

## Vital Signs Perception Survey 09/08/2011

### Seniors

#### Transportation

- A Need to increase availability of transportation for appointments/programs in Regional District areas
- A Special rates for bus transportation - maybe 4 - 10 free passes per month?
- A Off peak hours transit is needed
- A Bus system needs to have longer hours
- A Keep exploring good means of public transport that works for seniors and the disabled
- A Improve transportation
- A Transportation as suggested above
- A Public transportation should be reviewed perhaps
- A Public transit improving but still well below needs
- A Transit could run later at night.

#### Health Care / Hospital

- B Better health care--wait lists are ridiculous.  
Increase number of beds available for extended care. We are paying for expensive hospital beds
- B because limited availability of extended care facilities
- B wait lists for seniors and all of us needing surgery need to be addressed
- B more hospital beds
- B increase in access to health care & facilities
- B too much space is taken up in hospital for this
- B more beds needed for VGH reducing waits

#### Seniors Programs

- C Adopt a grandparent program
- C More community help/outings for lonely, poor seniors  
There is a lot of support for seniors in this community, however, I would like to see them less sequestered in seniors institutions, and more of their collective experience and wisdom accessed and
- C shared with the community at large. We need to honour our seniors, not keep them out of sight and
- C Have more senior orientated community things to do - park walks, beach  
More partnerships for the "Seniors in training/just retired and still have energy that want to be
- C connected" with non-profit organizations to help create a community network with youth, seniors and
- C more local govt support for the senior's bureau
- C seniors are thought of almost to the exclusion of other age groups
- C there is good support now
- C Get seniors actively involved on committees/projects
- C meals on wheels
- C encourage businesses to have senior shopping times
- C affordable recreation
- C Schubert, Halina are wonderful for seniors in our community
- C a need for supervised crime prevention in "senior" areas
- C encourage neighbourhood events and gatherings so people can meet their neighbours

#### Doctors / Clinics

- D More family doctors are needed in the area, as is improved access to doctors in walk-in clinics
- D Perhaps medical clinics that combine with seniors' counselling, community nursing
- D access to necessary health care

## **Affordable Living Accommodations**

- E Need variety of seniors care including higher end as well and mixed into downtown core - not congested, or set on hillsides that don't facilitate getting outside to walk
- E Need more affordable housing for seniors.
- E more housing for low to moderate income
- E More living options and different levels of care
- E more affordable housing
- E More affordable housing.
- E do not have experience in this area however do think that rents are not in line with income. Local government needs to initiate and gather funding from higher levels of gov't eg provincial and federal for assisted living accommodation for seniors. It should be low-maintenance and with minimal assistance, perhaps during times of duress like post-hospital stays. Too many hospital beds are
- E Affordable housing seems to be lacking.
- E More affordable housing; The bus terminal should be left on the east side of downtown to allow easier
- E Increase in affordable housing
- AFFORDABLE HOUSING!!! Special handi dart buses- more availability, We leave seniors in hospital beds because we have no beds available in seniors homes...we need more seniors homes that are
- E affordable so that we can keep beds available for the sick in the hospital. I know because my father was
- E Increase low cost housing options and independent living spaces that people can afford.
- E Affordable housing
- E Affordable assisted living places - need more
- E Again, affordable housing will always be an issue.
- E More affordable housing.
- E Affordable housing is a huge issue for seniors (as well as low income)
- E Affordable Housing
- E Accommodation prices getting outrageous! Need \$ help
- E Housing costs are always an issue in Vernon
- E Seniors need more affordable housing.
- E affordable housing for seniors
- E still a housing need for seniors
- E more affordable housing needed
- E More affordable housing---that includes animals over 15" as that gets seniors out and walking.
- E I believe we need to have more affordable housing

## **Care Facilities**

- F Hospital congestion and significant staffing cuts at residential care facilities is making health care for
- F More advertising of the Senior's bureau
- F More long term care beds in the Community to relieve congestion at VGH
- F long term care beds & nursing homes
- F more extended care facilities are needed
- F More, more, more assisted living facilities - separate living, i.e. apartments, but with assistance if
- F We need more beds for the sick elderly-we must get them out of the Vernon hospital
- F Build more nursing homes so the hospital isn't full of people who shouldn't be there
- F More supportive living
- F more assisted living, low cost housing
- F more care facilities
- F more assisted living facilities
- F Don't keep the elderly in hospital beds when all they need is an assisted living facility - build what is
- F more community long term care options for Seniors

## **Going Downtown (Walking / Walker / Scooter)**

- G better sidewalks and walking paths

- G Need sidewalks in ALL areas of the city and they need to have slanted curbs.
- G plan family friendly integrated neighbourhoods
- limited parks and green spaces by current higher density seniors area of town, limit interesting things
- G walkable, or public spaces, far from farmers markets, library not close to seniors, housing options should
- G shovelling sidewalks and multi-use paths in winter and bus shelter and stop a snow shovel priority to
- More focus on rest-stops, benches, shady areas where seniors can walk to amenities or shopping -
- G increases exercise but rest stops are needed
- G Downtown businesses need to have better snow removal and walker accessibility in the winter!!
- G Seniors need to be instructed on what to use for scooters...sidewalk, bike path or street and to go with
- G Sidewalks need to be wider and friendlier (less dips)
- G Make the down town area safer for people walking

### **Traffic / Bypass**

- H Traffic is dreadful - bypass needed ASAP

### **Support for Families - In Home Care**

- I More support with in-home care either for the families looking after elderly or more volunteer programs
- I lower cost home supports