

Age-Friendly Communities: Creating a Culture of Exchange in Ontario

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March 4th, 2016



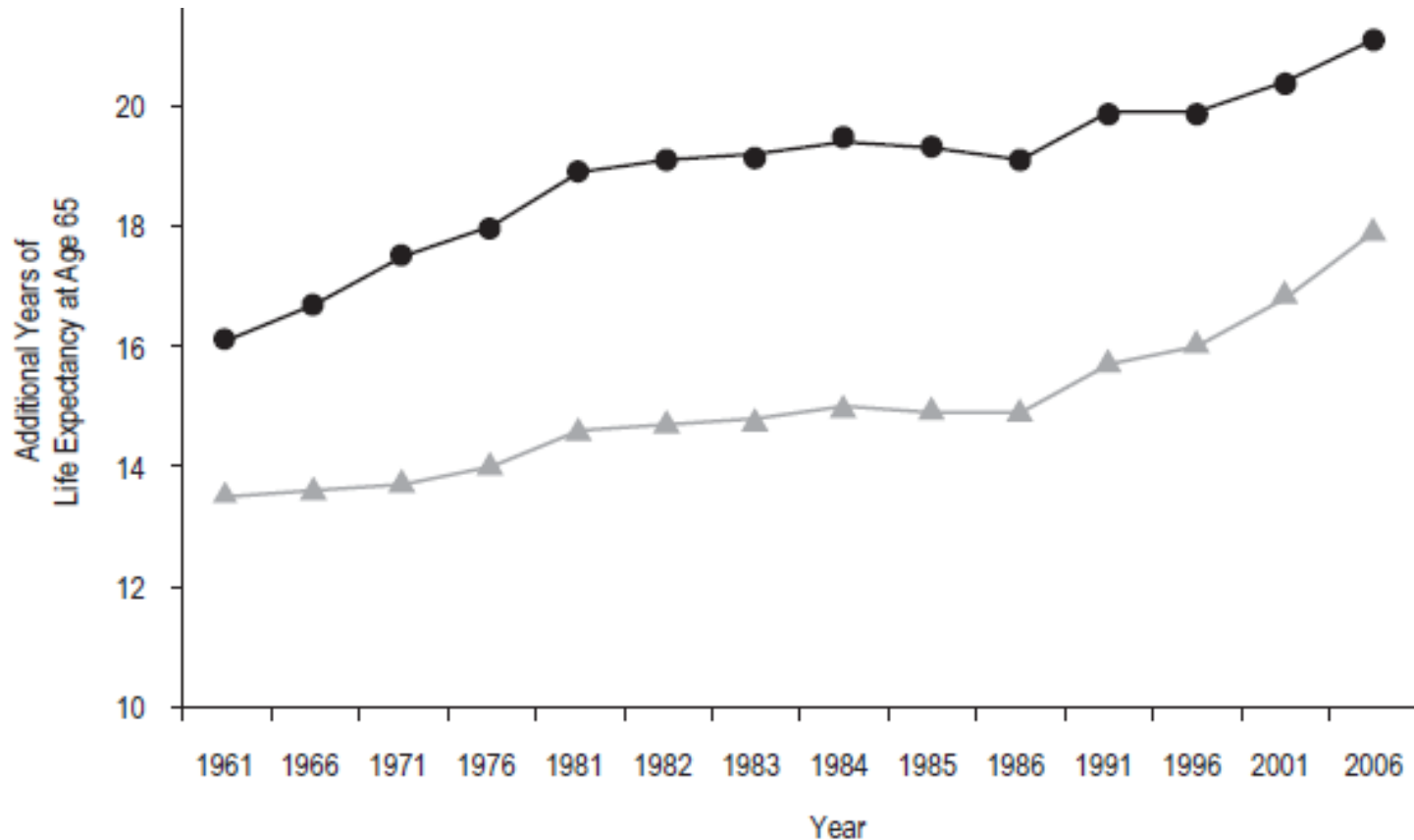
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Ontario

Session Overview



- Overview of Age-Friendly Communities (AFC)
- Evolving Strategy in Ontario
- Ontario Age-Friendly Community Planning Outreach Initiative
- Trends, common challenges

Ageing is the **success** of the 20th century and the **challenge** of the 21st



Global Age-friendly Cities: A Guide

- WHO and the Age-Friendly movement
 - *Global Age-friendly Cities: A Guide*
 - *Checklist of Essential Features of Age-friendly Cities*
- Definition:

“An age-friendly city is a city that encourages active ageing by optimising opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age.”

