

The New Aging in Alberta



A look at Dynamic Seniors
Past, Present & Future

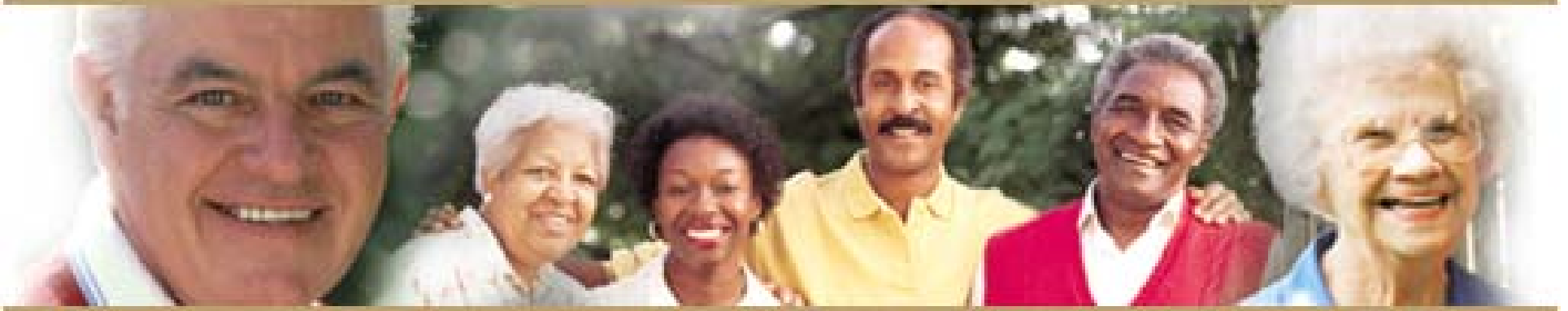


Session Content

- ❖ Demographics
- ❖ Trends/ and Needs of Older Adults
- ❖ Community Supports and Services
- ❖ Questions/ Comments

Demographics-Canada

With the Baby Boomer (born 1946-1965) population aging, Statistics Canada predicts that by 2025, 20% of Canadians will be age 65 or older compared to just 13.7% in 2006.



Demographics-Canada

- The number of people age 80 and over topped the one-million mark for the first time in Canada between 2001 and 2006.
- More than one-quarter of all seniors were aged 80 years and over in 2006.
- 2 out of 3 persons age 80 and over were women.

Demographics-Canada

- The life expectancy of Canadians has increased
- Women live on average 82.5 years
- Men live on average 77.7 years

Demographics-Canada

- The number of people living to be 100 years and older increased by 22 percent since 2001
- In 2006 there were 4,635 people aged 100 years and older
- If this trend continues the number of centenarians could triple by 2031

Demographics-Canada

- The number of people aged 55-64, many of whom are workers approaching retirement, has never been so high in Canada at 3.7 million in 2006

Demographics-Alberta




 Statistics Canada / Statistique Canada
 

Table 1
Percentage of the population aged 65 years and over in the last 50 years, Canada, provinces and territories

