

Chilliwack Age-Friendly Project



REPORT TO COUNCIL

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**CHILLIWACK SOCIAL RESEARCH AND
PLANNING COUNCIL**

Demographics



- 29% male
- **71% female**

Age groups:

- 30% 50 – 64 years
- **37% 65 - 74 years**
- 29% 75 - 84 years
- 4% over 85 years

Living arrangements:

- 60% live with a spouse or companion
- 35% live alone

Household Income:

- **38% below \$30,000**
- 31% \$30,000 - \$49,999
- 31% \$50,000 and up

Health and mobility



- 83% rated health as very good or excellent
- 80% health has stayed the same over past year
- 23% problems with stairs
- 16% interior design did not meet their mobility needs
- 55% difficulty entering home with a walking aid

Challenges

- Continued good health is a blind spot
- What motivates people to plan ahead for the worse case scenario?
- Unsuitable and inflexible interior design impacts a person's ability to age in place
 - safety issue
 - Isolation

Where do they live?



- 42% live north of Highway One
- 39% live south of Highway One in Suburban areas
- (evenly distributed throughout age groups for both areas)

- Expectation and preference is to remain in present neighbourhoods to be near family and friends

Challenges:

- To bring all communities up to age-friendly standards
- To bring in needed services

Housing now and future



- Home ownership - 80%
- 57% in Single Family Dwellings
- 24% apartment/condo

- Future Housing: Expect to pay:
 - 33% \$200,000 - \$299,999
 - 22% \$150,000 - \$199,999
 - 18% \$300,000 - \$399,999

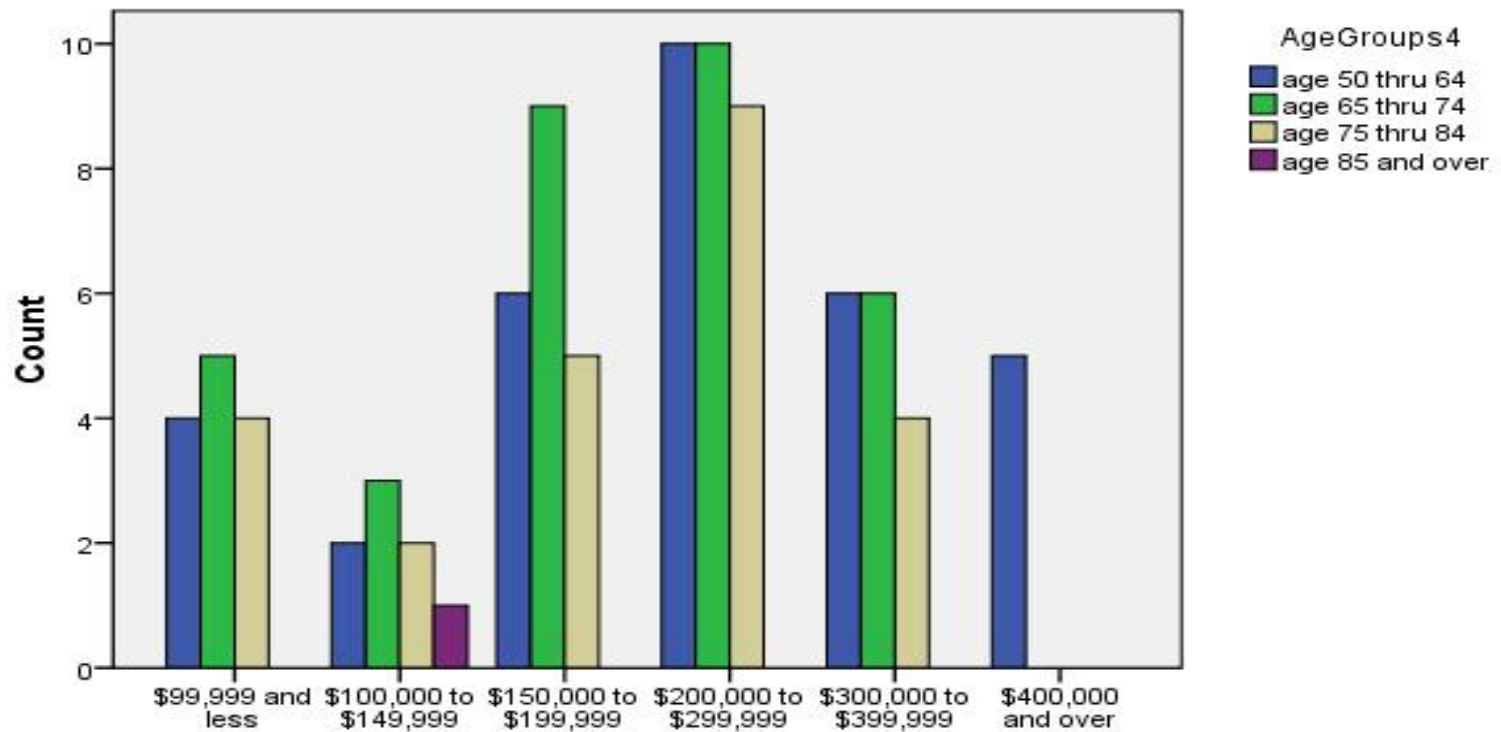
- 57% of people in SFDs will have to move or will need services and supports and 69% (lower income seniors) will have trouble paying for them

