



The Toronto Seniors Strategy



Community Development and Recreation Committee
CD 20.1 - Wednesday, April 17, 2013





- **The Toronto Seniors Strategy outlines the beginning of an ongoing process to make Toronto more age-friendly.**
- **The Strategy was developed to achieve better results for older adults with limited resources.**
- **Focus is on issues that fall within the City's authority to plan, manage, and deliver.**

Who was Involved?



ABCDs

Senior Management Steering Committee and Technical Working Group comprised of 17 City of Toronto Agencies, Boards, Corporations and Divisions.

Expert Panel

33 leaders from the community, universities, business, medical and seniors' advocacy organizations.

Seniors' Forum

Formal advisory body of City Council supported by City staff. The primary consultation body responsible for providing voice to age-related issues.

Public Consultation

Residents submitted suggests and concerns through a consultation workbook available in multiple languages. 524 completed responses received from individuals and groups.

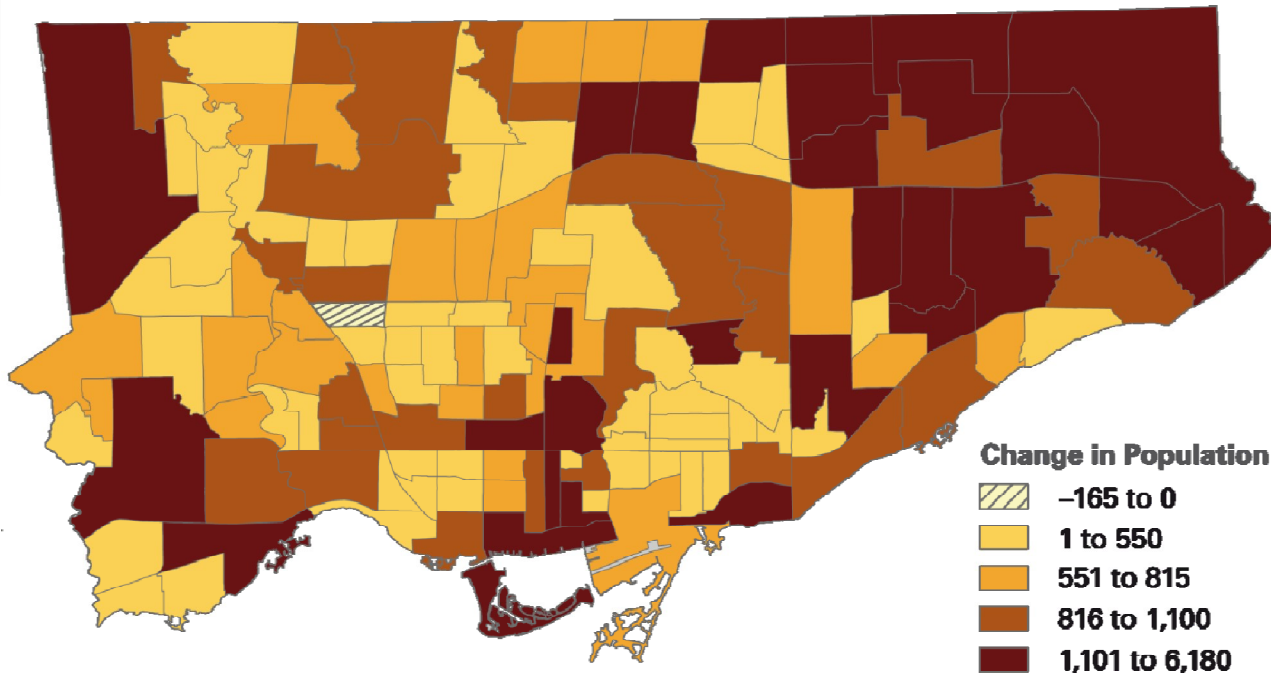
Provincial Strategy

Ontario lead, Dr. Samir K. Sinha, participated in strategy development process, helping to ensure both strategies were in alignment.

