2008 International Federation on Ageing Conference (IFA)

Presented by:

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Montreal, September 3 – 7, 2008

THE CITY OF Edmonton

International Federation on Ageing (IFA)

- ☐ Founded in 1973, an International non-government organization

- ☐ Headquarters in Montreal

- ☐ Improves the quality of life of older persons around the world, through policy change and grassroots partnership

- ☐ Represents 45 million older people in 62 countries worldwide

- ☐ www.ifa-fiv.org

2008 International Federation on Ageing Conference

- Montreal, September 3 – 7, 2008
- 950 participants - representing 50+ countries *(universities, government, seniors' sector, architects/ planners and seniors)*
- Explored new approaches and ideas… to create and ensure <u>supportive and "age friendly" environments</u>
- Handouts on www.ifa-fiv.org
- Next conference in 2010 - Melbourne, Australia.

2008 IFA Conference

- Conference Overview:
  - Senior Government Officials Meeting (Aging in Place) and National Age Friendly Workshop
  - Keynote sessions
  - 118 breakout sessions (Edmonton's delegates presented two sessions)
  - Expo Ageing and Design Montreal

Presentation Overview

I. Global Trends and Leaders

II. Aging in Place and Age Friendly Approaches

III. Arising Challenges

IV. Edmonton's Participant Reflections
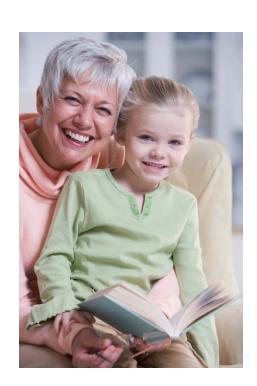
I. Global Trends and Leaders

- International presenters at senior government meeting (i.e. Canada, Israel, Vienna, Australia, USA, Trinidad, United Kingdom, Wales, Czech Republic, and China).

- Final report will be sent to all senior government participants

I. Global Trends and Leaders

- **Aging demographics globally**…. seniors in some countries >25% (i.e. Czech Republic, China, Japan)

- **Housing, fiscal role of government/ families**, **"aging in place", ageism and "age friendly" communities** were key issues.

- **Family changes**.. impacting care of seniors

- **Role of government** varies - from provider to facilitator.

I. Global Trends and Leaders

- **Aging in Place** →international policy
  - Seniors **are** living in their homes and communities vs. other care facilities
  - Health care savings
  - Requires policies, community services, and "age friendly" urban design
- **Seniors positively contribute to society/ families**
  - "How seniors are treated.. reflects the level of civilization of a society"

C.Luebkeman

I. Global Trends and Leaders

☐ **Seniors Services -Promising practices**
(Community models/initiatives/ services)

1. **Strategic Plans/ Reports**
2. **Legislation/ Acts**
3. **Seniors Coalitions/ Councils/ Network**
4. **Comprehensive Community Services**
   ☐ (supportive communities, services in homes, awards, informal support, mobile services, lifelong learning, meals)
5. **Healthcare/ Care-giving**
   ☐ (day programs, financial support for carers, certification, Home Care Act, variety/ levels of care services, coordinated health care, single point of entry)

I. Global Trends and Leaders

6. **Research**
   - (needs of seniors, special needs (i.e. dementia), age friendly design)

7. **Transportation** (variety of options, safer roads)

8. **Housing** (variety of models, support to home)

9. **Income Support** (universal and low income)

10. **Seniors Involvement**
    - Empowerment of seniors
    - Employment of seniors/ volunteerism

I. Global Trends and Leaders

☐ **Other Key Trends**

- Urbanization
- Universal design and lifelong design (communities/ housing)
- Intergenerational exchange (youth/ elderly)
- Global resources (water/ energy)
- Technology
- Longevity
- Labour gap

II. Aging in Place/ Age Friendly

- **"Aging in Place"**
  - Reflects approved international policy
  - Preferred option of seniors
- **Aging in Place definition is:**
  - remaining at home as long as a seniors can safely do so- supports may be required as needs change;
  - remaining in the same community, if housing situation changes.
- **Practical issue how to support this direction.**
  - Successful evidence-based programs?
  - Measuring if institutionalization was delayed?
  - Successful initiatives which work?

