Age-Friendly Piney

Community Consultation Summary



RM of Piney, Manitoba
May 17, 2018

Community consultations are held with seniors and community members across Manitoba. The goal of these community consultations is to assist communities with prioritizing issues that will help them form action plans to make their communities more age-friendly. On May 17, 2018, 28 residents (including the Mayor and representatives from the town council), came together to talk about age-friendly priorities and issues within their community. The RM of Piney has 12 communities. At the community consultation, there was a discussion about the many positive activities and projects occurring within the rural municipality to date. The following is a summary of the age-friendly priorities discussed and identified at the meeting and the survey results.

Summary of Group Discussion

The participants had the following to say about the benefits of living in the RM of Piney:

- The Municipal Council is supportive of improving life for all citizens and recognizes that the population is aging.
- There is a strong sense of community and all 12 hamlets within the municipality are friendly and welcoming to newcomers.
- Affordable property and living is available.
- There is a relaxed pace of life with lots of activities for involvement and enjoyment.
- People are helpful and supportive.
- Great snowmobile trails.
- Enjoyment of the pine air.
- Safe and secure community.

Priority 1: Improve access to appropriate housing and supports as people age.

Potential Actions:

- Build awareness of available services that allow older adults to age in place e.g., home and yard care services, personal assistance services, delivery services and transportation services.



- Create and share a housing list for older adults and families that includes assisted living, supportive housing, and personal care homes available in the RM of Piney.
- Hold discussions/workshops for families to learn about available aging in place services, and housing options (e.g., assisted living, supportive housing, personal care homes) so families have information for future decisions.
- Consider inviting developers to build 55 plus housing so people can leave their larger properties but remain in the RM of Piney. The East Borderland Community Housing is appreciated but further options have been requested for older adults.

Priority 2: Create safer walking and cycling pathways and improve safety in parks and outdoor spaces.

Potential Actions:

- Contact Manitoba Government to improve road safety on provincial roads such as clear signage, reduced speed limits, and paving shoulders in residential hamlets.
- Plan new paths, improve current walking and cycling paths and limit motorized vehicles on paths in and around hamlets.

- Create a recreational canoe route in the Sprague River with canoe launch and bordering path. Remove branches and brush that hang over river and the new path.
- In the winter, clear the Sprague River near Sprague for a walking trail.
- Place benches on walking paths and residential streets.

Priority 3: Seek solutions to control the large truck traffic around Sprague and Middlebro.

Potential Actions:

- Reroute large trucks to avoid residential communities. There are trucks carrying peat moss and the 18-wheel water trucks hauling several times a day to Winnipeg bottling plants. Residents find it unsafe to cross residential streets for mail. The trucks also create dust due to unpaved road shoulders.
- Reduce speeds on residential streets to less than 50 km per hour or enforce existing limits.
- Increase signage to the peat moss plant so truckers do not stop in front of homes and ask residents for directions.

Priority 4: Improve transportation options and Accessible Parking

Potential Actions:



- Develop a system whereby residents can share transportation costs to larger centres (e.g., Steinbach and Winnipeg) to assist those who do not drive.
  - Ask residents, especially older adults, to help develop a plan to ride share which also includes the Handi-van. This would include an effective method to communicate available rides (may include Services for Seniors or the RM of Piney website).
  - Research grants and costs to acquire a Handi-van for all residents in the RM of Piney who need transportation to larger centres for appointments and shopping.
- Improve and increase accessible parking spaces.
  - Discuss needs with Chamber of Commerce, business owners and Council.
  - Clearly indicate accessible parking spaces by the use of signs.

Priority 6: Reduce the snow and ice left by highway and road clearing snowplows on private residential driveways.

Potential Actions:

- Contact the Manitoba Government department responsible for plowing snow in the RM of Piney and request that snow be completely cleared from residential driveway entrances.

Priority 7: Establish and maintain rest stops and parks in the RM of Piney.

Potential Actions:

- Determine where and how rest stops, with portable toilets, could be created and maintained near provincial roads such as the highway to Steinbach.
- Improve and maintain Menisino Hill Park.
- Determine who is responsible for the maintenance of parks and discuss possible options for improving parks by adding lighting and maintaining through all seasons.

Priority 8: Seek ways to improve cell phone service and internet connections in the RM of Piney.

Potential Actions:

- Organize a campaign for improved cell phone service in the RM which would include the following benefits:
    - Increase access to the provincial emergency alert system for residents.
    - Allows quicker alert of forest fires to residents.
    - Improve safety for residents, visitors, hunters, fishers, and snowmobile users.
    - Increase contact between intergenerational family members.
    - Improve communication and sharing of information.

Priority 9: Increase participation of younger people to participate in community volunteer activities and events.