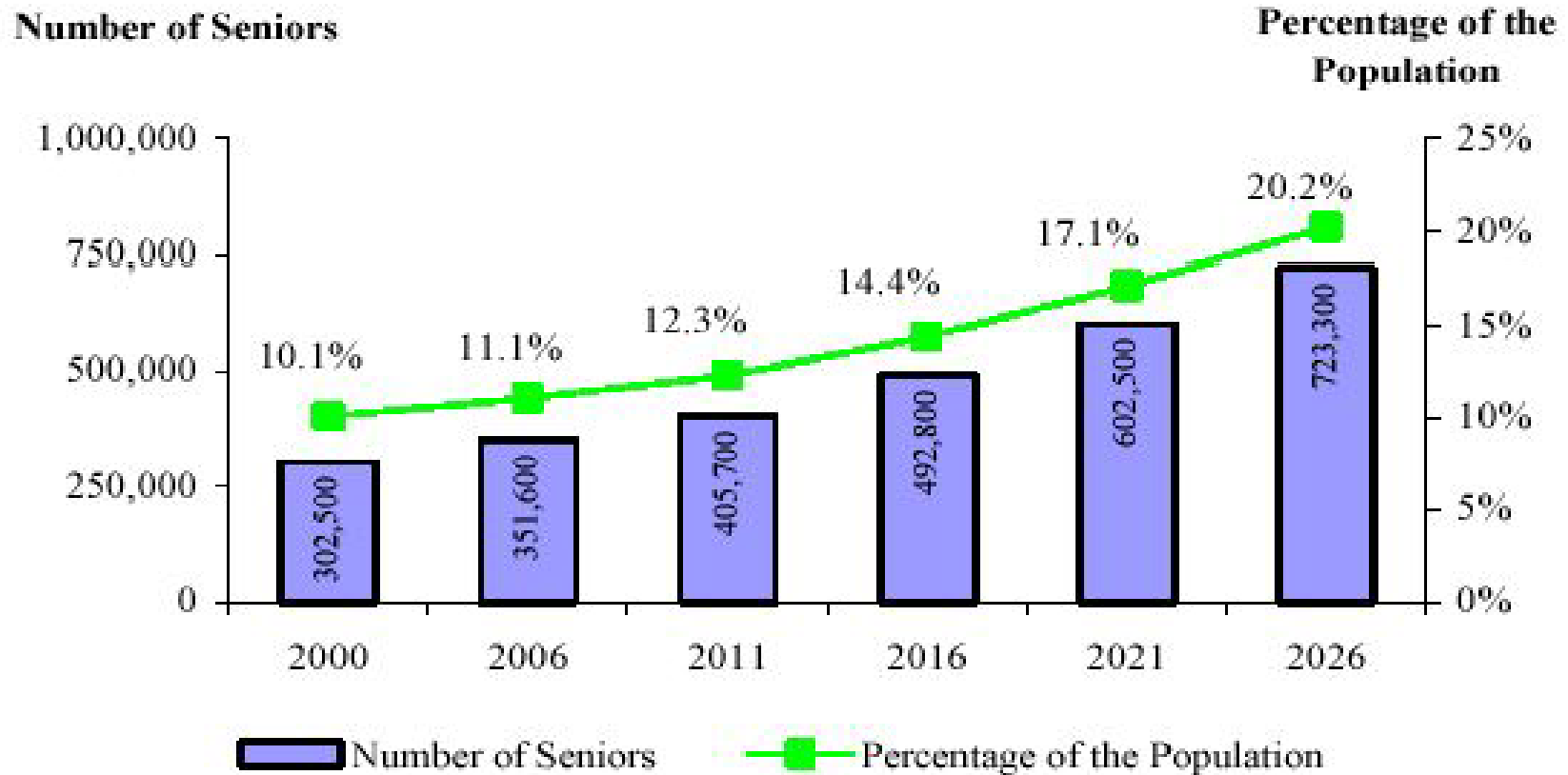
Census year	Canada	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Y.T.	N.W.T.	Nvt.
	percentage													
... not applicable														
Note:	In this table, Nunavut is included in the Northwest Territories until 1986.													
Sources:	Statistics Canada, censuses of population, 1956 to 2006.													
1956	7.7	6.0	10.4	8.5	7.8	5.7	8.4	9.0	8.9	7.2	10.8	4.9	2.6	...
1961	7.6	5.9	10.4	8.6	7.8	5.8	8.1	9.0	9.2	7.0	10.2	3.2	2.6	...
1966	7.7	5.9	10.8	8.9	8.2	6.1	8.2	9.2	9.3	7.1	9.5	3.6	2.7	...
1971	8.1	6.1	11.1	9.2	8.6	6.9	8.4	9.7	10.2	7.3	9.4	2.8	2.2	...
1976	8.7	6.6	11.2	9.7	9.0	7.7	8.9	10.4	11.1	7.5	9.8	2.9	2.7	...
1981	9.7	7.7	12.2	10.9	10.1	8.8	10.1	11.9	12.0	7.3	10.9	3.2	2.9	...
1986	10.7	8.8	12.7	11.9	11.1	10.0	10.9	12.6	12.7	8.1	12.1	3.7	2.8	...
1991	11.6	9.7	13.2	12.6	12.2	11.2	11.7	13.4	14.1	9.1	12.9	3.9	2.8	2.0
1996	12.2	10.8	13.0	13.1	12.6	12.1	12.4	13.7	14.7	9.9	12.8	4.4	3.0	2.1
2001	13.0	12.3	13.7	13.9	13.6	13.3	12.9	14.0	15.1	10.4	13.6	6.0	4.4	2.2
2006	13.7	13.9	14.9	15.1	14.7	14.3	13.6	14.1	15.4	10.7	14.6	7.5	4.8	2.7

