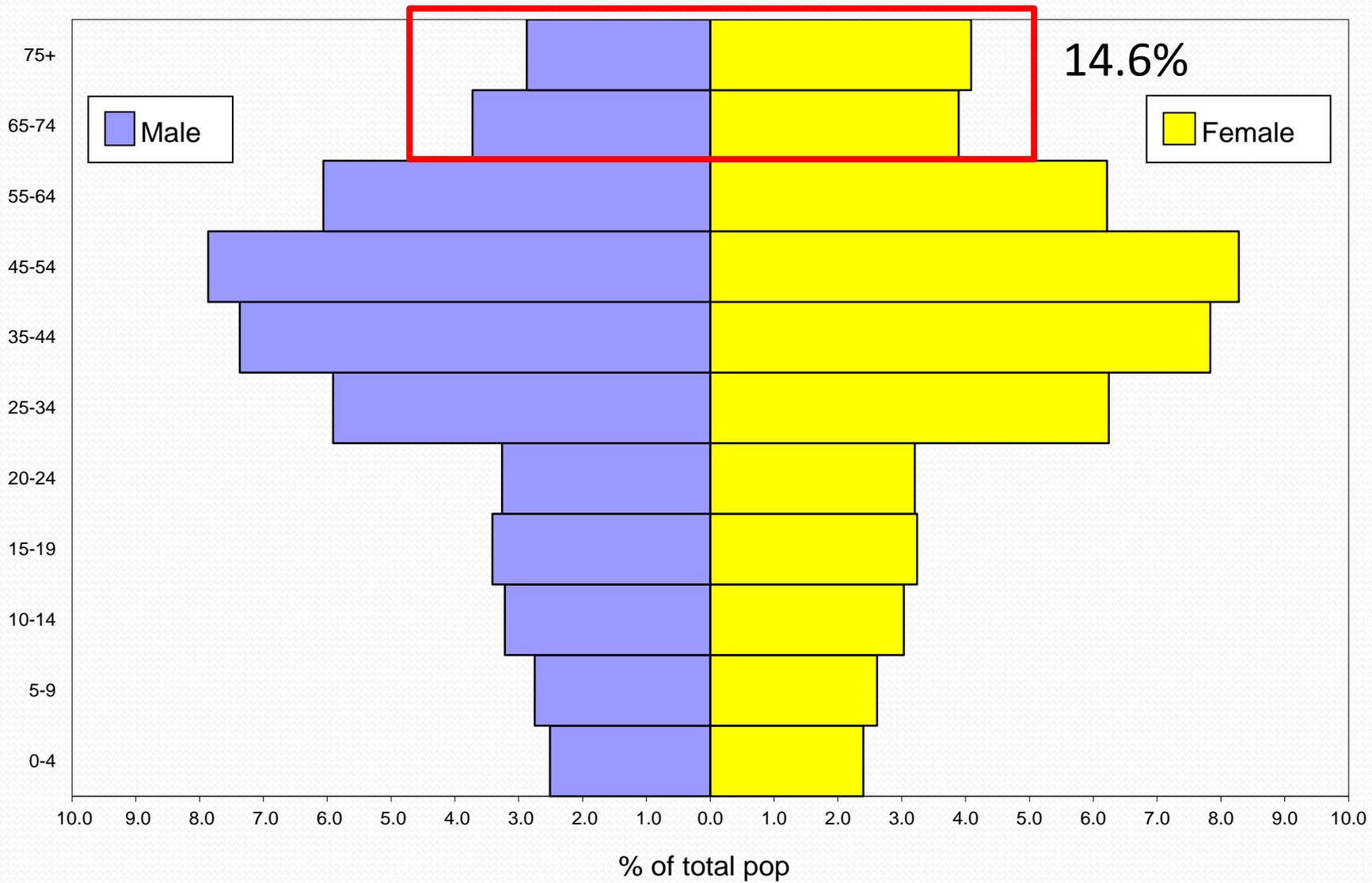
General

- Lower birth rates / longer life spans
- Aging 'Baby Boom' population

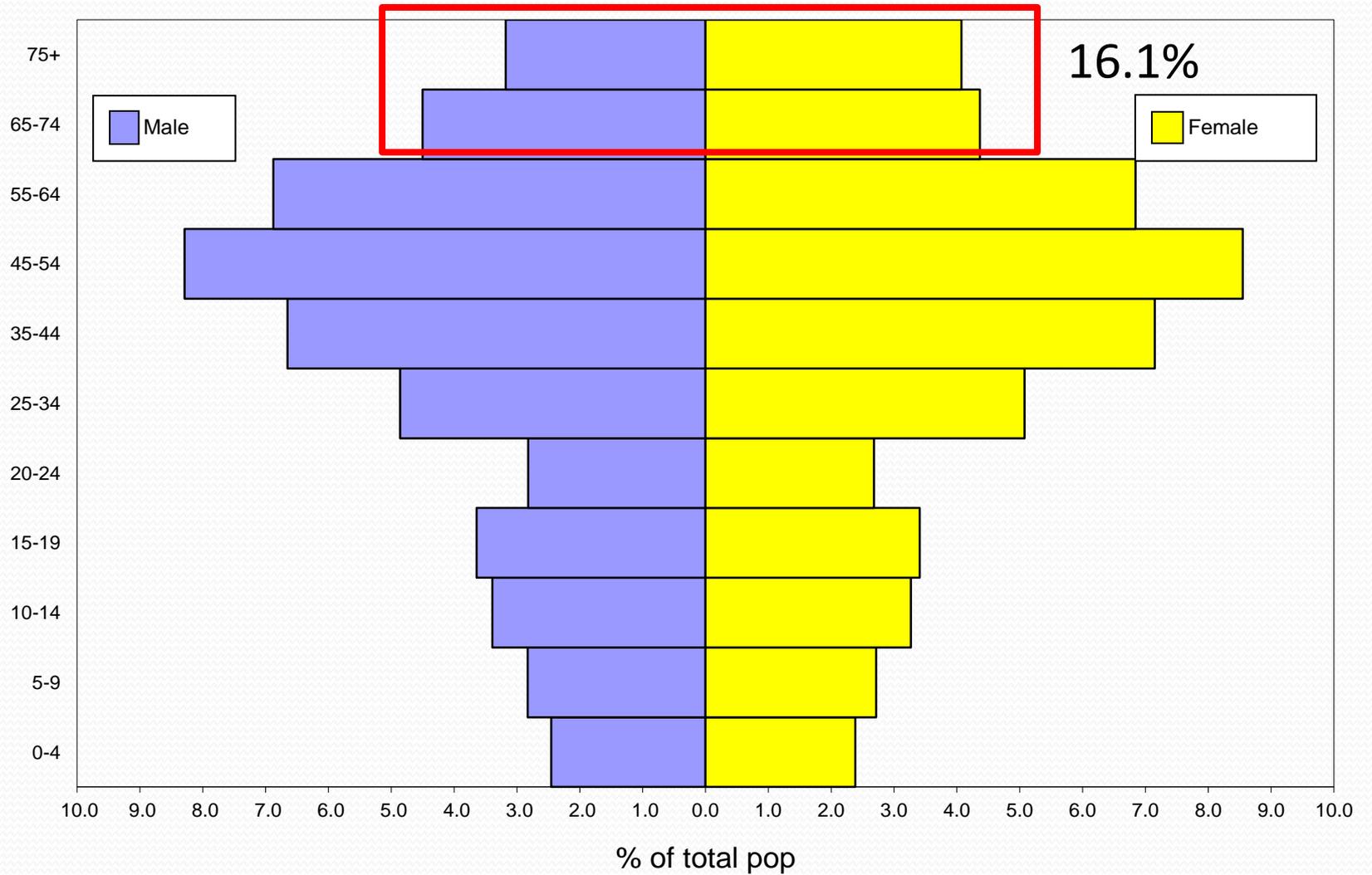
Small Towns

- Aging workforce
- Out-migration of young families
- 'Resource Frontier Aging'

British Columbia - 2006



Non-Metro British Columbia - 2006



BC Projection

- 2006 18% of BC over age 64
- 2011 19.5% of BC over age 64 (BC Stats Est.)
- 2021 24.3% of BC over age 64 (BC Stats Est.)
- 2031 29.6% of BC over age 64 (BC Stats Est.)



Characteristics of Seniors

Characteristics of Seniors I

Housing

- 80% of seniors own their home
- 24.9% require minor repairs
- 7.4% require major repairs

Characteristics of Seniors II

Median Household Income

<u>Household Type</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Single Senior Households	19,990	22,258	11.3
Two or More in Household over 65 Years	48,032	52,302	8.9



Spending Patterns for Seniors

Spending Patterns for Seniors

- Key: spending levels remain consistent after entering retirement
 - Top income groups increase spending 7-18%
 - Changes in the mix of consumption
 - More on housing, property maintenance, & health care

Comparing Consumption: BC Seniors

- Young Seniors spend more on:
 - Shelter, household operation/equipment, clothing, personal care, recreation, tobacco/alcohol
- Middle-Aged Seniors spend more on:
 - Transportation & health care
- Consumption declines for Older Seniors

