

“Looking to the Future, Now”
Mackenzie and Area Seniors Needs Project
Methodology Report

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Greg Halseth, Neil Hanlon, Virginia Pow, and Rachael Clasby
Prince George
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Availability

Copies of all reports associated with the Mackenzie and Area Seniors Needs Study are available in a number of locations. In Mackenzie, copies have been deposited with the District of Mackenzie and the public library. At the University of Northern British Columbia, copies have been deposited at the Weller Library or can be accessed on Greg Halseth's website:
<http://web.unbc.ca/geography/faculty/greg>

Project Reports

- Methodology Report
- Background Literature Report
- Population Background and Trends
- Northern Seniors Housing and Support Services Report
- Final Report
- Executive Summary

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Mackenzie and Area Seniors Needs Project Methodology Report

1.0 Project Description

The purpose of the Mackenzie and Area Seniors Needs Project is to examine housing and support service needs for seniors in the District of Mackenzie and surrounding area. The work was carried out by a research team from UNBC with the goal to provide decision-makers and community groups with information relevant to decision-making over community planning and infrastructure investments. The project was carried out over the Summer of 2004.

Table 1.1 Timeline

January 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project application developed
March 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NLUI funding confirmed
April 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project begins • Organize interviews and focus groups for assessment of seniors' needs
May 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 11th to 14th, 2004 – Key informant interviews & distribution of thank you notes • May 17th to 20th, 2004 – Focus groups (4 groups) & distribution of thank you notes • May 12th to 25th, 2004 – Collection of key informant and focus group scripts that had been checked by participants • Preparation of questionnaire survey
June 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 9th to 10th, 2004 – Distribution of the survey to all dwellings in Mackenzie • Analysis of interviews and focus group data • Data entry for surveys
July 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of interviews and focus group data analysis • Integration of population analysis, seniors housing and support needs, and seniors interviews and focus groups • Analysis of survey data
August 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of analysis • Completion of draft final report
September – October 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of draft final report • Public presentation of results • Public dissemination of final report

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 Mackenzie, there were about 50 people over the age of 65 in 1991, but by 2001 there were approximately 140 people over age 65 (Census, 2001). The increase in the number of people over the age of 50, and the increase in the number of residents who wish to remain in Mackenzie when they retire, have increased the level of interest in Mackenzie and area about how the community, local services, and available housing options will meet the needs of a growing seniors population. As a result, UNBC and the District of Mackenzie are working together to assess the housing and service needs for middle-aged and older residents.

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,
- focus groups, and
- a survey distributed to each dwelling in the community.

Census Data

The first stage of the project collected and reviewed available Census data. The Census is undertaken every five years and provides information on the age distribution of local populations. While the age groupings at which population information is reported does vary between Census periods, it is none-the-less possible to reconstruct the population history of the District of Mackenzie. Analysis of this population data assessed three questions:

- 1) the rates of population growth in age categories 50-59, 60-69, and 70-79, and 80 plus,
- 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.

It must be noted that population information for the area surrounding Mackenzie is not straightforward to obtain or compare. It is not collected at a geographic scale that would allow it simply to be added to the Mackenzie data. Instead, it is grouped with a large region comprising part of the unorganized territory of the Fraser Fort George Regional District. Therefore, this information has not been included in the project. In some places, data from both BC and the

Fraser Fort George Regional District is used to compare against the changes occurring in Mackenzie.

Research Ethics

Each of the other three research methods used in the study (key informant interviews, focus groups, and the community survey) 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 community survey all 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 or cover letters attached in the Appendices (A, B, and C) of this report. 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 or cover letters. Each participant was given a copy of either the consent form or cover letter.

Key Informant Interview Content

Key informant interviews were conducted between May 11th and 14th, 2004. People were contacted through community groups or service organizations. In addition, interviewees were asked to suggest additional names of people who could provide information on the topic of seniors' needs. Each participant received a consent form outlining ethics and confidentiality arrangements.

The interviews covered a range of issues connected to seniors' needs and services in Mackenzie. When asked about transportation services, interviewees noted opportunities for a van or mini-bus to run in the community and that more handicapped access could be added at the post office and mall. A cross walk and light installed in front of the post office across Mackenzie Boulevard was also suggested to ease access concerns. When asked about recreational services available for seniors; golf, Club 55, and the recreation center were widely noted and appreciated. However, it was suggested that recreation services could be improved if more activities were aimed specifically at the senior's population (for example, a seniors only aqua-fit class in the pool). Discussion also included retail and housing services. The need for seniors' housing was widely noted, especially housing options that would incorporate provision of medical care as people age. When asked about the advantages of retiring in Mackenzie; family, friends, and the community were among the top advantages identified. When asked about disadvantages; the long winter, a lack of services, and limited health care were cited as issues. A copy of the interview script is attached (Appendix A).

To improve accuracy, all interviewees were given a copy of their interview notes so that they could provide corrections or additional feedback. The information from the key informant interviews was used to create the focus group script and the survey. Key informants also helped to identify potential focus group participants.