The Demographic Imperative



Population Change (2001-2011) in Older Adult Population 55+



Adults 55+ in 2001

559,090

Adults 55+ in 2011

680,945

10-year Change

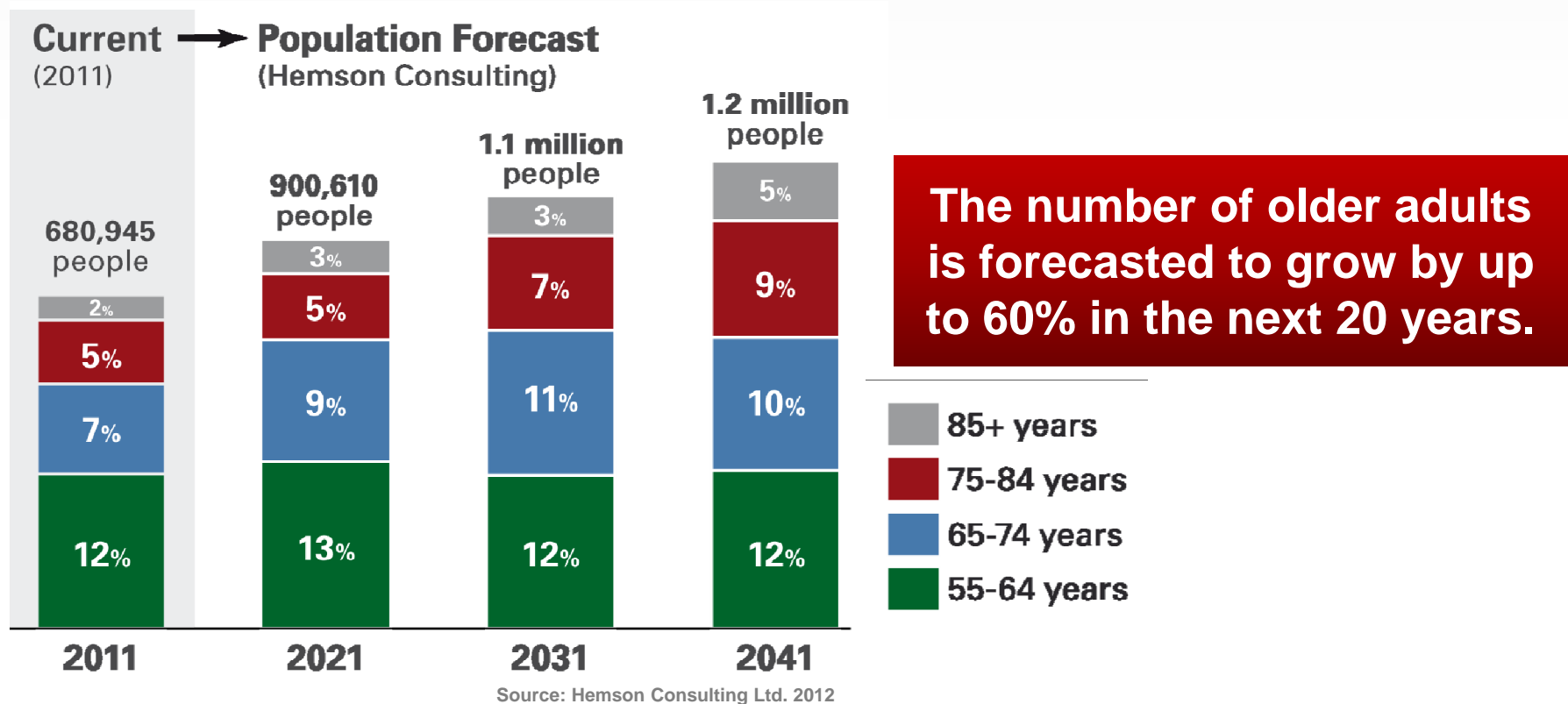
↑ 22%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2011 Census
Prepared by: Social Policy, Analysis & Research Unit, Social Development, Finance & Administration

Population Growth Forecast



The City must be ready to address the growing number of diverse older adults.



