

Backgrounder Age Friendly Communities: All Means All ; A Critical Discussion

Aging for individuals with intellectual disabilities has been identified by many DS organizations across Ontario as a significant strategic issue. On **Saturday, November 13th, 2010 at Algonquin College (Woodroffe Ave., Ottawa)** The Ontario Partnership on Aging and Developmental Disabilities (OPADD) and the Developmental Services Worker programme at Algonquin will host a half day workshop entitled **Age Friendly Communities: All Means All ; A Critical Discussion . For details read on...**

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**Age Friendly Communities: All Means All
A Critical Discussion
Saturday, November 13th, 2010
9 a.m. until 12:30
Algonquin College (Woodroffe Ave., Ottawa)
T Building, room 102**

Aging for individuals with intellectual disabilities has been identified by many DS organizations across Ontario as a significant strategic issue. The Ontario Partnership on Aging and Developmental Disabilities (OPADD) held a major workshop in Ottawa on this issue in 2006. Although this workshop created energy and good intentions, OPADD in the Champlain Region has been relatively inactive in the past 18 months. More recently, a small group of OPADD members and faculty from the Algonquin College Developmental Services Worker Program (DSW) planned a one day workshop on aging and developmental disabilities (May, 2010). The workshop, titled Age Friendly Communities –All means All, linked aging and developmental disabilities to the growing global Age Friendly Communities movement. It was hoped that the workshop would focus attention on this increasingly critical issue and generate new action in the DS sector. The workshop had a very low pre-registration and was postponed.

There are currently two major initiatives underway to review and plan for an increased aging population within the Champlain Region; both initiatives could have significant impact for seniors with developmental disabilities. The Age Friendly Ottawa project is being spearheaded by the Council on Aging (Ottawa). This project (based upon the World Health Organization's Age Friendly framework) will enhance and improve the age friendliness of Ottawa for all seniors in eight specific areas (1) exterior spaces and buildings; 2) transportation; 3) housing; 4) social participation; 5) respect and social inclusion; 6) civic participation; 7) communication and information and 8) community support and health services). The Council on Aging is working collaboratively with the City of Ottawa who is currently redesigning the City of Ottawa Older Adult Plan.

All seniors will be included in the above initiatives. However, to ensure that the needs of older adults with developmental disabilities are appropriately and proactively addressed, the DS sector must play an active role in the age friendly planning process/movement.

Responses to our survey confirm that the DS sector considers ageing and developmental disabilities a key current issue and identify some important areas that require critical discussion and action. To provide an opportunity for the DS sector to voice its ideas and vision about Inclusive Age Friendly

Communities and to contribute to the Age Friendly initiatives in this region, we have scheduled a workshop for Saturday November 13th (8:30am – 1:00 pm) at Algonquin College in Ottawa.

As part of the workshop, keynote speakers will explain the Age Friendly Communities movement and its relationship to ageing and developmental disabilities and will describe major ageing initiatives in our region. Second year Developmental Services Worker students will profile innovative projects that demonstrate inclusive age friendly principles (poster presentations). Facilitated small group discussions will collect ideas for developing inclusive age friendly practices in our region. Information generated during the workshop will contribute to the Council on Aging and City of Ottawa current ageing projects and will be used to help create an Ageing Action Plan for OPADD and the DS sector in this region.