Advancing a Provincial Healthy Aging Agenda

Research Affinity Group on Aging Issues
July 17, 2007
Suzanne Brake
Agenda

• Background

• Perspectives on a Healthy Aging Plan – Summary of Consultations

• Provincial Healthy Aging Policy Framework

• Provincial Healthy Aging Implementation Plan – Year 1: 2007-2008
Background

- Commitment made by Government in 2003
- Ministerial Council on Aging and Seniors
- Interdepartmental Working Group
- Provincial Advisory Council on Aging and Seniors
- Aging and Seniors Division
Background

• Cross – government initiative

• Discussion Paper & Seniors Profile

• 17 consultations – over 1000 participants

• Provincial Forum

• Numerous briefs and submissions

• Plan consisting of 3 documents
Demographic Imperative

2007

- 36.5% over age 50
- 13.9% over age 65
- 3.4% over age 80

2017

- 46.5% over age 50
- 20.8% over age 65
- 4.1% over age 80 (20.5% increase)
Demographics

• We now have the highest median age in Canada (41.3 in 2006).

• In 2006 baby-boomers turned age 60.

• First province to have more deaths than births!
Healthy Aging

A lifelong process of optimizing opportunities for improving and preserving health and physical, social and mental wellness, independence, quality of life and enhancing successful life-course transitions.

Health Canada (2002)
Vision

For individuals, families, communities and society as a whole to foster healthy aging in order to achieve optimal health and well-being.
Principles

• Dignity
• Self-fulfillment
• Social inclusion
• Independence
• Safety & Security
• Fairness
Perspectives on a Healthy Aging Plan – Summary of Consultations

• Summary of ‘what we heard”

• Includes results of the consultations, forum, submissions and preliminary research.

• Approved by Ministerial Council in December 2006.
Provincial Healthy Aging Policy Framework

- 6 priority directions, 28 goals, numerous actions
- 5 year plan
- Involves many partners
- Goal: Create an age-friendly province
Priority Directions

- Recognition of Older Persons
- Celebrating Diversity
- Supportive Communities
- Financial Well-Being
- Health and Well-Being
- Employment, Education and Research
Employment, Education and Research

- **Goal 26**: Employers improve planning for an aging workforce.

- **Goal 27**: Knowledge of aging and the impact of population aging are brought into the work, education and research environments.

- **Goal 28**: Improved knowledge of aging and seniors is reflected through evidence gained through research.
Implementation Plan
Year 1 2007 - 2008

• Support working group to explore research models, develop a research framework and promote research on aging and seniors ($50,000 - Health and Community Services).

• Support research in prioritized areas including medication use, living and aging with disability; seniors’ mental health and addictions; and abuse and neglect of older adults ($250,000 - Health and Community Services).

• Develop and maintain a comprehensive aging and seniors’ profile ($50,000 - Health and Community Services).
It is not old age that is at fault but our attitude toward it.

(Cicero)