Older Adults Have Diverse Needs



Examples

Over 114,000 families

with at least one member 65 years or older **have low incomes.**

54%

of adults 65 years or older have an **activity limitation or disability.**

37%

of adults 55 years or older **speak a non-official language.**

68%

of adults 55 years or older **are immigrants**

Public Consultation Events



May 24, 2012
Public consultation
opens

June 28, 2012
Toronto Seniors'
Forum Event

December 7, 2012
Second Seniors Expert
Panel Roundtable



June 19, 2012
First Seniors Expert
Panel Roundtable

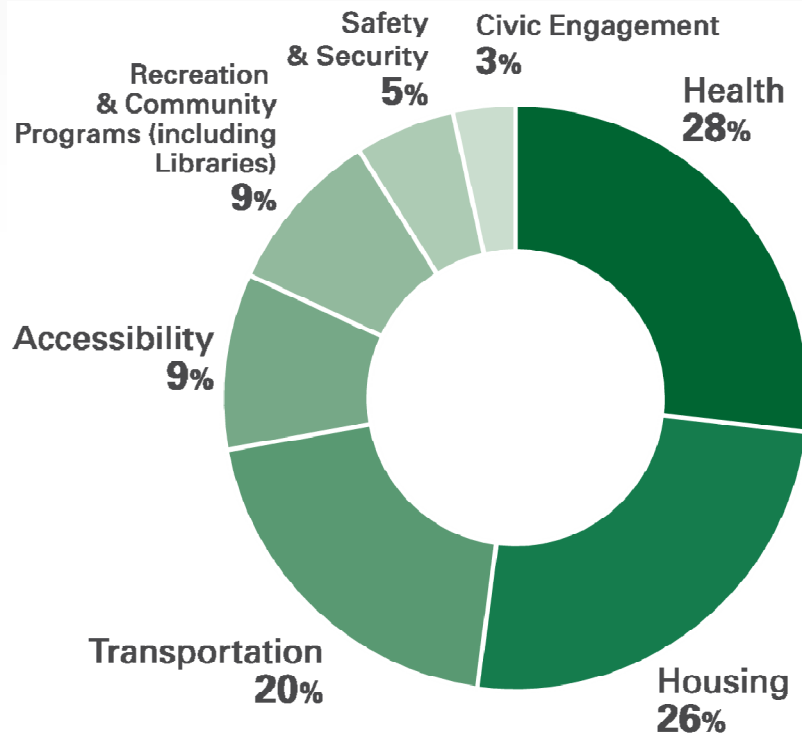
October 31, 2012
Public consultation
closes

February 15, 2013
Third Seniors Expert
Panel Roundtable

Consultation Workbook



Thematic Priorities



- 524 responses to consultation workbook (91 in non-English languages).
- Top three priorities were **health, housing** and **transportation**.
- Participants emphasized that older adults in Toronto are highly diverse. This leads to unique issues compared to other communities.

What We Heard



Residents want an age-friendly approach to service delivery that supports people of all ages, including Toronto's older adults, to live active, socially engaged, healthy, and independent lives.

“There has to be more support put in place to assist seniors in remaining in their own homes.”

“[It is] important not to forget that a large majority of older adults are capable, active, independent and a resource to the community. We are part of the solution as well as the ‘problem.’”



Living Longer, Living Well

Highlights and Key Recommendations

From the Report Submitted to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and the Minister Responsible for Seniors on recommendations to inform a Seniors Strategy for Ontario

Dr. Samir K. Sinha, MD, DPHIL, FRCP
Provincial Lead, Ontario's Seniors Strategy

The Toronto Seniors Strategy closely aligns with Ontario's Seniors Strategy.

Dr. Samir K. Sinha

Provincial Lead, Ontario's Seniors Strategy

Living Longer, Living Well

Report submitted to the Minister of health and Long-Term Care
and

the Minister Responsible for Seniors on Recommendations
to Inform a Seniors Strategy for Ontario

Why Develop a Provincial Strategy?



- In 2011, the province announced a new vision to make Ontario the best place to grow up and grow old in North America.
- Development of Ontario's Seniors Strategy began in 2012 to establish sustainable best practices and policies at a provincial level.
- Focus on ensuring equity, quality, access, value and choice.
- Recommendations developed that could support older Ontarians to stay healthy and independent for as long as possible.