Potential Actions:

- Build relationships between generations by personally asking younger people to join boards and participate in events and projects.
- Encourage older adults who have provided strong senior leadership, guidance and knowledge to respectfully share with younger people.
- Encourage ideas and perspectives from younger people.
- Find ways to share responsibilities and encourage intergenerational socializing and volunteering.
- Continue to welcome new residents and families and personally invite them to join social activities.
- Update and provide RM of Piney community services and information to new residents.
- Bring generations together to recognize volunteers of all ages and share successes.
- Find unique opportunities to hold volunteer events to bring generations together (e.g., community barbeques, sporting, cultural, and arts/crafts activities).

Priority 10: Increase and share information on recreational and active living opportunities in seniors' clubs, Services to Seniors and recreation services.

Potential Actions:

- Invite younger people to share their knowledge about computers and iPads for older adults wanting to learn how to access information through Internet and social media.
- Offer computer service assistance to those without internet access or computers to assist with forms and applications for government services.
- Continue to share information through the local newsletter and local notice boards.
- Update directory and lists of information about local services and programs.
- Support volunteers who develop and lead programs for active living.



- Survey residents to determine recreational interests for activities.
- Proactively extend invitations to those who are alone to attend social and meal activities.

Priority 11: Build knowledge, plans and safety for emergency situations and within communities.

Potential Actions:

- Continue to build on knowledge learned during the recent forest fire emergency within the RM of Piney. Emergency personnel, RCMP, council, staff and local residents kept information current through various means. Improved cell phone reception would have been helpful.
- Introduce the Piney Emergency Assistance Team (PEAT) in every community to keep emergency information flowing to all residents and emergency workers.
- Share information about community programs e.g., Woodridge's Citizens on Patrol (COP) Program.
- Increase use of residential addresses and ensure they are visible.
- Determine how to have local roads and addresses included in Global Positioning Systems (GPS) systems as many are not recognized.

Priority 12: Increase economic development.

Potential Actions:

- Support the Chamber of Commerce and encourage job fairs for economic growth.
- Identify needed skills and find opportunities to mentor younger people to learn skills e.g., carpentry, entrepreneurship, small business development.

- Identify services needed by older persons and promote as local employment opportunities, especially for younger people.
- Consider a “job bank” or service needs survey to enhance possible local employment and volunteer opportunities.
- Promote the RM of Piney as an affordable place to live.
- Develop tourism opportunities.

Survey Responses

As part of the Age-Friendly Consultation, individuals from the Rural Municipality of Piney, Manitoba were asked to complete a brief questionnaire designed to collect information on the age-friendliness of their community. A total of 59 questionnaires were completed. This report summarizes the findings from the individuals who completed the Age-Friendly Communities Survey; 76% identified themselves as a senior.

Summary of the Most Age-Friendly and Least Age-Friendly Areas

The following is a summary of the **most age-friendly** aspects of the community, defined as those areas in which 70% or more of the respondents indicated ‘yes’.

- There are enough parking spaces close to services and stores (73%).
- The road signs in my community are easy to read and large enough for older drivers (84%).
- Information about community events is readily available to seniors (72%).
- Seniors feel safe when walking alone during the day (86%).

The following is a summary of the **least age-friendly** aspects of the community, as defined by those areas in which 20% or less indicated “yes”.