Eight Features of an AFC: Physical Environment



1. **Outdoor spaces** and public buildings that are pleasant, clean, secure and physically accessible
2. **Public transportation** that is accessible and affordable.
3. **Housing** that is affordable, appropriately located, well built, well designed and secure.

Eight Features of an AFC: Social Environment



4. Opportunities for **social participation** in leisure, social, cultural and spiritual activities with people of all ages and cultures.
5. Older people are treated with **respect** and are included in civic life.
6. Opportunities for **employment and volunteerism** that cater to older persons' interests and abilities.



Eight Features of an AFC:

Personal well-being



7. Age-friendly **communication and information** are available.
8. **Community support and health services** are tailored to older persons' needs.

Distribution of the 800 AFCs in Canada (2012)



Ontario Initiatives: AFC Planning Guide

2013:

- Creation and publication of “Finding the Right Fit” Age-Friendly Community Planning Guide
- The Ontario Seniors’ Secretariat (OSS), the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario (ADO), the Universities of Waterloo and McMaster and a broad Advisory Group



Finding the Right Fit
Age-Friendly Community Planning

ontario.ca/seniors

Finding the Right Fit: A Planning and Implementation Framework

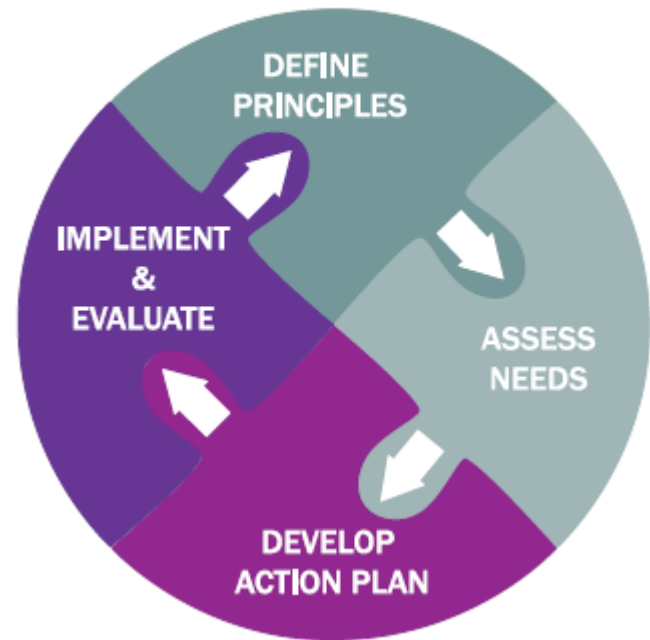
- Explains the characteristics of an age-friendly community.
- Provides a 'one-stop shop' for a broad range of existing AFC resources.
- Recognizes that collecting information that reflects or captures the characteristics of your community as broadly as possible is critical to a successful AFC initiative.
- Offers those working on AFC initiatives a framework for making informed choices



Finding the Right Fit
Age-Friendly Community Planning

Finding the Right Fit: A Planning and Implementation Framework

- Step 1: Define Local Principles
- Step 2: Assess Needs
- Step 3: Develop an Action Plan
- Step 4: Implement and Evaluate