Focus Group Content

Four focus groups were conducted in May 2004 with a number of older residents in Mackenzie. The focus group participants were chosen either from suggestions offered by key informants or through a 'snowball sampling method' where people who were already recruited to a focus group were asked if they knew of additional people who might be interested in participating. The main criterion for being a focus group participant was to be over the age of 50. Each focus group participant received a consent form outlining ethics and confidentiality arrangements.

The focus groups identified a range of important topics associated with seniors' housing and services in Mackenzie. When asked about the advantages of retiring in Mackenzie, most focus group participants noted that family or friends are located here, that they enjoyed the community, and that the town had excellent recreational opportunities. When asked about disadvantages, the focus group participants noted the long winters, the weather in winters (however all noted the roads were very well maintained), the lack of medical services, the lack of retail services, and the need for alternative housing options once people could no longer live in their own homes. When focus group participants were asked what type of senior's housing they would like to see, most responded that they would like to see a phased complex. Where residents could move into the units when they still had quite a bit of independence, but as their need for assistance grew, they could simply move within the complex to units with higher care services. A copy of the focus group script is attached (Appendix B).

To improve accuracy, each focus group participant received a draft copy of the summary notes for their session so that they could review the information, provide clarification where needed, or add corrections. As with the community interviews, information generated from the focus groups was used to inform our questionnaire survey.

Questionnaire Content

A household survey was distributed in June 2004. 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 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 community, how the community members felt about current services, and what people thought would be needed to meet the needs of an older population. A copy of the household survey is attached (Appendix C).

The research team went to each household in Mackenzie to distribute the survey. If there was no one at home, the survey was placed in a white plastic bag and hung on the door. The distribution took 2 days (June 9 and 10, 2004). If a house was inadvertently missed, the people could still participate by picking up a copy of the survey from the Mackenzie Mall, where a table was staffed with volunteers to distribute surveys. Respondents were able to drop-off the surveys at one of three locked drop boxes in the community. These drop boxes were located at the front desk of the Mackenzie Recreation Centre, the front desk of the District of Mackenzie Office, and the counter at the Lotto Booth in the Mackenzie Mall. These locations were chosen because of their visibility and because they were spaces familiar to residents. The surveys (in sealed envelopes) were picked up weekly by a District of Mackenzie employee who couriered them to the research office at UNBC. A total of 1,840 were distributed door-to-door.

The CHMM radio station and the Mackenzie Times newspaper promoted press releases about the survey before, during, and after its distribution in town. After the survey had been distributed, the radio station and newspaper continued to remind residents about the survey and where the drop-off boxes were located. The cut off date for returned surveys was July 26, 2004.

Table 2.1: Response Rates

	Mackenzie
Total Distributed	1840
Total Completed and Returned	381
Response Rate	20.7 %

Source: Mackenzie and Area Seniors Needs survey, 2004.

Evaluative Variables

The survey data reported in the 2004 Mackenzie and Area Seniors Needs report presents the totals for respondent answers to the various questions asked. However, in undertaking any analysis of this sort, it is quite typical 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 services which seniors might need, or is the respondent's choice of where they might retire influenced by the amount of pension income they will have access to? 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:

Age

Age was a very important factor in the study. The focus for this study was on the service and housing needs of older residents. Other research shows that there are differences between age groups, often reflecting the relative experiences they

have had with aging and retirement. In our analysis, we compared responses and attitudes between people who are “retired”, people who were “nearing retirement” (between 55 and 64 years but who are not yet retired), and those “younger” than age 55.

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, that people make their own decisions about plans such as RRSPs and RIFs, and that Mackenzie has extensive union participation in the labour force, we created an evaluative variable based on access to pensions. In our analysis we specifically looked at those with “only CCP” coverage.

Income

The amount of income that an individual has can influence their actions and decisions. In our analysis, we examined how household income levels influenced attitudes and decisions around aging and retirement. We compared those with “high household incomes (over \$80,000), those with “low household incomes and retired” (under \$40,000), and those with “low household incomes and not retired” (under \$40,000).

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 in Mackenzie) with “long term” residents (more than 20 years in town).

Planning to retire in Mackenzie

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

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

3.0 Socio-Economic Profile

This section provides an overview of the socio-economic characteristics of the survey respondents. It is important to identify the degree to which the respondents could be said to represent their community. This includes reviewing the survey respondents' marital status, age, gender, and housing status against data from the 2001 Census.

Survey findings indicated a larger portion of respondents were married compared to the 2001 census (Table 3.1). This is not surprising since the surveys were distributed to every dwelling and were usually completed by the adults living there (thus children were not usually the principal respondents), and that the survey was geared towards seniors' issues.

