To support and enable older people to "age actively", that is, to live in security, enjoy good health and participate fully in society.

An Age-Friendly community benefits all ages.
An age-friendly environment:

- recognizes the great diversity among older persons
- promotes their inclusion and contribution in all areas of community life
- respects their decisions and lifestyle choices, and
- anticipates and responds flexibly to aging-related needs and preferences.
Why Cities?

- They are the hub of human activity and progress.
- In the developed world, three-quarters of older persons live in cities already.
- In developing countries, the convergence of rapid demographic aging and rapid urbanization makes it critical to design cities to support and enable the massive increase of older residents.
- Making cities age-friendly is one of the most effective policy approaches for responding to demographic aging.
WHO Age-Friendly Cities Project

- WHO is developing the project
- Canada is the lead country through the Public Health Agency of Canada
- 33 cities world-wide participating
- For BC, Ministry of Health is lead
- Developed partnership with 2010 Legacies Now, BCRPA, UBCM and UVIC
- BC’s pilot city is the District of Saanich
Age-Friendly Collaborating Cities

NORTH AMERICA
- Saanich, British Columbia
- Portage La Prairie, Manitoba
- Sherbrooke, Quebec
- Halifax, Nova Scotia
- Portland, Oregon
- Mexico City, Mexico
- Cancun, Mexico

SOUTH AMERICA
- Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- La Plata, Argentina

AFRICA
- Nairobi, Kenya

ASIA
- Tokyo, Japan
- Himeji, Japan
- Shanghai, China
- Istanbul, Turkey
- Islamabad, Pakistan
- New Delhi, India
- Udaipur, India
- Tripoli, Lebanon
- Amman, Jordan

EUROPE
- Ruhr, Germany
- Geneva, Switzerland
- Moscow, Russia
- Tuymazy, Russia
- Edinburgh, Scotland
- Dundalk, Ireland
- London, England
- Liverpool, England
- Udine, Italy

CENTRAL AMERICA
- San Jose, Costa Rica

CARIBBEAN
- Kingston, Jamaica
- Ponce, Puerto Rico

OCEANIA
- Melbourne, Australia
- Melville, Western Australia
WHO Age-Friendly City Guide

- Community assessment – focus groups with seniors, caregivers and providers of services
- Identification of environmental and social barriers to active ageing in urban settings, and solutions
- Good practices in dissemination to stimulate community action
- Guide to be released October 1, 2007 – the International Day of Older Persons
Why rural and remote communities?

- A large proportion of seniors live in rural or remote areas.
- Rural and remote communities face very different social and environmental challenges that can have a different impact on health and healthy aging.
- There is a need to undertake action research in rural/remote communities in order to understand how more supportive environments can be developed for an aging population.
Two BC communities are participating:
Villages of Alert Bay and Lumby

Age-Friendly Rural and Remote Community Guide to be distributed across Canada, released October 1, 2007
The Canadian Rural and Remote Age-Friendly Communities Initiative
2010 Vision - looking ahead

- BC will have an Age-Friendly Guide that can be used for adaptation in cities, and smaller remote and rural communities
- Partners look forward to working with all local governments
- Over the next three years we can work together to make BC the healthiest ... and most age-friendly jurisdiction to host an Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2010