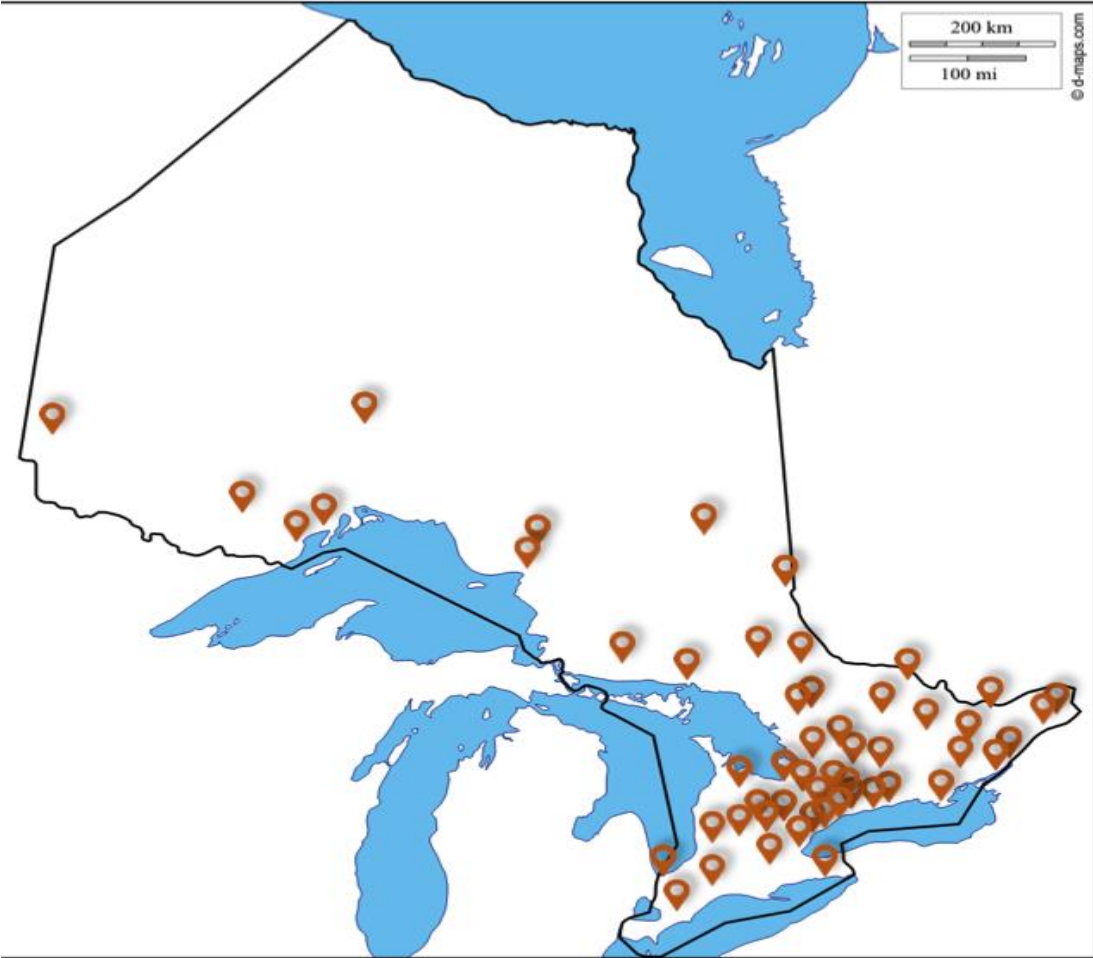


Ontario Initiatives: AFC Planning Grants

2015-2017

- 33 for one year and 23 for two year duration of project
- Majority relate to creation of committee, defining local principles and needs assessment (48)
 - Includes communities in North, Aboriginal and special ethnic needs
- 5 engaged in implementation
- 3 evaluation of previous plan and refresh

Ontario's Strategy: AFC Planning Grants



AFCs East

Age Friendly Communities in Eastern Ontario



Ontario's Strategy: AFC Planning Outreach Initiative

2015-2017

- Partnership of:
 - Universities of Waterloo, Queen's and Huntington/Laurentian
 - Senior's Health Knowledge Network (SHKN)
 - Ontario Interdisciplinary Council of Aging (OICAH)
- Three main components
 1. Pilot Community Support
 2. Educational Resources
 3. Knowledge Translation and Exchange

A Culture of Exchange

Locally

- Steering Committees, Advisory Groups, Working Groups etc.
- Websites & social media

A Culture of Exchange

Regionally

- Southern Ontario Age-Friendly Network
- Northern Ontario Age-Friendly Network

A Culture of Exchange

Provincially

- www.agefriendlyontario.ca
 - 61 community profiles
- 931 total participants have participated in 5 webinars
- 454 people on provincial distribution list
- 168 questions to the knowledge broker

Sharing Success

- Process-Level
- Community-Level Projects. E.g.:
 - Housing
 - Age-friendly Businesses
 - Stop-Gap Ramps
 - Seniors' Directories

Discussing Common Challenges

- What other templates / tools / resources have been developed?
- How do we ensure that our work captures the needs of special populations?
- How do we engage specific partners in this process?
- How do we sustain our success when the funding runs out?
- What are the strengths/ challenges of the different local AFC models of support? E.g.:
 - Consultant-led versus building internal capacity
 - municipal committee versus community network versus council on aging

Why Exchange Matters

- Spread success
- Accelerate timelines
- Quality improvement
- Share resources and knowledge to address common challenges

Thank you!

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- Provincial distribution list: <http://bit.ly/1N7v8rw>
- Provincial website: www.agefriendlyontario.ca