Table 3.1 Respondent Marital Status

Respondent Marital Status	Survey Percent	2001 Census
Single	8.0	30.7
Married	69.0	56.6
Live-in or Common-law partner	9.4	10.7
Separated	4.0	4.8
Divorced	4.3	6.0
Widowed	5.3	1.8

n=374

Source: Mackenzie and Area Seniors Needs Survey, 2004; Census, 2001

In comparison to the 2001 Census, a smaller share of respondents was under the age of 24 (Table 3.2a). Again, this is not a surprising result given the survey distribution method and that most respondents were household heads. The majority of respondents were between the ages of 25 to 55. Interestingly, the Census records 25% of the population in Mackenzie as being over age 45, while the survey respondents in this age group account for 61.7% of replies. The pattern of older respondents may also reflect interest, and that the housing and services needs of an older population are emerging as important issues in the community.

Table 3.2a Age Profile of Respondents

Age Profile of Respondents	Survey Percent	2001 Census
0-4	0.0	6.8
5-14	0.0	17.7
15-19	0.0	8.5
20-24	1.1	5.6
25-44	37.2	36.2
45-54	31.0	16.0
55-64	21.0	6.8
65-74	7.3	1.9
75-84	1.6	0.2
85+	0.8	0.1

n=371

Source: Mackenzie and Area Seniors Needs Survey, 2004; Census, 2001

The survey also asked about the ages of all people living in the household. From this we can again compare the survey respondent sample to that described by the Census. In this case, spouses, partners, parents, and children living in the household are included (Table 3.2b). When we include all of these people in the respondent households, the age profile of the survey looks much more like that described in the 2001 Census. There is an over-representation within the respondent group over the age of 55. This is likely the result of the interest this cohort has in the housing and services needs of older residents.

Table 3.2b Age Profile of Responding Households

Age Profile of all people in respondent households	Survey Percent	2001 Census
0-4	3.5	6.8
5-14	14.7	17.7
15-19	7.9	8.5
20-24	2.9	5.6
25-44	24.5	36.2
45-54	21.1	16.0
55-64	14.8	6.8
65-74	4.3	1.9
75-84	0.8	0.2
85+	5.4	0.1

n=381 households with 1039 people

Source: Mackenzie and Area Seniors Needs Survey, 2004; Census, 2001

In terms of the gender profile of respondents, the majority were female (61%) compared to about 39% who were male (Table 3.3). In contrast to this high female response rate, the 2001 Census shows that Mackenzie has a more equal gender ratio, with only a slightly higher percentage of males, typical of a resource-based community.

Table 3.3 Gender Profile of Respondents

Gender Profile of Respondents	Survey Percent	2001 Census
Male	38.7	54.1
Female	61.3	46.0

n=372

Source: Mackenzie and Area Seniors Needs Survey, 2004; Census, 2001

In terms of the education profile of respondents, about 37% noted elementary or high school participation as their highest level of education (Table 3.4). In addition, about 42% noted college, trade, or technical training, while another 20% noted university participation. These results likely reflect the increasing knowledge demands in all sectors of the forest industry, the presence of CNC's Mackenzie campus and private sector services such as the Slocan Learning

Centre, and the increasing participation of Canadians in lifelong learning for both personal and professional reasons.

Table 3.4 Respondent Level of education

Highest Level of Education	Survey Percent
Elementary School	2.6
Secondary School (incomplete)	11.8
Secondary School (complete)	23.0
Some trade, technical, business or community college	13.2
Diploma/certificate: trade, technical, businesses, or community college	29.6
Some university	6.3
University degree (bachelor's)	10.1
Graduate work at University	3.4
	n=348

Source: Mackenzie and Area Seniors Needs Survey, 2004.

A large number of homeowners responded to the survey (89.4% of respondents) (Table 3.5). The number of rented households is under represented among the survey respondents. There is an approximately 10% higher response rate from homeowners, and a 10% lower response of renters, compared to the 2001 Census. In terms of housing types, like with the Census, most survey respondents report that they live in single detached houses. The next largest house type in both the Census and survey is the mobile home.

Table 3.5 Housing Profile

Housing Status	Survey Percent	2001 Census
Owned	89.4	80.3
Rented	10.6	20.0
n=377		

Single detached house	76.4	64.9
Duplex	2.7	0.3
Row housing	0.5	7.0
Mobile home	11.7	18.9
Apartment	8.0	8.7
Other	0.0	0.3
n=381		

Source: Mackenzie and Area Seniors Needs Survey, 2004; Census, 2001.

Mackenzie was built during the early 1960s and can be considered to be a fairly “new community”. Over the years it has attracted many young families who came for the opportunities of work and affordable living. Given the steady nature of forest industry employment in the region, many of these families stayed and this is reflected in the length of time which respondents have lived in the community (Table 3.6). About 15% of respondents are “newcomers”, having come to Mackenzie in the last 5 years. A larger share of respondents (about 32.4%) have lived in the community for 6 to 20 years. Nearly 53% of respondents are “long term” residents who have lived in Mackenzie for more than 20 years (including almost 20% who have lived in town for more than 30 years). Length of time lived in a community is a good indicator of the degree to which people have a vested interest in the community and the service and housing needs of its residents.