The way in which our cities, communities, and our health care system are currently designed, resourced, organised and delivered, often disadvantages older adults with chronic health issues.

As Ontarians, our Care Needs, Preferences and Values are evolving as a society, with increasing numbers of us wanting to age in place.

Top 5 System Barriers in Ontario



- 1** We do little to empower older adults and caregivers.
- 2** We don't know what we don't know.
- 3** We don't talk to each other well.
- 4** We plan in silos and not as a system.
- 5** We plan for today and not for tomorrow.



The Toronto Seniors Strategy is well aligned with the directions and recommendations in the Provincial Strategy:

- Consultation processes occurred over the same time frame;
- In both processes, seniors identified the same principal concerns;
- Both identify recommendations that are practical and largely achievable within existing resources; and
- Leads for the two strategies were in constant communication throughout the development of these strategies, sharing findings and insights throughout.



The Toronto Seniors Strategy

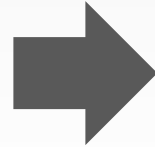


The Toronto Seniors Strategy Recommendations

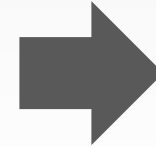
Recommendations



25



25



91

Issues Identified

For each theme, issues are identified. These are based on what we heard from consultations, insights from demographic research, and gaps identified after taking an inventory of what the City does currently.

Recommendations Proposed

From the 25 identified issues, we developed 25 broad recommendations to address each issue. These recommendations define the strategic direction the City will take to address older adult issues.

Recommended Actions to Implement

Each recommendation contains a series of **short**, **medium**, and **long-term** actions proposed by City ABCDs. These define the specific, implementable steps the City will take to accomplish each recommendation.



Timeframe & Cost Implications



Timeframe

Cost Implications

Short-Term

Actions that can begin implementation immediately.

No new net costs.
Achievable within existing budgets.

Medium-Term

Actions that can begin implementation within two years.

Costing to be referred back to ABCDs for consideration in the 2014 City budget process.

Long-Term

Actions that can begin implementation after 2015.

Costing to be referred back to ABCDs for consideration in 2015 and beyond.

Age-Friendly Themes

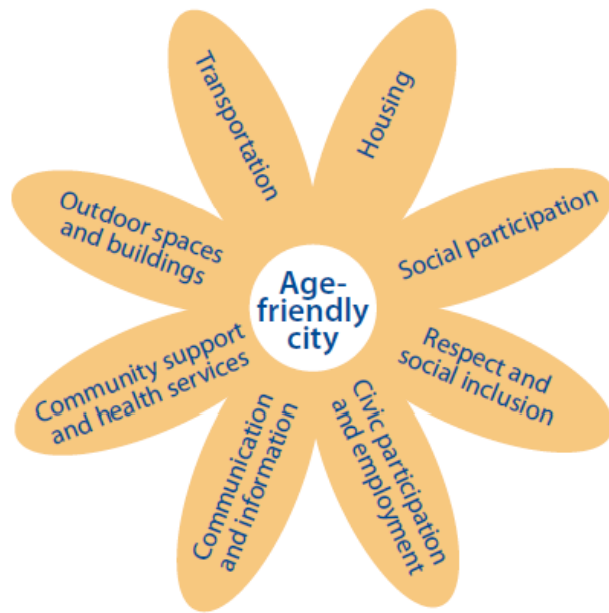


To ensure alignment with other communities in Canada, the Strategy is organized using the World Health Organization's framework for age-friendliness:

- 1** Respect & Social Inclusion
- 2** Civic Engagement, Volunteering & Employment
- 3** Social Participation
- 4** Community Support & Health Services
- 5** Housing
- 6** Transportation
- 7** Outdoor Spaces & Buildings
- 8** Communications & Information



Recommended Action 1a



**Apply to be a
World Health Organization
Age-Friendly City.**

Timeframe: Medium-Term
Lead: Social Development, Finance & Administration



Recommended Action 3b

Train staff on best practices when communicating with vulnerable older adults.

