



## Senior's Housing Forum: Living Where You Want

*April 20, 2016*

### At A Glance

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The Tri-Cities Seniors Planning Network organized a Housing Forum to bring seniors from around the Tri-Cities together to discuss key issues related to housing. Throughout planning and organizing this event, we found that seniors in our community:

- Strongly desire to stay living in the Tri-Cities,
- Have clear concerns about the affordability of housing and the supports needed to stay in their homes as they age,
- Are looking to municipal, provincial and federal leaders to develop workable solutions.

#### **Pre-Forum Survey Responses**

Starting in November 2015, the Network distributed a survey to Tri-Cities seniors to find out specific topics and speakers seniors would like invited to the Forum. Between November 2015 and February 29, 2016 we received 155 responses.

The top five issues Tri-Cities seniors wished to hear about at the Housing Forum were:

- Making a plan for where and how I want to live (49%)
- Financial support/subsidies for housing for seniors with limited income (47%)
- Downsizing to a lower cost or more accessible home (43%)
- Getting into retirement homes and care facilities (41%)
- Renovating my home to make it more "age-friendly" (40%)

The top five speakers Tri-Cities seniors wanted to hear from were:

- Fraser Health Seniors Services (58%)
- Speakers on government subsidies (52%)
- Retirement communities (47%)
- Non-Profit Housing representatives (43%)
- Home support providers (43%)

#### **Housing in the Tri-Cities**

We used the survey to explore where seniors were currently living, and where they thought they would live ten years from now.

In terms of living arrangements:

- 47% owned a house; 36% a townhouse, condo or apartment for 82% of seniors owning their own residence
- 8% of respondents rented their residence
- 4% owned a mobile home

In ten years:

- 41% of respondents said they had no plans to move in the next ten years.
- 15% thought they would be in a semi-independent retirement community
- 5% saw themselves in an assisted care facility
- 3% saw themselves living with adult children
- 16% thought they would move elsewhere in BC
- 2% thought they would move elsewhere in Canada

We asked what respondent’s top priorities would be if they did decide to move.

Living where I could easily walk to shopping and activities	77% (106)
Staying close to family and friends	69% (95)
Affordable on a fixed income	60% (83)
Accessible housing (no stairs, wheelchair/walker friendly, etc)	55% (76)
Living close to health care	51% (71)

Several respondents identified “access to transportation/transit” in the “other” category.

### **“Tri-Cities Seniors Housing Forum: Living Where You Want”**

The TCSPN and CARP partnered to conduct the Forum at Winslow Centre on April 20, 2016.

#### ***Attendees***

- 178 individuals registered ahead of time via Eventbrite
- 131 signed in at the registration desk

#### ***Topics & Speakers***

- Master of Ceremonies: Tim Hicks, Chair of North Fraser CARP
- Keynote: Housing for Your Future: Planning Where You’ll Live, Roberta Leslie, Aging My Way
- Navigating Home Health Services for Seniors, Michael Kotter, Home Health Services, Fraser Health Authority
- Seniors Housing in BC: Issues and Solutions, Isobel Mackenzie, BC Senior’s Advocate
- Real Experiences of Seniors Housing in the Tri-Cities, Roland Mitchell, Committee Member

#### ***Worksheet & Activities***

- Your Plans: Seniors Housing Planning Worksheet led by Stacy Ashton, Executive Director, Community Volunteer Connections

#### ***Feedback***

We collected feedback from 63 participants. Over half of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they had gained more knowledge of housing options and supports and felt more prepared for future housing challenges. 87% of participants agreed or strongly agreed they would enthusiastically recommend this Forum to another senior.

## **VENDORS & GROUPS**

1. Aging My Way Home Care
2. Amica
3. CARP
4. Fed: Coquitlam- Port Coquitlam (Ron McKinnon)
5. Fed: Port Moody-Coquitlam (Fin Donnelly)
6. Fraser Health Authority
7. Home Instead Senior Care
8. Home2stay Accessibility
9. Investor's Group (sponsor)
10. Lambert's Moving Services
11. Mortgage Alliance/HomEquity Bank
12. Nurse Next Door
13. Pacific Prescriptions & Medical Supplies
14. Parkwood Manor
15. Prov: Coquitlam-Burke Mountain (Jodie Wickens)
16. Prov: Coquitlam-Maillardville (Selina Robinson)
17. Prov: Port Moody-Coquitlam (Linda Reimer)
18. Residences at Belvedere
19. RJ Kent Residences
20. Safe Care Home Support
21. SHARE (Better at Home)
22. Silver Valley Transitions
23. SPS – Seniors Professional Services (sponsor)
24. The Astoria
25. Tri-Cities Cleaning Services (sponsor)
26. Tri-Cities Seniors Planning Network
27. Westminster Savings Credit Union