Table 3.6 Length of Time in the Community

Length of time in the community	Survey Percent
Up to 1 year	5.4
2 to 5 years	9.5
6 to 10 years	10.8
11 to 20 years	21.6
21 to 30 years	33.5
31 to 40 years	19.2
	n=370

Source: Mackenzie and Area Seniors Needs Survey, 2004

Almost 60% of respondents have full time employment (Table 3.7). Most of the other respondents are working on a part time, temporary, or other basis. About 12% of respondents are retired and about 6% are homemakers. This pattern of employment will play a role in the distribution of respondent annual household incomes.

Table 3.7 Respondent Employment Status

Employment Status	Survey Percent
Employed full time (<35 hrs)	53.1
Employed part time (>35 hrs)	11.1
Temporary & full time (<35 hrs & termination date)	1.4
Temporary & part time (>35 hrs & termination date)	1.1
Casual or call in (hrs vary week to week)	2.4
Self-employed (full time)	5.4
Self-employed (part time)	3.8
Student	0.3
Retired	11.9
Homemaker	6.2
Not employed but looking for work	1.4
Not employed by choice	1.1
Maternity leave	0.8
	n=369

Source: Mackenzie and Area Seniors Needs Survey, 2004

Forestry work in BC tends to be highly unionized with high wages. When respondents were asked about their annual household incomes, about 40% identified incomes over \$80,000 (Table

3.8). An additional 22% of respondents identified annual household incomes between \$60,000 and \$79,999. Many people identified that these high incomes could be attributed to employment in Mackenzie's mills.

Table 3.8 Annual Household Income

Annual Household Income	Survey Percent
0-\$19,999	5.8
\$20,000 - \$39,999	11.3
\$40,000 - \$59,999	18.8
\$60,000 - \$79,999	22.3
\$80,000 - \$99,999	20.8
\$100,000 - \$119,999	10.1
\$120,000 or more	9.5
Do not know	1.4
	n=346

Source: Mackenzie and Area Seniors Needs Survey, 2004

In terms of sources of income, the 381 responding households identified a total of 478 sources on income. As shown in Table 3.9, the most common form of income was through wages and salaries. While self-employment was the next largest contributor to household incomes, the contribution of retirement plans and CPP support is already showing up as important in Mackenzie.

Table 3.9 Income Sources

Income Sources	Survey Percent
Wages and salaries	57.3
Self-employment income	9.8
CPP/old age security	9.6
Dividends/interest	6.5
Retirement plans	6.3
Workers compensation	3.2
Social assistance	2.8
Alimony/child support	2.8
Other	1.7
	n=478

Source: Mackenzie and Area Seniors Needs Survey, 2004

In summary, the socio-economic characteristics of our survey respondents show some similarities and some differences when compared to the 2001 Census across variables like marital status, age, gender, and housing. For example, the survey findings show a larger portion of respondents who are married and who are between the ages of 25 to 55 than is noted in the Census. Such results are not surprising given the distribution method and focus of the survey. The age group differences were not as evident once all members of the respondents' households are included in the profile. The respondent profile also shows a greater share of female respondents compared to the 2001 Census. In terms of housing, the respondent profile is similar to the Census, with homeowners being slightly over-represented in the respondent group.

Additional items explored in the respondent profile included education, employment, and annual household incomes. In terms of the education profile of respondents, most had participation either at the elementary or high school level or at a college, trade, or technical training institution. About 20% noted university participation. In terms of employment, most are working full time and many others are working on a part time or temporary basis. About 12% of respondents are retired. The high proportion of full time work in Mackenzie's forestry and mill sectors is reflected in the high annual household incomes among the respondent group, where 40% report earning more than \$80,000, and an additional 22% report earning between \$60,000 and \$79,999.

A final item explored in the respondent profile is how long people had lived in Mackenzie. Built during the early 1960s, Mackenzie has long been attractive to young families looking for work. Given the steady nature of forest industry employment, many of these families have stayed. Thus about one-third of respondents have lived in town for 6 to 20 years and more than half have lived in Mackenzie for more than 20 years (including almost 20% who have lived in town for more than 30 years). These long term residents have a connection to Mackenzie and many have told us that they wish to continue living in Mackenzie through their retirement years.

4.0 Conclusion

The purpose of the Mackenzie and Area Seniors Needs Project is to examine housing and support service needs for seniors in the District of Mackenzie and surrounding area. The work was carried out by a research team from UNBC with the goal to provide decision-makers and community groups with information relevant to decision-making over community planning and infrastructure investments.

The rationale for the project came primarily from two directions. The first is that Mackenzie is experiencing population aging and this is a relatively new issue in a town built to meet the needs of young families. The second is that many of those who have recently retired, or are nearing retirement age, are expressing a desire to remain living in Mackenzie. Together, these trends

have increased local interest in how the community, local services, and available housing options will meet the needs of a growing older population. As a result, UNBC and the District of Mackenzie are working together on this project.

