

# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## *Healthy Ageing*

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Mature Action Committee  
19 July 2011



# MAC Background

1995

- Non-profit organization incorporated under the Society's Act of BC

2005

- signed MOU with WHA setting out guidelines for a partnership to facilitate the provision and administration of seniors restricted housing in Whistler

2008

- Seniors Needs Assessment Focus Group formed to identify current ageing in place issues

2009

- Community wide survey

2011

- Still growing with 230 active members



# Seniors' Needs Assessment Group

## **Mission Statement:**

- *to review potential opportunities for activity and support services in the Resort Municipality of Whistler that will not only enable seniors to age in place, but also enhance senior's lifestyle choices allowing them active engagement in the community.*



# Community Partnership

Whistler Community Social Services Society



Seniors Needs Action Programmer

Melissa Deller

“Supporting the needs of ALL seniors in Whistler”

Mature Action Committee



# Current Challenges

- the area's seniors have the highest projected population increase in the entire Lower Mainland/Sea to Sky region, yet they face the most limited array of services. (United Way Report "Moving Towards Age-Friendly Communities")
- The Howe Sound Local Health Area's over 65 population is projected to increase by 244.2% by 2027
- Many older adults and their caregivers are overwhelmed trying to navigate the often confusing and sometimes uncoordinated spectrum of services for older adults.
- Lack of reliable baseline information on the reality of seniors in the Corridor



# Opportunity

Whistler Seniors overwhelmingly report a strong desire to age in place, but isolation and lack of access to needed services are placing many older Whistlerites at risk.

MAC is advocating for the building and supporting of high-quality community support networks and developing innovative approaches to keeping seniors active, connected, and independent in their homes and our community.



# The Return

An age-friendly community benefits people of all ages.

- *Secure neighbourhoods are safe for children, youth, women and older adults.*
- *Families experience less worry and stress when their older relations have the services and supports they need.*
- *Barrier free buildings and streets enhance the mobility and independence of older adults as well as people with disabilities and parents with children in strollers.*
- *The whole community benefits from the participation of older persons in volunteer or paid work and community activities.*
- *Meets the requirements of Whistler's 2020 Ageing and Health Services vision by developing innovative models, in collaboration with community-based partners, that provide older adults with sustainable and coordinated community-based services and activities which allow them to age in place.*



# Action Steps

- identify practical ideas and strategies that can inform current and future planning and policy development;
- help increase the public profile of older adult needs and the understanding of the elements of an Age Friendly Community in order to build support and commitment within the community;
- Develop and sustain the capacity, quality and programming of a senior's centre for seniors, adult day care providers, in-home health aides, and caregivers that serve older adults and
- support the establishment of an advisory committee to council representing the needs of seniors.



# Take Away Tangibles...

How can the RMOW support seniors in the community?

- Website
- Temporary senior's centre location
- Support for knowledge gathering to determine the reality of seniors in the Corridor
- Building seniors' activity programming
- Advertising of existing services

Questions ...

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