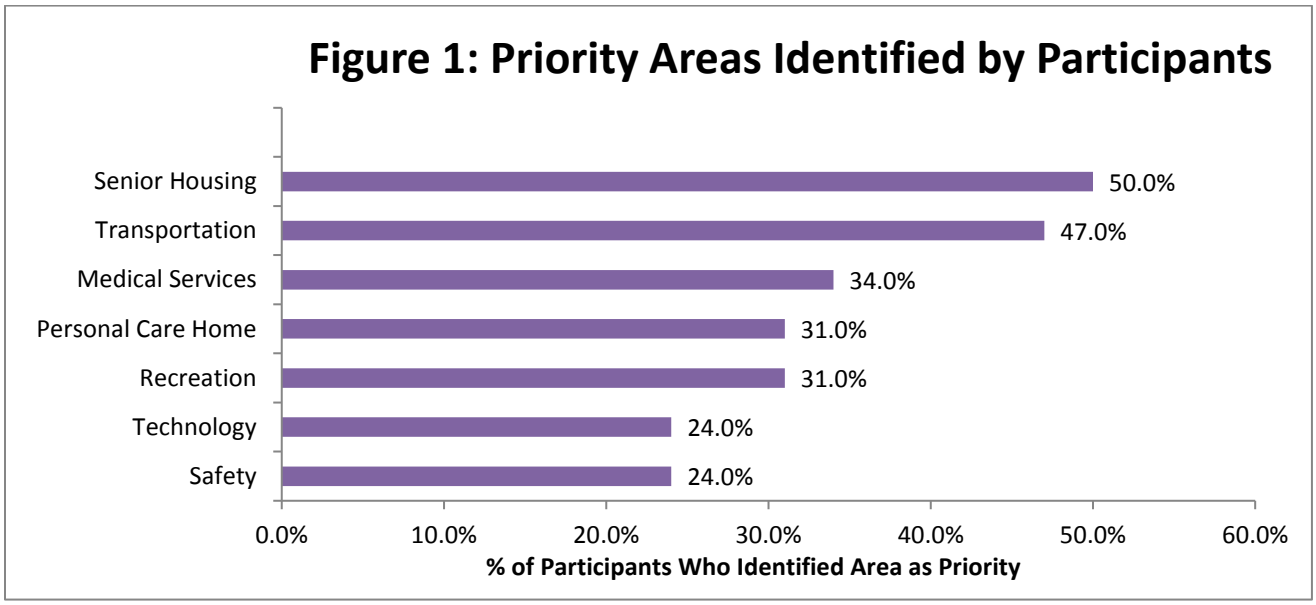
- There is enough housing that meets the needs of seniors (3%).
- There is enough subsidized housing for low-income seniors (12%).
- The waiting times are reasonable to get into senior housing that provides supports to seniors (2%).
- There is enough housing for younger people (10%).
- The transit service to shopping, senior centres, religious events, cultural events, and so forth is sufficient (0%).
- The public transportation (not provided by family or friends) to and from medical appointments is sufficient (5%).
- The transportation that is available for individuals with disabilities (e.g., Handi-van) is sufficient (0%).
- Public transportation, including Handi-van is affordable (0%).

- There are sidewalks linking residences and essential services in most or all areas of my community (2%).
- Sidewalks in most or all areas of my community are well maintained (even surfaces or paved, not a lot of cracks) (2%).
- There are enough street crosswalks in busy business areas (12%).
- There are enough street crosswalks in busy residential and/or recreation areas (13%).
- There are enough public washrooms in key areas of my community (e.g., business and recreation areas) (19%).
- Most or all businesses and public buildings in my community are easily accessible to everybody (e.g., have wheelchair ramps, automatic doors) (17%).
- There are enough paid job opportunities for seniors (5%).
- The job opportunities in my neighbourhood accommodate the needs of seniors (e.g., part-time work is available) (9%).
- My community has enough pleasant places for walking (e.g., walking trails, parks, well-treed streets) (5%).
- Local parks or walking trails in my community are accessible and easy to use for seniors (e.g., paths with even surfaces) (2%).
- There are enough resting areas with benches along paths or trails (0%).
- There are enough programs in my community that bring seniors and children together (16%).
- Isolated seniors (i.e., those who do not have anybody) are contacted, visited or taken to activities (15%).
- Public telephone answering services in my community are adapted to the needs of seniors (12%).
- There are enough seniors' advocacy services available in my community (e.g., ombudsman) (12%).
- The services that help seniors around the home (e.g., snow removal, lawn care) are sufficient (12%).
- The health care services that are provided in my community meet the needs of seniors (e.g., hospital, physicians, eye care) (13%).
- Public transportation (not provided by family or friends) to health care services that are not provided in my community is sufficient (4%).
- Access to health care that are not provided in my community is generally convenient (i.e., not too far away, appointment times) (7%).

Priority Areas

Individuals were also asked to write down the top five issues they felt needed to be most urgently addressed in their community. Forty-four participants (75%) identified at least one priority area. These written comments were grouped into the priority areas as shown in Figure 1 with examples:

- **Senior Housing** (e.g., housing available for all seniors at all income levels, and assisted living is an option)
- **Transportation** (e.g., getting to larger centres for health appointments and other events and activities, by public transportation or Handi-van)
- **Medical Services** (e.g., more frequent mobile services and closer health services)
- **Personal Care Home** (e.g., residents want to stay near family and their homes)
- **Recreation** (e.g., need outreach and visitor programs for those who live alone, more trails and benches, parks, intergenerational opportunities)
- **Technology access** (e.g., increase to cell, Wi-Fi internet, GPS, public notices services)
- **Safety** (e.g., sidewalks and paths, lighting, paved shoulders and roads, accessible parking)