Date modified: 2007-07-17

Demographics-Alberta

- It's projected by 2025 there will be more than 700,000 seniors in the province – that's about 1 in 5 Albertans.
- The aging of Alberta's population will be fairly gradual until 2011. The rate of growth will then accelerate as the Baby Boomers begin to turn 65. This accelerated growth is expected to last until approximately 2030, when the last of the Boomers become seniors.

Demographics-Alberta



Source: Statistics Canada, *Population Projections for Canada, Provinces and Territories 2000-2026 (Projection 2)*

Demographics-Alberta

- There is a continuing trend to urbanization across Canada
- In Alberta today more than 4/5 people live in an urban area
- Compare this to turn of the century when only 1/4 persons lived in an urban area

Demographics-Alberta

- Rural areas have a higher proportion of people age 65 and older as compared to urban areas
- The percentage of people age 65 and over is 15.5 % in rural areas compared to 13.3% in urban areas

Demographics-Alberta

- Two small towns in Alberta made the top 25 list in Canada with the highest proportion of persons age 65 years and older
- Westlock #5 in Canada with 27.1 per cent of its population aged 65 and older
- Vegreville #25 in Canada with 22.8 per cent of its population aged 65 and older

Demographics-Alberta

- Rural areas have a higher percentage of older workers
- More than one person out of five (20 %) in the labour force of rural areas is aged between 55 and 64 (16.4 % urban)
- An older workforce in rural areas can create a large gap when the workers retire



- In 2005, there were almost 83,000 seniors living in Edmonton – almost 12% of the city’s population.
- In the next decade, two age groups in Edmonton will double in size: adults 50-60 years old and seniors older than 80.
- By 2025, the number of seniors will double – becoming almost 25% of Edmonton’s population.

Trends/ Needs of Older Adults



Seniors in Edmonton

- In the slides that follow, the words older persons, seniors, senior citizens, and elderly are used synonymously to refer to people over the age of 65
- SOURCES
- *Aging in Place-A Neighbourhood Strategy*-City of Edmonton, 2007
- Edmonton Social Plan, Edition 4, 2004 (www.edmonton.ca/socialplan)
- Edmonton Population and Employment
- Forecast Allocation Study, 2000-2005
- Statistics Canada



Trends: Age and Gender

- Canadians aged 80+ represent the fastest growing segment of the seniors population.
- This age group generally has greater needs for social support and health care than younger seniors.
- The majority of the very elderly are women (64.6%) because of their higher life expectancy

Marital Status:

- 60 % of Edmonton seniors (65 and older) were living with a spouse in 2001 and 30% were living alone
- Senior women were much more likely than senior men to be widowed and living alone.

