

4512 - 46 St, Olds, Alberta Canada T4H 1R5

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:**

### **RESULTS ARE IN FOR AGE FRIENDLY SURVEY, NEXT STEP IS AN ACTION PLAN Committee is reviewing survey results and building plan for an age-friendly community**

*(OLDS, Alberta – March 24, 2017)* The Olds Institute's Age Friendly Committee is developing an action plan based on the results of over 200 surveys completed members. include eight dimensions Alberta Health characterizes in age-friendly communities: outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment opportunities, communications and information, and community support and health services. The survey was launched in the summer of 2016 by the Olds Institute subcommittee volunteers.. The Age Friendly Committee is using Alberta's "Building Age-Friendly Communities" materials to develop the action plan. The committee includes citizens of all ages and representatives from the Town of Olds, Accredited Supports, Torrington, Alberta Health Services and Alberta Ministry of Seniors and Housing.

Responses include concerns about the availability of accessible public washrooms, affordable and accessible public transportation, affordable and accessible housing options, a community culture of neighbours helping neighbours, computer literacy programs, and available health and home supports. The Age Friendly Committee supports the World Health Organizations statement '...design for the old and you include everyone.' An editorial describing this process is being prepared for publication in the Seniors Services newsletter. The committee is planning other initiatives such as an Elder Abuse Conference, June 15th with more details to follow.

The process the Age Friendly Committee is working through includes involvement with both the federal and provincial governments. One of the goals is to have Olds recognized by the provincial government as an Age Friendly Community, which includes and recognizes the needs of all ages not just seniors.

The resulting plan will be presented to the Olds Institute Board, Town of Olds Council, and community groups for their information and action. The Age Friendly committee thanks Olds Town Council, the Town of Olds, and the Olds Institute Board for their support. They also thank Olds A&W restaurant, the Olds Legion and the Evergreen Centre for allowing them to administer surveys in their establishments during business hours.

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