Findings

	Percent* Responding		
Housing	**% Yes**	**% No**	**% Don't Know**
There is enough housing that meets the needs of seniors.	3	85	12
Housing for seniors is affordable in my community.	47	22	31
There is enough subsidized housing for low-income seniors in my community.	12	67	21
The waiting times are reasonable to get into senior housing that provides supports to seniors (e.g. assisted living, personal care homes).	2	69	29
There is enough housing for younger people in my community.	10	73	17
Transportation	**% Yes**	**% No**	**% Don't Know**
The transit service to shopping, senior centres, religious events, cultural events, and so forth is sufficient.	0	88	12
The public transportation (not provided by family or friends) to and from medical appointments is sufficient.	5	90	5
The transportation that is available for individuals with disabilities (e.g., Handi-van) is sufficient.	0	93	7
Public Transportation (including Handi-van) is affordable.	0	78	22
There are volunteer drivers or an informal network of drivers available for seniors who need transportation.	25	39	36
There are enough parking spaces close to services and stores.	73	13	14
There are enough accessible parking spaces close to services and stores.	63	24	13
Outdoor Spaces and Buildings	**% Yes**	**% No**	**% Don't Know**
The road signs in my community are easy to read and large enough for older drivers.	84	7	9
There are sidewalks linking residences and essential services in most or all areas of my community.	2	92	6
Sidewalks in most or all areas of my community are well maintained (even surfaces or paved, not a lot of cracks).	2	87	11
Snow clearing in my community is done in a timely manner so walking and driving is safe.	57	35	8
There are enough street crosswalks in busy business areas.	12	70	18
There are enough street crosswalks in busy residential and/or recreation areas.	13	64	23
There are enough public washrooms in key areas of my community (e.g., business and recreation areas).	19	70	11
Public washrooms accommodate people with wheelchairs.	23	47	30
Most or all businesses and public buildings in my community are easily accessible to everybody (e.g., have wheelchair ramps, automatic doors).	17	64	19

Community/Work Force Participation	% Yes	% No	% Don't Know
There are enough volunteer opportunities for seniors in my community.	57	24	19
There is enough official recognition for seniors who volunteer in my community (e.g., an appreciation banquet or volunteer awards).	24	60	16
There are enough paid job opportunities for seniors in my community.	5	75	20
The job opportunities in my neighbourhood accommodate the needs of seniors (e.g., part-time work is available).	9	75	16

Social Participation	% Yes	% No	% Don't Know
My community has enough pleasant places for walking (e.g., walking trails, parks, well-treed streets).	5	49	46
Local parks or walking trails in my community are accessible and easy to use for seniors (e.g., paths with even surfaces).	2	39	59
There are enough resting areas with benches along paths or trails.	0	89	11
There are enough exercise classes specifically for seniors.	47	36	17
There are enough recreation programs specifically for seniors in my community (e.g., card games, arts, crafts).	58	25	17
There are enough lifelong learning programs specifically for seniors in my community.	32	42	26
There are enough programs in my community that bring seniors and children together.	16	74	10
Recreational activities, such as exercise and other recreational programs are generally affordable for seniors.	55	16	29
Isolated seniors (e.g., those who don't have anybody) are contacted, visited or taken to activities.	15	42	43

Information/Advocacy	% Yes	% No	% Don't Know
Information about community events is readily available to seniors.	72	21	7
Information about the services and programs provided by various organizations is readily available to seniors.	61	21	18
Official, written information, such as forms or brochures is easy to read and understand.	52	18	30
Public telephone answering services in my community are adapted to the needs of seniors.	12	39	49
There is enough assistance available for completing official forms (e.g. government or income tax forms).	37	42	21
There are enough seniors' advocacy services available in my community (e.g. ombudsman).	12	63	25

Respect & Social Isolation	% Yes	% No	% Don't Know
Seniors in my community are generally treated with respect.	36	55	9
Seniors serve in an advisory role to municipal government in my community.	23	44	33
Community consultations in my community specifically include seniors.	29	24	47
Planning processes in my community specifically consider the needs of seniors (e.g. housing, transportation).	29	34	37

Health and Community Services	% Yes	% No	% Don't Know
The home care services that support seniors in their own home (e.g. meal preparation, nursing care) are sufficient.	34	30	36
The services that help seniors around the home (e.g. snow removal, lawn care) are sufficient.	12	66	22
The congregate meal programs available (e.g., lunch at a recreation or senior centre) are sufficient.	68	16	16
The meal delivery services that bring meals to seniors' homes are sufficient.	50	27	23
The health care services that are provided in my community meet the needs of seniors (e.g. hospital, physicians, eye care).	13	69	18
Public transportation (not provided by family or friends) to health care services that are not provided in my community is sufficient.	4	82	14
Access to health care that are not provided in my community is generally convenient (e.g. not too far away and appointment times).	7	79	14

Safety	% Yes	% No	% Don't Know
Crime and vandalism are a problem.	22	64	14
Seniors feel safe when walking alone during the day.	86	7	7
Seniors feel safe when walking alone during the night.	42	29	29

*Due to rounding up or down, some rows may not add to 100 per cent.