Planning for the project began in January 2004. The data and information was collected through four methods. These included a review of Census population data, key informant interviews, focus groups, and a community survey. Because the research/fieldwork was conducted by a university based research team, we were bound by the standard protocol that research must pass through UNBC's Research Ethics Board for review and approval. The interviews, focus groups, and survey were carried out in Mackenzie during the Summer of 2004. The results were communicated back to the community in the Fall of 2004.

The household survey was distributed in June 2004 to each household in Mackenzie. Additional copies of the survey were available in the Mackenzie Mall from a table staffed by community volunteers. Respondents dropped-off their completed surveys in locked drop boxes located in the Mackenzie Recreation Centre, the District of Mackenzie Office, and the Lotto Booth in the Mackenzie Mall. The CHMM radio station and the Mackenzie Times newspaper promoted awareness of the survey through public service press releases over the entire project period. A total of 378 surveys were completed and returned for a response rate of about 20%.

In any survey research, it is important to identify the degree to which the respondents could be said to represent their community. Compared to the 2001 Census, our survey respondents show a larger portion who were married and who are between the ages of 25 and 55 than is noted in the Census. They also show a greater share of female respondents, but the housing profile is rather like that of the Census, with single-family detached homes as the most common housing form in town.

In terms of the education profile of respondents, most had participation either at the school level or at a college, trade, or technical training institution. In addition, most respondents are working full time, and about 12% are retired. A large proportion of full time workers are employed in Mackenzie's forestry and mill sectors, something that is reflected in high annual household incomes among the respondent group. Finally, more than half of respondents have lived in Mackenzie for more than 20 years. These long term residents have a connection to Mackenzie and many have told us they wish to continue living in town through their retirement years.

In the analysis, five evaluative variables were used to explore possible differences among survey respondents in terms of actions or attitudes. These evaluative variables were determined from other research into seniors' housing and services needs and include age, pension access, income, length of residency, and whether the respondent is planning to retire in Mackenzie.

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Appendix A –Key Informant Interviews
Consent Form
Interview Instrument

Mackenzie and Area Seniors' Needs Overview Project

Interview Consent Form

Purpose – The purpose of this project is to examine housing and support service needs for middle aged and older residents in the District of Mackenzie. The work will be carried out by a research team from UNBC with a goal to provide decision-makers and community groups in Mackenzie with information relevant to decision-making over community planning and infrastructure investments. The project will involve an analysis of local population trends, an assessment of the housing and services needs of small town seniors, interviews with decision-makers involved with seniors' issues, and a survey of local seniors and middle aged residents (i.e., aged 50 and older).

How Respondents Were Chosen - The interview participants were selected from publicly available information lists from community groups, service provision agencies, and local government in the District of Mackenzie. 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 development of a community survey.

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. The information will be kept until the final report of the project 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 to be of no risk to participants. We hope that by participating you will have a chance to provide input into issues relevant to seniors' housing and service needs in the District of Mackenzie.

Voluntary Participation - Your participation in the research project is entirely voluntary and, as such, you may chose not to participate. If you participate, you have the right to terminate the interview at anytime, 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) or Dr. Neil Hanlon (250-960-5881) 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 and Graduate Studies, UNBC (250) 960-5820

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)

**Mackenzie Seniors' Needs Overview
INTERVIEW SCRIPT**

Interviewee Name: _____

Connection / Role in the Community: _____

Facilitator: _____

Note Taker: _____

Date: _____ Place: _____

Interview Time: Start: _____ Finish: _____

Comments on Interview: _____

Section A: Background Information Questions

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

Background:

A1. How long have you lived in Mackenzie?

A2a. Are you retired? If **YES** go to question **A2b**

1. Yes
2. No

A2b. How long ago did you retire?

A3. What is / was your main employment here in town?

What sector?

For middle-aged/non-retired participants:

A4. Are you planning on retiring in Mackenzie?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Not sure

If **NO**, **A4a.** Where are you going to retire? Please explain why.

A4b. If **NOT SURE**, why? Please explain.

A5. What are the advantages to retiring in Mackenzie?

If small town, what distinguishes Mackenzie from other towns?
Compared to 10 years ago?
Future: In 10 years time?

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

If small town, what distinguishes Mackenzie from other towns?
Compared to 10 years ago?
Future: In 10 years time?

SECTION B:**Housing**

In this section I would like to ask you some questions relating to the housing situation in Mackenzie for older and senior residents.

B1. Would you say the current housing situation in Mackenzie meets the needs of seniors? Please explain.

Compared to 10 years ago?
Future: In 10 years time?

B2. Do you think housing in Mackenzie is supportive of seniors' independence?

Why?

B3. What types of housing should Mackenzie have to meet the needs of seniors?

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

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

Municipal Government?
Federal Government?
Provincial Government?
Private Funding?
Voluntary Sector?

B5. Who should pay for seniors' housing?

Municipal Government?
Federal Government?
Provincial Government?
Private funding?
The individual?
Residents of housing?

SECTION C: Services

In this section I would like to ask you some questions about senior services in Mackenzie.

C1. Please describe any organizations that provide services for seniors in Mackenzie.