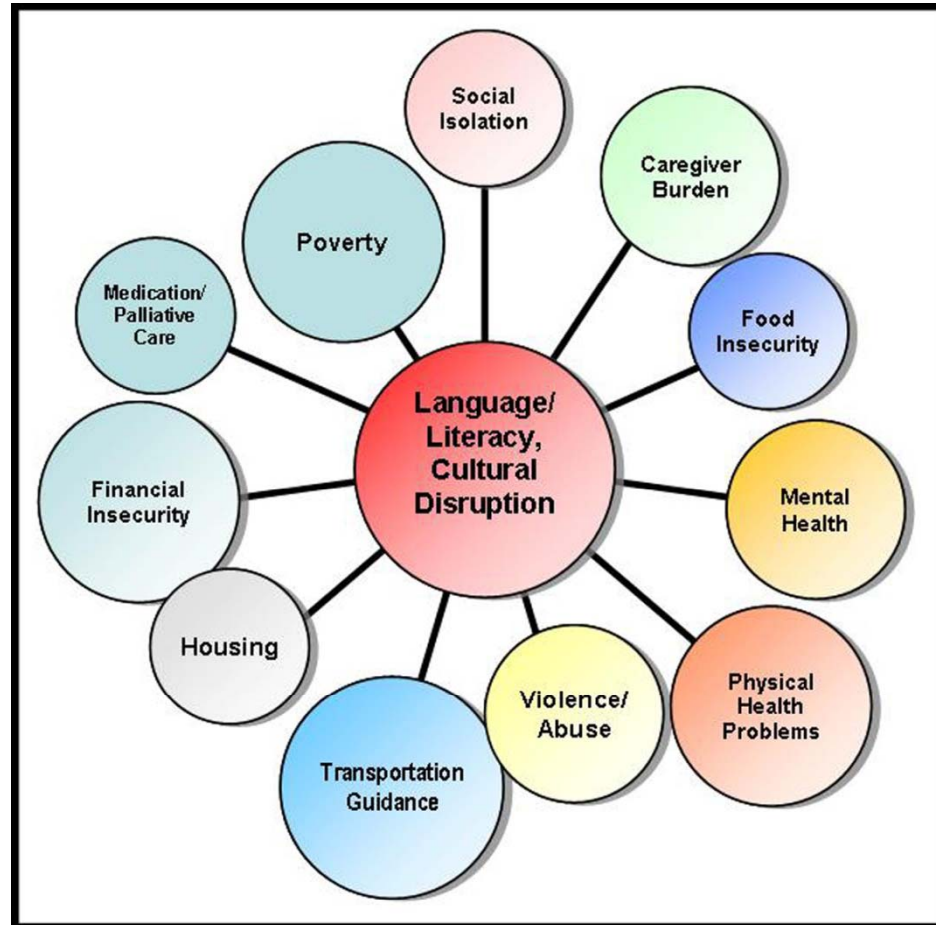
Ethnicity:

- In Edmonton 2001, 35 % of seniors over 75 years of age were born outside of Canada
- The majority of this group were born in Europe (50%), or Asia (25%)
- A small proportion (9%) of this group of seniors are recent immigrants (within last 10 years)

Immigrant Seniors

- In 2001, 4.5% of Edmonton seniors age 75-84 were recently arrived immigrants who could speak neither English nor French
- In 2001, 6.1% of seniors aged 85 and over were recently arrived immigrants who could speak neither English nor French

Immigrant Seniors-arrived w/i last 10 years

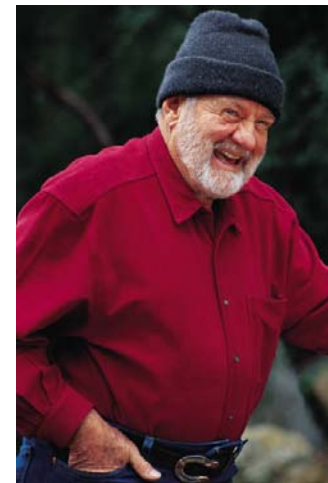


Due to the barriers, many immigrant seniors experience:

- Difficulties navigating health care and social systems;
- Reduced access to social and health services;
- Reduced health, safety, social connections;
- Intergenerational gap with acculturated grandchildren;
- Acculturation stress, interpersonal role conflicts and familial conflicts;
- Loss of integrity, diminished self-esteem, increased vulnerability;
- Decreased mobility due to language barrier and poverty;
- Loss of independence and autonomy.