II. Aging in Place/ Age Friendly

- **"Age Friendly"**
  - International direction to support and include seniors
  - Is a continuum - range of services within the community ….which include aging in place
  - Aging in place often refers to needs of seniors with higher needs.
  - Supporting communities and housing which promote age friendly design/ universal design/ lifelong design … and aging in place.

II. Aging in Place/ Age Friendly

- ☐ **Early work underway with "age friendly" – nationally and internationally**
  - ■ documenting where community is at (baseline)
  - ■ community development approach
  - ■ establishing priorities/ projects
  - ■ starting to evaluate outcomes

- ☐ **Canada (PHAC is working with 4 provinces)**
  - ■ BC, Manitoba, Quebec, and Nova Scotia)
  - ■ National seed funding/ also financially supported by the four provincial governments
  - ■ May be an opportunity for Alberta to be involved

II. Aging in Place/ Age Friendly

☐ **Age Friendly Areas**

- ▪ outdoor spaces and buildings,
- ▪ transportation,
- ▪ housing,
- ▪ social participation,
- ▪ respect and social inclusion,
- ▪ civic participation and employment,
- ▪ communication and information; and
- ▪ community support and health services.

☐ **Age Friendly Checklist** (handout)

III. Arising Challenges

- **Ageism/ Support to Seniors**
  - Positive attitudes of aging
  - Future planning by seniors and their families
  - Ensuring rights/ policy for aging population (legislation to protect seniors)
  - Changing value of seniors/ awareness of the needs of seniors in the community

- **Service Delivery/ Funding**
  - Infrastructure to support housing and social policy
  - Funding for increased home support/ health prevention
  - Improving system capacity "aging in place"
  - $ to follow seniors
  - Adequate funding for services

III. Arising Challenges

- ☐ **Age Friendly Design**
  - ■ Moving seniors debate into mainstream – proactive planning for inclusive communities
  - ■ Adopting universal design for built environment
  - ■ Urban sprawl versus age friendly

- ☐ **Workplace**
  - ■ Understanding and supporting aging workforce (capturing knowledge of leaders)
  - ■ Supportive workplaces

III. Arising Challenges

- **Programs/ Services**
  - Involvement of voluntary sector/ volunteers
  - Support for caregivers
  - Community services to support seniors at home
  - Adequate services for seniors and assistance with navigating system
  - Transportation

- **Other Issues**
  - Poverty

IV. Edmonton Participants' Reflections

- **Validated existing work in Edmonton**

- **Enhanced coordination within province/ Edmonton** (Alberta Seniors, ESCC, City, United Way and other housing partners)

- **Plan services for seniors now** …and be proactive

IV. Edmonton Participants' Reflections

- **Age friendly makes sense**; need to support this direction – build knowledge

- **Increased knowledge and implement age friendly guidelines**… within a Universal Design context (urban planning and housing development)
  - Needs to be a priority - municipally, provincially and federally

IV. Edmonton Participants' Reflections

☐ **Need to define and support Aging in Place within the community** (within appropriate mandates)

  ■ government, community, senior sector, health, business community

☐ **Province needs to define and enhance their role with seniors** (funder and legislator)

IV. Edmonton Participants' Reflections

- City of Edmonton and community partners need to be **champions of seniors**.. everyone's responsibility.

- **Link needs of seniors to existing strategies**/ initiatives (incorporate from start)

- **Involve/ value seniors** and realize assets seniors bring to society

V. Further Resource Information

World Health Organization (Age Friendly)
http://www.who.int/ageing/age_friendly_cities/en/

IFA
www.ifa-fiv.org

Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council
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