- Home owners have equity tied up in their homes but may not have the income to care for homes and themselves

Future home

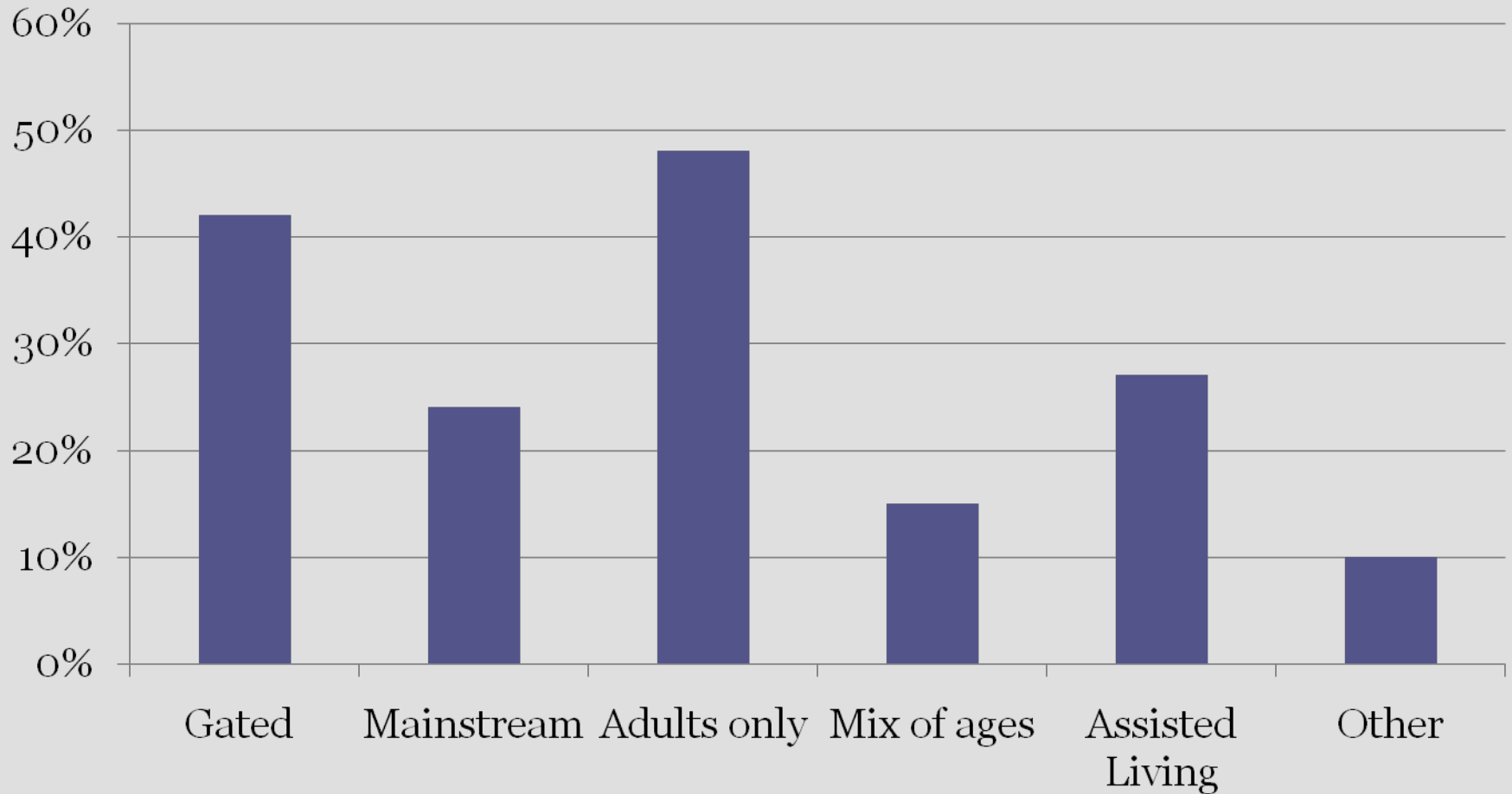


Bar Chart



If you considered moving and planning to buy, what price range would you realistically be looking in?

Moving to strata: preferred community



Important to live near:

- **Family/friends** **94%**
- **Others to interact** **93%**
- **Green space** **86%**
- **Grocery store** **84%**
- **Doctor/hospital** **81%**
- **Transit** **81%**
- **Community** **74%**
- **Walking trails** **72%**
- **Seniors Centre** **53%**
- **Pool/rec centre** **39%**

Challenge:

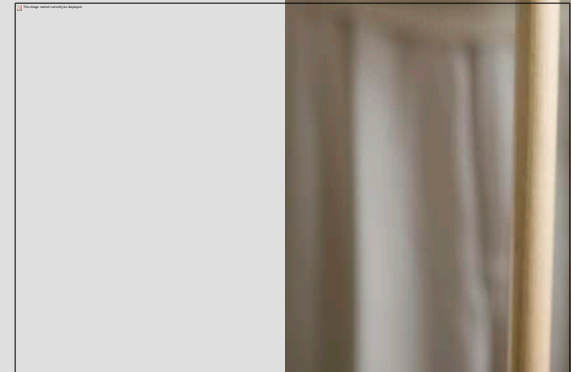
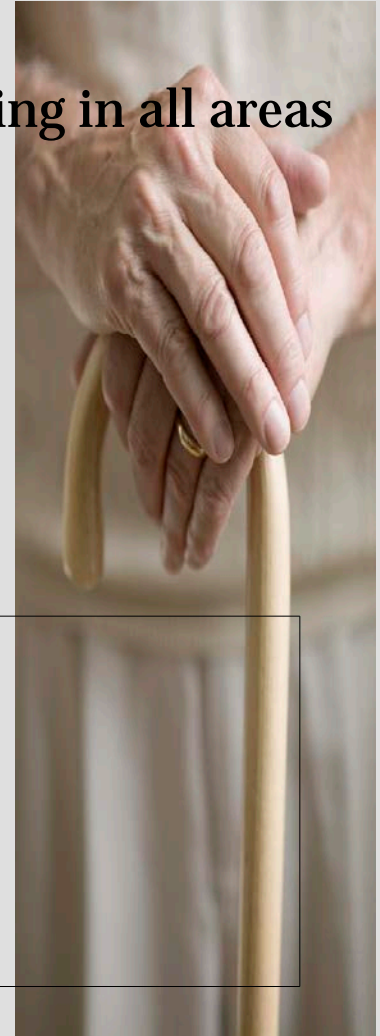
- How to make: densification, living within a mix of cultures, professions, ages acceptable to seniors

Design features for mobility impairment

- **Wide entrances /doorways/halls**
- **Pocket doors**
- **Walk-in showers**
- **Hard, smooth, continual flooring**
- **Large rooms**
- **Low kitchen counters**
- **Place to park scooter**
- **Accommodation for hearing loss**

Challenge:

- **Provide flex housing in all areas of Chilliwack**
- **Provide services**



Transportation & Social Participation

Reliance on vehicles:

- 91% use a personal vehicle
- Concerns reported by those with mobility difficulties
- 69% concerned with alternatives if they could no longer drive

Challenge – reliance on vehicle

Reasons to leave the house:

