WHAT IS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT AGING IN PLACE?

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A MAP OF AGING IN PLACE IN WEST-CENTRAL TORONTO NEIGHBOURHOODS

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WHAT IS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT AGING IN PLACE?
WHAT COULD BE AVAILABLE TO BETTER SUPPORT AGING IN PLACE?

ACCESSIBILITY IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

- Safe streets (policing, buddy walkers)
- Benches, public washrooms, well-lit sidewalks (no bikes!)
- Local businesses have ramps, wide doorways and aisles
- Direct access to policy and political representatives
- Free or low cost public spaces to gather
- Zoning practices that promote “livable” communities (for everyone, not just older adults)
- Supportive housing to meet the demand
- Substantial “senior discounts” for TTC, cultural/recreational events
- Enhanced use of libraries and Community Information Centres as information and health promotion hubs
- Older adults “trade” supports, services and resources in a “neighbourhood barter exchange”
- Community events (BBQs, picnics, cultural events)

ACCESSIBILITY IN YOUR HOUSING

- Home modifications (grab bars, ramps)
- “Smart appliances” (stoves with automatic shut off)
- Resources and subsidies for repairs and renovations for older homeowners
- Rent supplements and subsidies for supportive seniors’ housing
- Utility subsidies (heat/hydro)
- Affordable home support services (PSWs, homemaking)
- Multi-lingual public service announcements on TV and radio
- Information on tenant rights (landlord’s “duty” to build ramps)
- Neighbourhood “buddy systems” (telephone trees)
- Well-paid personal support workers

ACCESSIBILITY IN YOUR LOCAL AGENCIES

- Flexible program eligibility so that more people get the services they need!
- Multi-lingual materials and interpreters “on call”
- Reduced waiting times
- Dedicated “healthy aging” programs and services (“student clinics” in alternative therapies, “well seniors” programs)
- Supports for caregivers (respite programs, paid leave, training)
- Workshops led by older adults on aging and ageism
- Central multi-lingual portal for information and resources with well-trained staff
- Older adults are empowered to participate in agency decision making
- Trips and other kinds of fun, not just gambling (seniors “summer camp,” intergenerational programs)
- Agency and community advocacy on issues prioritized by older adults
- Enriched volunteering with more choices, recognition and power
- Effective outreach to isolated seniors and to ethno-cultural and faith communities
WHAT ACTIONS COULD BE TAKEN TO ENSURE BETTER SUPPORTS TO AGING IN PLACE?

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TAKE ACTION

1. Advocate at a local Business Improvement Association meeting to include incentives for accessibility in the business façade improvement grants.
2. Work with Cable TV to create seniors programs and community information broadcasts.
3. Make a deputation at the Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation regarding greater senior TTC discounts, more liberal transfer use and the immediate need for escalators and elevators at every subway station.

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TAKE ACTION

1. Participate in National Housing Day events to raise awareness of the unique housing needs of older adults.
2. Request that agencies provide comprehensive information and resources on home modifications, assistive technologies, housing subsidies (e.g. RRAP, HAS, ERP), and tenant rights and landlord responsibilities regarding structural supports.
3. Advocate to the City Community Development and Recreation Committee on a range of topics related to aging in place (e.g. tax and user fee concessions, City management of home modification contractors to prevent fraud, incentives for the development of accessible, affordable housing).

TAKE ACTION

1. Meet with alternative health colleges about providing free/low cost seniors clinics at local health and social service agencies.
2. Request that agencies facilitate peer programs (e.g. “friendly visitors,” “train the trainer” workshops on aging and ageism, and peer translation) including in kind or financial recognition of volunteers, and securing outside funding for these programs (e.g. New Horizons Grant for Seniors).
3. Meet with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to advocate emphasize the need for expanded home and dental care, as well as higher levels of subsidy for vision and hearing aids, and fair wages for personal support workers.