Work:

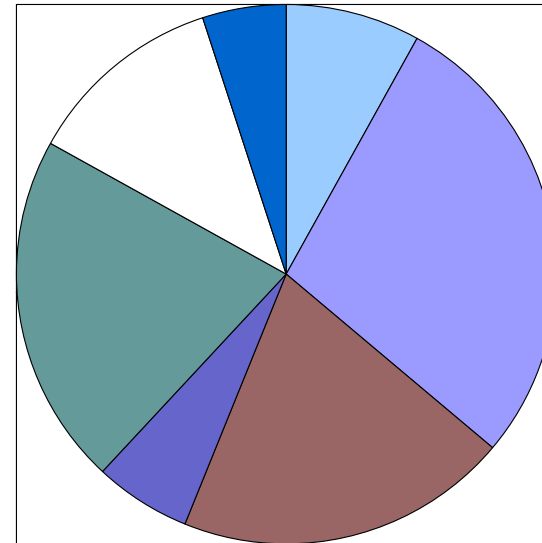
- The labour force participation rate is rising for the 65 and older age group (7.5% 2003 to 8.9% 2007)
- Typically, more senior men (13%) than women (5.6%) are employed



Income

Sources of Income

- In 2001, 20.5% of Edmonton seniors had incomes below Low-Income Cut-Offs (Alberta 12.8%, Canada 16.8%)
- In Edmonton, older females are more likely to be “poor” than older men.



- EI - 8%
- Old Age Security +GIS - 28%
- CPP/QPP - 20%
- Other Gov Transfers - 6%
- Retirement Pensions - 21%
- NonRRSP - 12%
- RRSP - 5%

Housing:

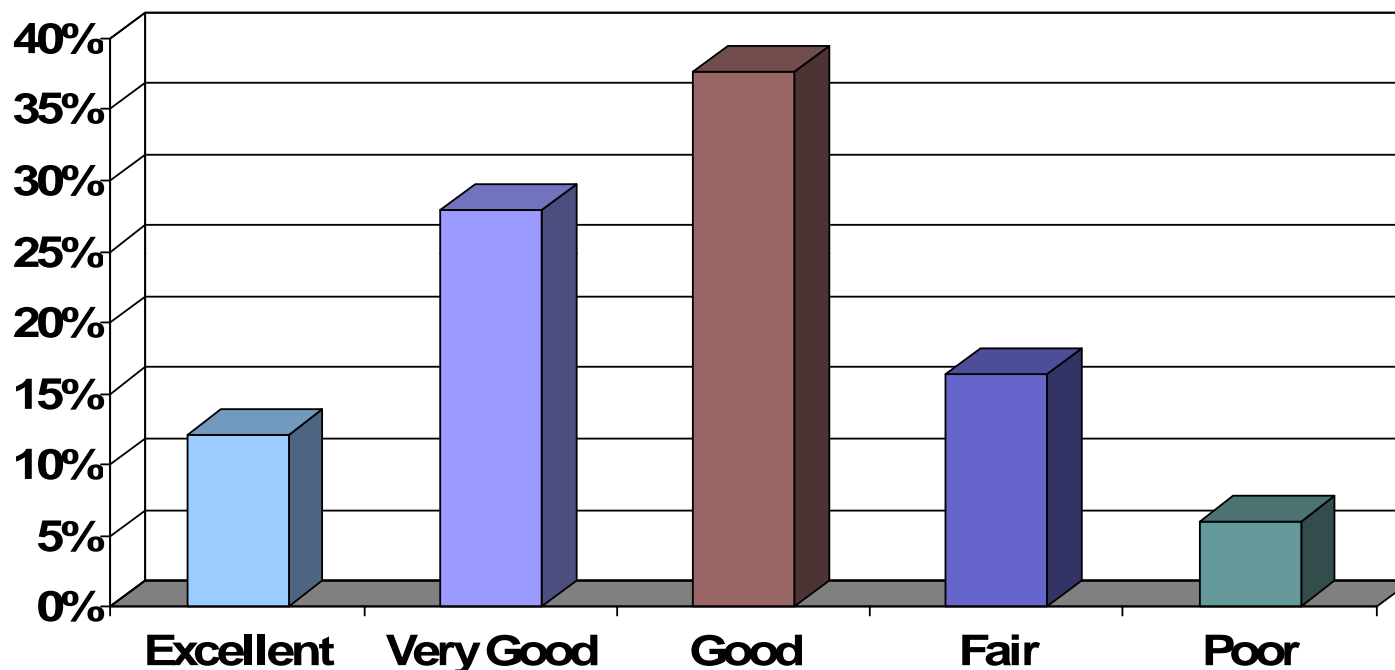
- The largest percentage of Edmonton seniors (62.5%) lived in family situations in 2001; 29.7% lived alone.
- An additional 5.6% lived with relatives and 2.2% lived with non-relatives.
- The proportion of seniors living alone increases with age.