What is your overall impression of these?

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

What services work well for seniors in Mackenzie?

What are the weaknesses of seniors' services in Mackenzie?

C2. How do you hear about programs and services provided for seniors?

Newspaper?

Television / radio?

Bulletin boards?

Word of mouth?

Telephone?

Information brochures, flyers?

Website / e-mail?

Other: please explain _____

C3. What services for seniors do you think Mackenzie needs most?

Health?

Social support (meals on wheels, home maintenance)?

Retail?

Recreation and leisure?

Information (library, health resources)?

Transportation?

C4. Please explain who delivers services in your community:

Private sector?

Volunteers?

Non-profit?

Government?

Friends, family, and neighbours?

Mix: please explain _____

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.

C5. What are the roles and responsibility of your organization with respect to seniors in your community?

C6. Please explain how services provided by your organization are delivered:

Private sector professionals?

Volunteers?

Mix of the professionals and volunteers?

Non-profit?

Profit?

Mix of private sector and government?

Family and friends?

Directly by government?

SECTION E:**Physical Environment**

In this next section of the interview I would like to ask you some questions relating to the physical environment in Mackenzie.

E1. What physical barriers prohibit seniors from walking around town?

Weather?
Safety issues?
Distance?
Snowclearing?
Parking Spaces?
Doorways/Access?
Stairs/Ramps?
Sidewalks?

E2. What are some of the things that need to be done to allow seniors to move about Mackenzie and go to various stores and buildings?

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

SECTION F: Social Environment

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

F1. What types of community groups or clubs are available for seniors?

F2. What types of recreation or leisure programs are available for seniors?

F3. What activities and programs should be provided to help seniors maintain their health and independence?

Recreation and Leisure Programs?

Community clubs?

Social events?

Library?

Volunteer Groups?

Shopping?

House Cleaning?

Yard Work?

Transportation?

Visiting?

Medical trips to Prince George?

Delivery of services and goods?

F4. Who should be responsible for the delivery of these activities or programs?

F5. Who should pay for these activities or programs?

SECTION G: Cost of Living and Quality of Life

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

G1. In your opinion is the cost of living in Mackenzie reasonable for older residents?
(i.e. compared to Chetwynd, Fort St. John, Prince George, Victoria)

Recreation?

Groceries?

Assisted Living (meals on wheels, home care nursing)?

Trips to Prince George for medical / dental visits?

Transportation?

Home maintenance?

Retail services?

Health Costs (prescription, specialists)?

G2a. Does the cost of living in Mackenzie affect seniors' quality of life?

1. Yes

2. No

If **YES**,

G2b. How does the cost of living in Mackenzie affect seniors' quality of life?

G3. Can you think of any other challenges facing seniors living in Mackenzie?

SECTION H: Informal and Formal Care Networks

In this section of the interview I would like to ask you some questions about informal and formal care networks available to yourself and to seniors in general in Mackenzie.

Background:

H1. Do you have family or friends in Mackenzie who could be thought of as a support network, or who you could turn to for help when needed?

Seniors:

H2. What options do seniors' have if they need assistance with their daily activities, when their family and friends are unable to provide assistance?

- Home care nursing?
- Home occupational therapy?
- Health Unit?
- Adult day care programs?
- Meals on Wheels?
- Visiting Programs?
- Cleaning Services?

H3. What organizations are available to support or provide assistance to seniors who do not have family or friends to rely on for help?

- Government?
 - Federal
 - Provincial
 - Municipal
- Community Groups?
- Private?
- olunteer Sector?

SECTION I:**Concluding Questions**

I1. From the experiences you have had in Mackenzie, 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?

I2. Can you suggest any community members 50 years or older who are concerned about seniors' housing and community support services, and who would possibly be interested in participating in this study?

Appendix B - Focus Groups
Consent Form
Focus Group Instruments

Mackenzie and Area Seniors' Needs Overview Project Focus Group Consent Form

Purpose – The purpose of this project is to examine housing and support service needs for middle aged and older residents in the District of Mackenzie. The work will be carried out by a research team from UNBC with a goal to provide decision-makers and community groups in Mackenzie with information relevant to decision-making over community planning and infrastructure investments. The project will involve an analysis of local population trends, an assessment of the housing and services needs of small town seniors, interviews with decision-makers involved with seniors' issues, and a survey of local seniors and middle aged residents (i.e., aged 50 and older).

How Respondents Were Chosen - The focus group participants were selected from suggestions raised during our community interviews as individuals with an interest in seniors' housing and support needs 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 development of a community survey.

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 focus group will be held within strict confidence by the researchers. All records will be kept in a locked research room at UNBC. The information will be kept until the final report of the project is complete. After this time, shredding will destroy all information related to the focus group.

Potential Risks And Benefits - This project has been assessed by the UNBC Research Ethics Board to be of no risk to participants. We hope that by participating you will have a chance to provide input into issues relevant to seniors' housing and service needs in the District of Mackenzie.