Timeframe: Medium-Term
Lead: City Manager's Office



Recommended Action 11h



Expand the Community Paramedicine program

Timeframe: Long-Term
Lead: Emergency Medical Services



Recommended Action 14c



Provide senior friendly public education for homeless, at risk and low-income older adults, their families and caregivers.

Timeframe: Short-Term
Lead: Shelter Support & Housing Administration



Recommended Action 14d



Amend the Official Plan to allow for Secondary Suites in existing homes, and update the Secondary Suites resource kit.

Timeframe: Short-Term
Lead: City Planning



Recommended Action 19a



Work to complete updates to intersection crossing times to provide longer walk times across the city.

Timeframe: Short-Term
Lead: Transportation Services



Next Steps

Accountability & Monitoring



Each recommended action in the Strategy contains three key elements for accountability and monitoring:

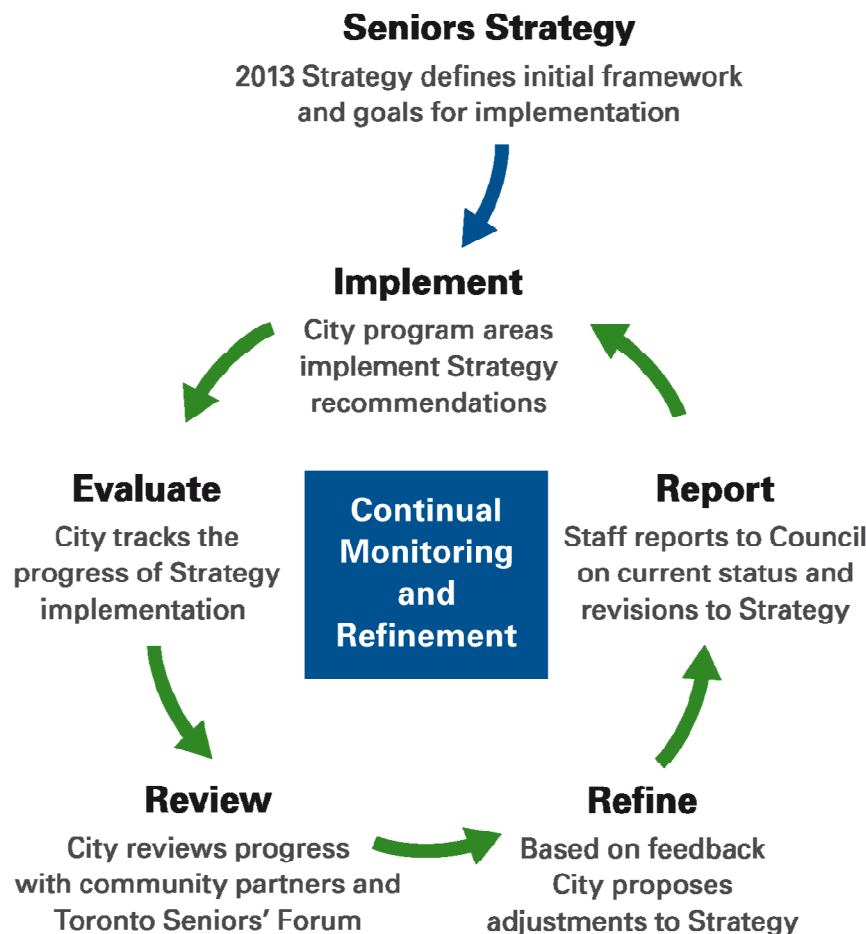
Clearly identified lead program area with responsibility to implement

Timeframe for implementation

Identified measure(s) to track the status of each action

The wellbeing of Toronto's older adults in Toronto will also be monitored to provide context for the ongoing implementation of the strategy.

A Living Document



- Continual monitoring of the wellbeing of older Torontonians using **Wellbeing Toronto**.
- Ongoing evaluation of Strategy conducted by staff in consultation with community partners.
- Together, staff and partners will review and refine Strategy.
- First progress report on Strategy to Council in 2015.

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