



901 Shevlin Ave. Apt. #201

Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P2

November 08, 2013.

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Fort Frances

320 Portage Avenue

Fort Frances, ON

P9A 3P9

RE: Request to present to Council on Monday, December 9, 2013.

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council,

We write this letter on behalf of the Assisted Living Action Group (A.L.A.G.), a sub-committee of the Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (S.A.L.T.), to request 15-20 minutes at a Council meeting on December 9, to present an ALAG update report and intentions to move forward.

We are committed to working with the Town of Fort Frances towards establishing appropriate Assisted Living capabilities in the Rainy River District. As we move forward with the creation and implementation of a community based strategic action plan, we are appreciative of the participation of council in our planning process.

Our action plan is based on the directions obtained from the following: community partners at strategic planning workshops; community at large, Aging at Home Survey for Older Adults in the Rainy River District; Community Presentations throughout the Rainy River District, where seniors live and gather; ongoing research; and on-going community based discussions. Through this interactive process, we have obtained direction to potentially move forward.

We look forward to council's engagement in consultation and the provision of assistance with the development of assisted living facilities as outlined in the Fort Frances Strategic Plan, – June 2011, Item Number 26 in the section entitled "Quality of Life Goals and Strategies".

If you require further information, please contact Erma Armit at 274-8515 or earmit@gmail.com or Robert Schulz at 274-6435 or robff49@yahoo.ca.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Robert Schulz

Chair, Seniors & Law Enforcement Together

Erma Armit

Chair, Assisted Living Action Group

Assisted Living Action Group (ALAG)
Community Presentations on Aging With Dignity

Final Report

June 2013

Preamble

During the month of April, 2013, the ALAG Core Planning Team facilitated discussion (with a power point presentation) on **“Aging With Dignity”** in places throughout the Rainy River District where seniors live or gather.

The goal was as follows:

- a) to increase awareness of the grassroots movement of ALAG and its history, activities and research;
- b) to gather input from the general public (seniors in particular) regarding actual/ perceived accommodation/service needs of seniors; and
- c) to provide a forum that allows seniors to have a say about their future.

Seven senior volunteers and one Riverside Healthcare staff person, who are active members of the ALAG Core Planning Team, worked together in teams of two to four, to facilitate presentations in the following locations: two in communities of Rainy River, Emo and Fort Frances; one in Reef Point (Watten Township), Bears Pass (Halkirk Township), Riverwalk Condominium and the Fort Frances Business and Community Expo; a total of ten presentations.

The following report is based on the input provided by participants either orally or on written Questionnaires.

1. 267 completed questionnaires
 - 169 participants registered for presentations
 - 100 questionnaires completed at the Community Expo
2. Percentages are representative of respondents from the catchment areas of the three Riverside Healthcare Facilities, Inc.:

- 59%, La Verendrye Hospital Catchment area (Fort Frances, Alberton, Reef Point/Watten, Bears Pass/Halkirk, Mine Centre, Mitaanjigamiing)
- 28%, Emo Hospital Catchment area (Emo, Nestor Falls, LaVallee, Devlin, Barwick)
- 10%, Rainy River Hospital catchment area (Rainy River, Dawson Township, Morson)

3. **Question:** Would you and/or a loved one be interested in living in an Aging with Dignity residence/community?

85% - Yes

13% - Unsure

Three people said NO, they plan to leave the district.

4. **Question:** Whom specifically would be interested? (check all that apply)

26% - Self

54% - Self & partner

18% - family member

4% - friend

7% - incomplete/no answer

5. **Question:** What type of unit would interest you? (Check all that apply)

33% - Subsidized

66% - Market rent (affordable)

15% - Ownership

6. **Question:** Where would you prefer an Aging with Dignity residence/community to be located? (Check all that apply)

34% - Emo

9% - Rainy River

52% - Fort Frances

10% - No preference

7. **Question:** When do you think you would want/need to move? (some checked more than one)

5% - Immediately

11% - 1-3 years

8% - 3-5 years

19% - 5-10 years

55% - unknown

7% - incomplete/no answer

8. Summary of questionnaires/oral comments

- 41 respondents identified interest in ownership - 3 were couples - therefore interest was expressed for 38 units
- Location selections correspond to that of respondents' current community
- 25% would move into an assisted living residence/community within 5 years
- 54% of respondents were interested for self and partner/two bedroom units
- Number one concern was COST/affordability; followed by location, services, independence and safety
- People are willing to pay extra money to stay in the Rainy River District and to live the comfortable lifestyle for which they saved their money
- There were a wide variety of definitions/perceptions regarding "Assisted Living" with a primary focus on need for "Transitional Housing" from single dwelling house/apartment to long term care
- High level of concern regarding the exodus of residents from the Rainy River District due to unavailability of adequate transitional housing and support services for seniors
- Adult children are leaving the district for work leaving a caregiver void

- Focus on **HEALTH care** to decrease the cost of **ILLNESS** care
- Cluster living (multiple housing units in one location) is more economical for healthcare and daily living than status quo of silos (senior complexes spread out)
- Some suggestions were primarily for consideration in future phases of development and will be revisited at an appropriate time
- A contact list has been compiled of people who are interested in follow-up information and in assisting ALAG as we move forward
- Overall positive responses and encouragement to proceed