Voluntary Participation - Your participation in the research project is entirely voluntary and, as such, you may chose not to participate. If you participate, you have the right to terminate the interview at anytime, 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) or Dr. Neil Hanlon (250-960-5881) 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 and Graduate Studies, UNBC (250) 960-5820

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)

Mackenzie Seniors' Housing and Service Needs Study Focus Group Script

SECTION A: Opening Questions

A1. What is your name and how long have you lived in Mackenzie?

Middle Aged/Non-Retired Participants:

A2. Are you planning on retiring in Mackenzie?

If **NO**, where are you going to retire, why?

A3. What is life like for seniors in Mackenzie today?

Compared to 10 years ago?

In the future?

A4. What are the advantages to retiring in Mackenzie?

A5. What are the drawbacks or disadvantages of retiring in Mackenzie?

SECTION B: Housing

B1. Would you say the current housing situation in Mackenzie satisfies the needs of seniors?

Problems or advantages of available housing?

B2. What types of housing should Mackenzie have to meet the needs of seniors?

Maintain their independence?

Assisted Living (nursing homes)?

B3. Who should be responsible for developing and funding housing for seniors in Mackenzie?

Government?

Municipal

Provincial

Federal

Volunteers?

Users (Individual)?

Private funding?

SECTION C: Services

C1. What services and clubs available for seniors, and what is their role in the community?

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

C2. What services for seniors do you think Mackenzie needs the most?

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

Please explain why?

C3. Is there a difference in the kinds of services available today for seniors in Mackenzie compared to 10 years ago?

SECTION D: Transportation

D1. Do you need to travel outside of the community to obtain services?

- What kind of services (health, retail, social)?
- How far do you have to travel to obtain these services?
- What form of transportation do you use to travel to these services (private car, friend/family car, bus lines)?

D2. What kinds of transportation services should be provided for senior citizens?

- Car/truck?
 - Public transport?
 - Taxis?
 - Handi Dart?
 - Inter-city bus?
 - Carpools?
-

SECTION E: Informal and Formal Care Networks

E1. Do your family and/or friends live in Mackenzie?

If they moved away, why did they leave Mackenzie?
If **NO**, where do they live?

E2. Do you provide care to or receive care from a spouse or family member on a regular basis that enables that person to live at home rather than in a care facility?

If **YES**, what do you help them with?
Meal preparation
Personal Maintenance
Home maintenance (Yard work, housekeeping)
Companionship

E3. What are your options if you need assistance with your daily activities, and your family and friends are unable to provide you with assistance?

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

SECTION F: Physical Environment

F1. What physical barriers prohibit seniors from walking around town and/or accessing good and services?

Weather?	Safety issues?
Distance to services?	Snowclearing?
Parking spaces?	Distance?
Doorways/ access?	Stairs/ ramps?
Personal mobility?	

F2. If you had a physical handicap how easy or difficult would it be to complete your daily activities in your home or around town?

Access to buildings (work, home, retail stores)?
Getting around town?
Stairs? Doors?
Public washrooms?

SECTION G: Cost of Living and Quality of Life

**G1. In your opinion is the cost of living in Mackenzie reasonable for older residents?
(i.e. compared to Chetwynd, Fort St. John, Prince George, Victoria)**

Since 10 years ago?

Recreation?

Groceries?

Assisted Living (meals on wheels, home care nursing)?

Trips to Prince George for medical / dental visits?

Transportation?

Home maintenance?

Retail services?

Health Costs (prescription, specialists)?

G2. Does the cost of living in Mackenzie affect seniors' quality of life?

If **YES**,

G2a. How does the cost of living in Mackenzie affect seniors' quality of life?

G3. What activities and programs should be provided to help you maintain your health and independence?

Recreation and Leisure Programs

Community clubs

Social events

Library

Volunteer Groups

SECTION H: Concluding Question

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

Appendix C - Survey

Cover letter

Questionnaire survey

Mackenzie 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. In Mackenzie, there were about 50 people over the age of 65 in 1991, but by 2001 there were approximately 140 people over age 65. As a result, UNBC and the District of Mackenzie are working together to assess the housing and service needs for middle-aged and older residents.

In order to understand the housing, care, and service needs of middle-aged and older residents, input from all residents is very important. This is why the survey is being distributed door-to-door to every residence in Mackenzie and the surrounding area.

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 which 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. This process has been evaluated by the UNBC Research Ethics Board as being of no risk to participants.

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), or Neil Hanlon at (250) 960-5881 (hanlon@unbc.ca). Any complaints about this project should be directed to the Office of Research, UNBC, (250) 960-5820. The results will be published in a report that will be available at the Mackenzie Public Library, the Mackenzie municipal office, and from the research team.

Thank you for your time. When you have finished filling out the survey, please drop it into one of the three locked drop boxes at the Mackenzie Recreation Centre, Mackenzie Mall (lotto booth), or the Mackenzie municipal office.

