



AGING ISSUES NETWORK

Volume 1, Issue 7

December 08/
January 09

Aging Issues Conference October 2008

The 6th Annual Provincial meeting of the Aging Issues Network took place on October 30th and 31st 2008. Over 60 Members participated, along with Provincial Government representatives and other business and organizational representatives. The Honorable Tom Hedderson, Minister responsible for the volunteer and non-profit sector, gave the opening greetings and remarks to the participants and spoke about the importance of the work that volunteers do every day. He also spoke about the important work being done by the Aging Issues Network regarding the needs of seniors across the province.

The focus of the meeting was to identify one burning issue to move forward with into the next phase of work and to formally present on the issue to government in 2009. This issue identified was home supportive services.

Members were also given an update on the progress being made regarding the Homelessness partnership project. Some of the Aging Issues Network members are now involved with their community development boards in Mount Pearl, Gander-Grand Falls, Marystown and Corner Brook. Their representation at each table will ensure seniors needs were being addressed and included in the development plans of their municipalities. Although Clarenville is not one of the communities involved in the project, Network Members there are very keen to keeping an eye on development there. The next step will be to finalize the development plans for each community and submit them to the municipal governments for final approval.

The Aging Issues Members involved directly with these plans were able to take a tour of some of the facilities that have been built or remodeled using funds from the Homelessness Partnership projects of the past; Stella Burry, Choices for Youth, Carew Lodge, the Tommy Sexton Centre and as well to an unfinished project on Bond Street. The opportunity to listen to those involved in each project is invaluable as they have a lot of offer on how to get such projects built in communities that serve a need. (Continued pg. 2)



It's A Winter Wonderland



Those involved with the tour came away motivated and moved to help seniors in their own communities. There was an outpouring of passion and excitement for what the future will bring.

All in all, the provincial meeting was a great success. The weather cooperated and the meeting was positive and enlightening. Lisa Hurd gave a wonderful performance of "Dance Like A Butterfly" which brought the attendees to their feet.

There is no doubt that the work and progress of the Network is being recognized across the province and by government. Members of the coordinating committee are now heading up sub committees to develop a presentation to government on the burning issue and another to present to the Rotary Clubs and other non profits to try and organize a community build for seniors housing in the future. Iwona Moore from the Public Health Agency of Canada also attended the meeting and was thoroughly impressed with the work done to date by the Network members and the plans in place for the future. So much so that extra funding was provided to the Network until March 2009. As a result there will be another face to face meeting planned for March 2009. Plans for this meeting are already underway. So with continued well wishes and hope for the future, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to once again working with you in the future.

Alicia Cox, Provincial Coordinator

**Make plans to
attend the next Face to
Face meeting for
Network Members:
March 26-27, 2009
St.John's**

*invitations will be sent out in
the new year, so if you know
of a group that would like to
send someone and may not
be on the mailing list,
let Alicia know.*

**Aging Issues
Network
Coordinating
Committee**

Lorraine Best
Kathleen Connors
Kelly Heisz
Linda Bowering
Marilyn Beaton
John Eddy
Ed Wade
Alicia Cox
Frankie O'Neill
Sharon Buehler



Highlights of the evaluation for October Meeting

Eighteen people at the meeting turned in evaluations. People were asked to rank various aspects of the meeting from 1-not at all effective to 5-very effective. They were also asked for comments.

- The overall organization of the meeting (content, length, opportunity to ask questions) was very good.
- Networking, as in previous meetings, was very important – the meals and breaks were a big help.
- Hearing what others were doing was good information to take home.
- The respect given those speaking and discussing was noted.
- There could be more opportunity for those attending to say what is going on in their communities/organizations.
- There is an obvious need to improve communications among members of the network and between members and the coordinating committee. Some good ideas were put forward.
- The Seniors Resource Centre should continue to bring the network together through grant funding. But the Network is not the SRC.
- The focus on seniors was not clear for some of those who attended.
- Speakers didn't always separate out activities and plans specifically for seniors and those that would benefit seniors but were geared to all ages.
- It was not made clear that some younger attendees were there representing organizations important to the network for developing policy for seniors and carrying through on network priorities

The bottom line: for most of those who attended the two days were enjoyable and empowering.

Comments from others who attended but didn't turn in an evaluation are welcome!

Have an idea or topic for the upcoming March meeting of the Network? Please contact Alicia.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS 2009

Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research Canadian Cochrane Symposium 2009

March 11-12 2009
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Linda. Waterhouse.gov.ns.ca

Community and Hospital Infection Control-Canada 2009 National Education Conference

May 9-14th 2009
St. John's, NL
Abstracts deadline February 27th 2009
chicacanada@mts.net

2009 Canadian Hard of Hearing Association Conference

May 21-24, 2009
St. John's NL
Fairmont Hotel

National Healthcare Leadership Conference

June 1-2 2009
St. John's, NL
Delta Hotel and Convention Centre

Canadian Psychiatric Association Conference

August 27-30, 2009
St. John's, NL
Delta Hotel and Convention Centre

Association of Registered Nurses of NL

Research to Practice: Bridging the Gap
Sept. 30-October 2, 2009

2009 Canadian Federation of Mental Health Nurses Conference

October 21-23, 2009
Marriott Hotel
Halifax, Nova Scotia

For more information on any of these conferences please contact Alicia

Network Member News.....

The Health Coalition of Newfoundland and Labrador plans to ask the province's Auditor General to ask that he conduct an audit of the home care/home support program. Such audits have recently happened in Nova Scotia and British Columbia. The audits by an impartial third party revealed the need for action and improvement. Would your senior's group be interested in joining the action by writing a letter to the Auditor General?

Please contact Kathleen Connors at k.connors@nf.sympatico.ca or call 335-2493 to obtain a copy of the draft letter.

Do you have something important to say?

Do you have an important announcement to make?

Do you have a conference/workshop or meeting to announce?

Then why not make a contribution to the Aging Issues Network newsletter? The newsletter is one way for you to spread your message and get important issues out to the public and to other members. Just contact Alicia Cox, Project Coordinator using the information located at the bottom of this page. Please keep entries short due to space constraints.

**Please share this newsletter with
members of your organization.
Want more copies to distribute?
Call or email Alicia**



Seniors Resource Centre of
Newfoundland & Labrador

Phone: 709-737-2333
1-800-563-5599
aliciacox@seniorsresource.ca