
UBCM Seniors Housing & Support Initiative

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DIALOGUE FINAL REPORT

Please complete and return this form **within 30 days of the completion of your 'Seniors in Communities' dialogue event.**

Please type directly in this form or print and complete. Use additional space or pages wherever required.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Questions? Contact Danyta Welch at UBCM at dwelch@civicnet.bc.ca or (250) 356-5193.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

Local Government: District of Sooke

Mailing Address: 2205 Otter Point Road,
Sooke, B.C. V9Z 1J2

Contact person: Bonnie Sprinkling

Position: Corporate Services Manager

Phone: 250-642-1620

E-mail: bsprinkling@sooke.ca

REPORT COMPLETED BY (if other than local government contact above)

Contact person:

Position:

Organization:

Mailing Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Date of Dialogue Event(s): SEPTEMBER 10, 2008
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1. DESCRIPTION OF COMPLETED DIALOGUE EVENT (Describe the format, activities and other event details)

What will it take to create a more age-friendly Sooke? This question was put to a group of @ 88 Sooke residents, plus business owners and service providers in a day-long open dialogue. The event took place at the Sooke Community Hall. Representatives from the business community and local services, including the municipal office, gave presentations on how their services consider the needs of the aging population. Those attending were given an opportunity to enter into discussion with the presenters and make suggestions as to how to improve services. The agenda is attached.

2. SUMMARY OF ISSUES DISCUSSED (Outline the topics that were discussed)

The Forum was divided into two main topics on "An Age-Friendly Sooke" -- economic opportunities and community services. Under economic opportunities the sub-topics were employment after retirement, business benefits in serving older persons and how the financial sector is adapting to the aging population. Under community services the sub-topics were public services and infrastructure for an aging population, active aging, lifelong learning. Veronica Doyle, Age-friendly Communities Implementation Team, acted as moderator. A report of the event is attached.

3. OBJECTIVES (Describe if the objectives outlined in your application were achieved or not)

The goal of the discussion was to look at various features in the community, and among businesses, to envision how Sooke can better accommodate residents and visitors who are experiencing aging. Feedback forms were distributed so participants could record additional thoughts and comments on the ideas raised during the day, or other issues that concerned them. Those attending the forum provided valuable information as to how the community could better serve their aging population. The business community heard first hand what they could do to improve their stores or facilities and make them more age-friendly (for example, reducing background noise, simplifying contact options, toilets, etc.).

4. RECOMMENDATIONS & OUTCOMES (including information that would be suitable to share with other local governments and communities)

It was important that the local seniors groups were contacted to ensure that they were represented at the event. Consultation with the seniors groups provided ideas for presentations and discussion topics.

5. LESSONS LEARNED (Describe the lessons that were learned in organizing and/or holding this event and any advice for similar projects)

It was important to provide comfortable seating and easy access to washrooms. Ensure that the sound system is such that microphones can be passed around easily.

6. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (Please use this space to add any additional comments)

There is much more that can be done to build upon what is already in place in Sooke to create a truly age-friendly community. The aging population of Sooke is involved and committed to the community and are willing to participate in any future forums.

7. SHARING TOOLS & RESOURCES. In order to help other local governments learn from your experience are you willing to:

- Write a short article about your dialogue event for UBCM News?
- Present your dialogue event at a UBCM Convention Session or other event?
- Share this final report (e.g. via the UBCM website) with other local governments or organizations interested in seniors' planning and programming?

8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (please attach):

Required

- Financial summary
- Participant list (please do not submit sign-in sheets)

Optional

- Photos (digital or print) of the project
- Media clippings
- Other reports or documents

9. SIGNATURES

Local Government Key Contact

Chief Administrative Officer