Sincerely,

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

Neil Hanlon
Geography Program, UNBC
Prince George, B.C.
V2N 4Z9
Tel: (250) 960-5881
Fax: (250) 960-5539
Email: hanlon@unbc.ca

Mackenzie and Area Seniors' Needs Overview 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 housing and service needs for middle-aged and older residents in Mackenzie. 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 all residents is very important.

Thank you.

(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"/> | Mackenzie – main town site | <input type="checkbox"/> | McLeod Lake |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mackenzie – Gantahaz | <input type="checkbox"/> | Powder King |
| <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. *(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 the highest level of education you achieved? *(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 date of termination of employment)
- Temporary & part-time (less than 35 hours per week & specific date of termination of employment)
- Casual or call-in (hours vary from week to week)
- Self-employed (full-time)
- Self-employed (part-time)
- Student
- Retired
- Homemaker
- Not employed but looking for work
- Not employed by choice
- Maternity leave
- Workers Compensation leave
- Contract
- 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"/> Forestry: Logging |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry: Silviculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry: Value added processing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry: Sawmilling | <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry: Pulp/paper making |
| <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 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 or more
- Do not know

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

Type of Income	Percentage 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 and 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>)	

- Not employed by choice
- Maternity leave
- Workers Compensation leave
- Contract
- 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"/> Forestry: Logging |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry: Silviculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry: Value added processing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry: Sawmilling | <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry: Pulp/paper making |
| <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 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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: _____

(B) Housing

Questions in this section relate to your housing, and to the housing situation in Mackenzie for older residents.

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

- Single detached house
- Duplex
- Row Housing
- Mobile home park
- Apartment
- Condominium/town house
- Basement suite
- 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 rooms 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 municipal services?

- None
- \$ _____

B8. For **RENTERS** only:

What is the monthly rent for this dwelling? \$ _____

B9. For **OWNERS** only:

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

- None
- \$ _____

Are the property taxes (municipal and school) 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 Mackenzie meets the needs of seniors?

- Yes
- No

Please explain: _____

B12. What types of housing should Mackenzie 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 care needs)*
- Palliative care *(ie: facility designed to provide care for terminally ill residents)*

B13. Who should pay for building housing for older residents?
(Please check all that apply)

- Municipal Government
- Provincial Government
- Federal Government
- Private sector
- Voluntary sector
- The individuals who will live in it
- Other, please explain: _____

B14. Who should be responsible for maintaining housing built for older residents?
(Please check all that apply)

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

(C) Transportation

In this section, questions relate to local transportation issues.

C1. How do you normally travel within Mackenzie (to work, shopping, etc.)?
(Please check all that apply)

- Car/truck
- Taxi
- Carpool
- Friends / Family
- Walking
- Bicycle

C2. Do you think the roads are well maintained in Mackenzie?

- Yes
- No

C3. Is winter road maintenance adequate in Mackenzie?

- Yes
- No

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

- Yes
- No

C5. Is winter sidewalk maintenance adequate in Mackenzie?

- Yes
- No

C6. What types of transportation services should be provided for older residents?

(D) Services

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

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 community facilities? *(Please circle your answers)*

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Don't Know
Mackenzie recreation centre	1	2	3	4	5	6
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
Mack. Community Outdoor Rink	1	2	3	4	5	6
Cross-country ski trails	1	2	3	4	5	6
Golf Course	1	2	3	4	5	6
Baseball diamonds	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

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

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Don't Know
Recreation and 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 and goods	1	2	3	4	5	6
Medical care	1	2	3	4	5	6

D5. Do you think that Mackenzie needs a housing complex for older residents?

- Yes
- No

If **YES**, where would be the best location for this housing complex?

D6. Do you think that Mackenzie needs a seniors' activity centre?

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 boards / 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

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

Services	Is it needed? Please write yes or no	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 to Prince George		
Transportation to doctor's appointments		
Other – please specify:		

(E) Physical Environment

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

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

- Weather
- Snow
- Concern over safety
- Distances
- Doorways / Access into buildings
- Lack of sidewalks
- Ice on sidewalks
- Stairs
- Loose gravel on roads and walkways
- Other, please specify: _____

E2. What are some of the things that need to be done to allow older residents to move about Mackenzie and go to various stores and buildings? *(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
- Other, please specify: _____

(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 Mackenzie.

F1. Do you have family in Mackenzie?

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

If **YES**, do family connections make you want to stay in Mackenzie?

- Yes
- No

F2. Do you have close friends in Mackenzie?

- Yes
- No

F3. Do friendships make you want to stay in Mackenzie?

- Yes
- No

F4. Do you have family or friends in Mackenzie 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 |

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

(G) Retiring

This section asks about the possibilities, benefits, and potential drawbacks of retiring in the community.

G1. Are you retired?

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

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

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

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

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

- Yes
- No

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

- Yes
- No

G5. What are the advantages of retiring in Mackenzie?

G6. What are the disadvantages of retiring in Mackenzie?

(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 in Mackenzie, do you have anything else to add that was not touched on here about meeting the needs of older residents?