Top Spending Categories in BC

Urban Seniors

1. Shelter
2. Transportation
3. Food
4. Health Care
5. Recreation
6. Household Operation *

Rural Seniors

1. Shelter
2. Transportation
3. Food
4. Household Operation *
5. Health Care
6. Recreation

Mean Expenditures

Total Expenditures

British Columbia

100,000 or more 44,594.03

Less than 100,000 34,819.54

Rural 33,282.79

Canada

100,000 or more 44,893.05

Less than 100,000 36,600.15

Rural 32,962.01



Case Studies

Case Study: Tumbler Ridge I

- Coal mining town in NE BC
 - established in 1983
- Growing seniors' population
 - 1986: 15 seniors
 - 2006: 280 seniors
- Aging workforce (45 years+)
 - 1986: 10.7%
 - 2006: 46.7%

Case Study: Tumbler Ridge II

- Tumbler Ridge Task Force on Seniors' Needs
 - Needs assessment / strategic plan in 2008
 - Seniors' needs coordinator hired
 - 12 seniors' housing units built (with BC Housing)
 - Seniors' drop-in centre opened

Case Study: Tumbler Ridge III

- TR Cares
 - Partnership with NHA to provide transportation to regional centres
- Measuring Up the North project
 - Partnership with Northern Lights College to provide seniors' education
 - Improved accessibility
 - Sidewalks
 - Stores
 - Community trail networks
 - Prioritized snow removal

Case Study: Saanich

- Seniors Population

Age/Year	1986	2006
65-74 years	1,905	8,805
75+ years	860	10,330
Total	2,765	19,135

Case Study: Saanich

- Creating an age-friendly community
 - Made Saanich Adaptable Housing regulations mandatory for apartments
 - Completed improvements to sidewalks and bus stops
 - Provided funding & support to the Saanich Volunteer Society to operate a seniors volunteer program
 - Completed the Centennial Trails Project
 - Located municipal election polling stations in seniors residential complexes

Case Study: Lumby

- Seniors Population

Age/Year	1986	2006
65-74 years	80	165
75+ years	50	100
Total	130	265

Case Study: Lumby

- Creating an age-friendly community
 - Created a community garden across from the seniors' centre
 - Constructed 16 units of affordable independent seniors housing
 - Developed walking paths and seniors' recreation programs
 - Compact community design
 - Seniors housing, complex care facility, seniors' centre, community centre, curling rink, swimming pool, and arena are in a four square block area
 - Retail and health facilities are located downtown

Other Examples

- Alert Bay
 - Purchased an accessible van in partnership with 'Namgis First Nation and neighbouring communities
- Revelstoke
 - Expanded the bench dedication program & focused on areas with seniors services
- Port Hardy
 - Provided free seniors transportation to key community meetings/events
- Sechelt
 - Offered educational workshops on accessibility design for local builders, planners, & engineers



Retaining and Attracting Seniors

Retaining & Attracting Seniors

- Key principles for creating an age-friendly community (WHO):
 - Outdoor spaces and buildings
 - Transportation
 - Housing
 - Respect and social inclusion
 - Social participation
 - Communication and information
 - Civic participation and employment opportunities
 - Community support and health services

Retaining & Attracting Seniors

- Principles for creating an age-friendly business (BC Gov't):
 - Safety
 - Comfort
 - Visibility and clarity
 - Respect

Retaining & Attracting Seniors

- Creating an age-friendly business:
 - Sheltered pick-up and drop-off areas
 - Scooter parking
 - Automatic entrance doors
 - Seating in all areas
 - Service counters have a place to hook a cane and rest bags
 - Large print signage
 - Products for smaller households, incomes, and appetites

Retaining & Attracting Seniors

- Creating an age-friendly business
 - Home delivery and set-up services
 - Magnifying or reading glasses
 - Telephones answered by a 'live' person
 - Staff speak slowly and clearly when dealing with older persons
 - Available private areas to discuss personal issues
 - Emergency planning / training includes evacuation of elderly and disabled

Community Summary

Populating Aging

- Already happening
- Will accelerate

Response

- Already well experienced in service costs & economic benefits
- Lots of creative examples across US / Canada
- 'We know how to do this'

Community Development Institute at UNBC

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Community Development Institute - UNBC

- NEV2 - updating our northern BC development vision and strategy project
- NEW BOOK - "The Next Rural Economies"
- 2010 Community Connections Talk - PowerPoint slides
- Understanding Indigenous Economic Development in Northern, Rural, and Remote Settings: Workshop Materials and E-Book
- NEW - Community Education Videos/Tools

The Community Development Institute at UNBC is interested in two fundamental issues for communities in northern BC: community capacity and community development. By undertaking research, sharing information, and supporting education outreach, the Institute is becoming a vital partner to communities interested in making informed decisions about their own futures.



UNBC Community Development Institute

3333 University Way

Prince George, BC, Canada

V2N 4Z9

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



Marleen Morris & Associates

shaping the future

Marleen Morris & Associates

3566 West 8th Avenue

Vancouver, BC

V6R 1Y7

<http://www.mmassociates.ca>