- appointments 90%
- shopping 86%
- visit a friend 82%
- go for a walk 72%

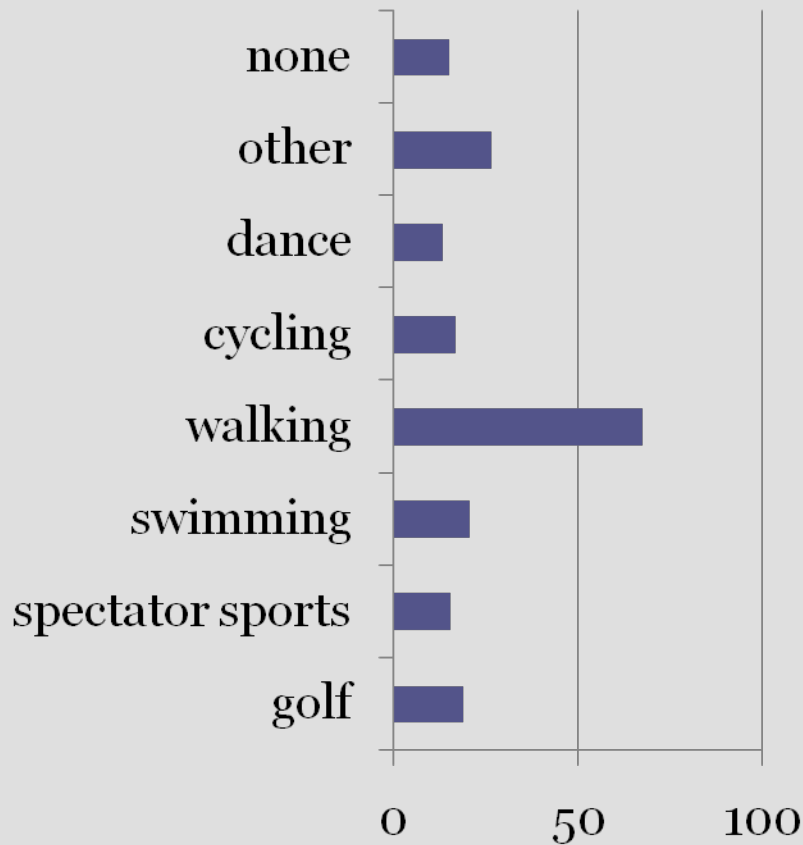
Other ways to connect:

- Watch TV 89%
- Telephone friends/family 83%
- Inviting people in 65%

Top leisure activities



Percent



Challenge

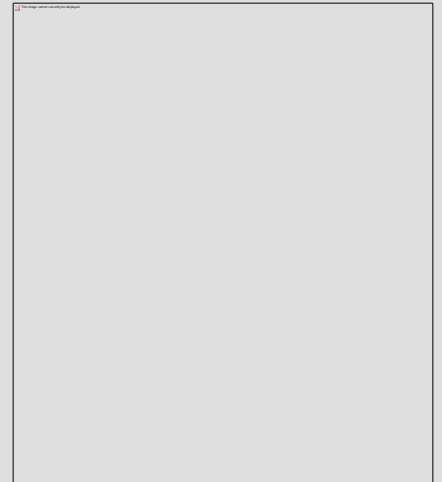
- Thinking ahead – will the next cohort want more/different recreational opportunities?
- Do we need to plan for:
- Seniors' Parks?
- Seniors' Centres?

Communication and information

- **Local newspapers** **99%**
- **Advertising posters** **92%**
- **Discussions with friends or family** **86-92%**
- **Mailed notices** **76%**
- **Television** **71-75%**
- **Regional newspapers** **64%**
- **Email notices** **58%**
- **Radio station** **55%**
- **Internet** **42%**

Challenge

- Getting the word out
- How to inform seniors and their families of current programs, services, activities, entertainment



Residential care facilities & Fears

Care facility preferred size:

- Under 50 beds 68%
- Over 50 beds 19%
- Other 12%

- Knowledge of steps for supported care 20%
- Knowledge of costs 16%

Challenge –How to promote looking ahead to worse-case scenario

Fears:

- Losing independence 90%
- Declining health/mobility 82%
- Losing drivers' licence 76%
- Needing to move to suitable housing 63%
- Growing old alone 62%
- Financial 51%

Next steps



Multi level Challenges:

- **City –**
 - age-friendly communities
- **Service providers –**
 - services & information
- **Private sector –**
 - affordable housing,
 - flexible housing
 - assisted living or care facilities
- **Individual –**
 - rethink futures
 - plan for worse case scenario and
 - prepare to use equity in current property for health care and services to meet their needs