Health:

- The majority of Canadian seniors in 2001 rated their health as good, very good, or excellent
- Even while describing their health as good, 81% of seniors had a chronic health condition.
- The most common conditions reported were arthritis and rheumatism (42%), high blood pressure (33%), food or other allergies (22%), back problems (17%), heart disease (16%), cataracts (15%) and diabetes (10%).
- About half of individuals 65+ years of age in the Capital Health Region were estimated to have a disability in 2001.
- Disability rates increased markedly with advancing age for both men and women.

How Seniors Rated Their Health



Excellent – 12.1% Very Good – 27.9% Good – 37.6%

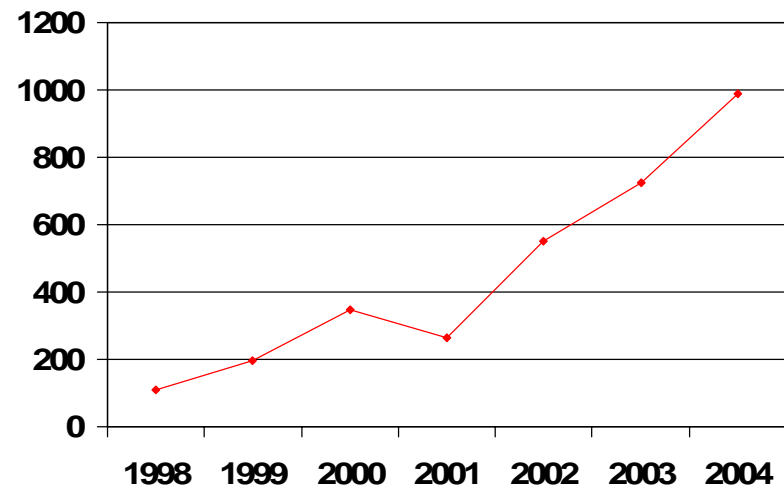
Fair – 16.4% Poor – 6.0%

Elder Abuse

- **2% of victims of violent offences are over age 65**
- **7% of seniors are subject to abuse of some kind**
- **67% of victimizers are non-family: 27% family**
- **Adult children were the most frequent family victimizers**
- **- son 33%; daughter 16%, followed by spouse 11%**
- **79% of cases, alleged abuser and senior were residing together.**
- **Of those abused**
 - **82% emotional abuse**
 - **72% financial abuse**
 - **37% physical abuse**

Edmonton Social Plan

Referrals to Edmonton Elder Abuse Intervention Team



Transportation

- Transportation continues to be one of the top un-met needs for Edmonton seniors
- The percentage of seniors that drive decreases with age
- With a growing proportion of seniors in the 80 and over age bracket there will be more demand for seniors transportation

Transportation

- Canadian men on average outlive their driving careers by 7 years
- Canadian women on average outlive their driving careers by 10 years
- The new generation of seniors will have great expectations for mobility

Community Supports and Services



Community Supports and Services



Community Supports and Services



Resource information Sources

- Health Link
- City of Edmonton
- Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council
- Support Network
- SAGE / Senior Centres
- Alberta Seniors and Community Supports



Community Services

- Social/ Recreation
- Housing/ Home Support
- Financial
- Family/ Caregiver Support
- Elder Abuse
- Multicultural
- Wellness/ Health Care
- Special needs
- Transportation
- Mental Health/ Outreach



Tips for working with seniors

- Have a positive attitude. A smile will go a long way
- Don't judge a person by their age
- Focus on the senior as a person... with unique qualities and interests
- Be an advocate
- Ensure approach and services are "senior friendly"
- Encourage seniors to keep healthy and active
- Plan with the senior and their family
- Know signs of elder abuse
- Keep informed about resources

Your Comments/ Questions



Thank you





EDMONTON SENIORS COORDINATING COUNCIL

