

# Northern Voice

Listening to the housing needs  
of Fort St. John's aging community

*Findings from the Seniors Housing Forum initiatives  
held November 2018 to January 2019*



PEACE HOLDINGS INC.

Published February 2019



# Acknowledgements

## To our partners and collaborators

Many people contributed to the success of the Seniors Housing Forum. We must acknowledge the following individuals, organizations, stakeholders and representatives who were instrumental in the success of this endeavor:

*The Honourable Bob Zimmer, MP*

*The Honourable Dan Davies, MLA*

BC Housing

City of Fort St. John

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Doig River First Nations

First Nations Health Authority

Fort St. John Native Advancing Society

North East Native Advancing Society

North Peace Seniors Housing Society

Northern Health Authority

Save Our Northern Seniors

This would not have been possible without every one of you.

## Special recognition

*Myron Dirks*, Senior Project Manager, Dirks Holding Corp., for volunteering your time and expertise during the consultation process.

*Edwina Nearhood*, Nearhood Appraisal Services Community Liaison, for volunteering countless hours in assisting us in our need's assessment and community consultations.

*Terry Collier*, Senior Consultant, Collier Consulting, who seems to have all the answers and expertise.



*Edwina Nearhood, Nearhood Appraisal Services*



# Acknowledgements

## A thank you

We received an overwhelming response from the community members and their families, our survey participants and public focus groups.

Thank you for those who took the time to provide your feedback on our online survey. Thank you to those who participated in our focus groups and discussions.

We had over 500 respondents offer their opinions on our Continuum of Care Survey.

All three of our Public Seniors Housing Focus Groups were at capacity, filled with residents sharing their thoughts, concerns and ideas. We had over 225 people in total participate in various focus groups on the seniors housing situation in the north. The information we gleaned was invaluable.

Over 400 residents and community leaders were presented for the Continuum of Seniors Housing presentations in the months of November 2018 through January 2019.

Thank you. We have heard you.

## Report authors

*Ron Brar*, Director, Peace Holdings Inc.

*Kevin Pearson*, Director, Peace Holdings Inc.



*Terry Collier*, Senior Consultant, Collier Consulting

# Table of Contents

Executive Summary	4
The need	4
The opportunity	5
The concept	6
Introduction	7
What's inside	7
Continuum of Care Survey top-level findings	8
Common themes	8
About Peace Holdings Inc.	9
What happened	10
Methodology	10
What we heard	12
Continuum of Care Survey responses	12
Public Seniors Housing Focus Group findings	21
What's next	24
Achieving balance	24
Our recommendations	25
Working collaboratively	27



# Executive Summary

The Fort St. John community is entering into a time of transition and growth.

## The need

While the median age of city residents is approximately 32<sup>1</sup>, as with many northern and remote communities in BC, seniors are the fastest growing demographic in the area. Between 2011 and 2041, the population of the Peace River North Local Health Area, in which Fort St. John is the largest community, is expected to increase 47%, from 34,513 to 50,893 people. The growth in the senior's population will be the largest, with a **124%** increase in the number of people aged **65 to 74 years**, and a **288%** increase in the number of people **over 75 years**<sup>2</sup>.

The Fort St. John area is facing housing challenges in that it has an aging stock, and limited options that can accommodate seniors' evolving needs. This is certainly a hot button topic in other northern BC

<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca/fort-st-john/new-report-sheds-light-on-an-evolving-fort-st-john-1.23199434>

<sup>2</sup> Source: CDI Age Friendly Report

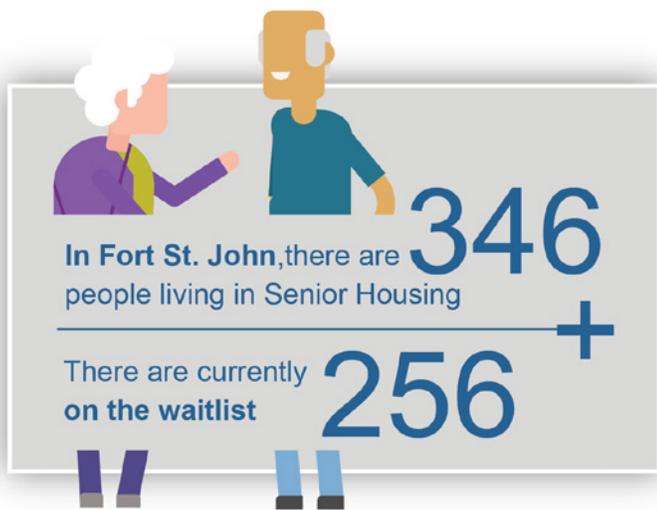


Kevin Pearson, Peace Holdings Inc.



communities and beyond, as housing affordability continues to be a hurdle faced by many. The aging population in Fort St. John presents a particular challenge, in that the issue of affordability is compounded with the unique needs of the aging population.

According to a recent report from Save Our Northern Seniors, there are 346 people living in Senior Housing. There are 256 currently on the wait list<sup>3</sup>.



The question many Fort St. John residents are asking is where would their loved ones go, should they need to move or change residence, if faced with a significant medical event or for any another reason.

It is rapidly becoming apparent that there is nowhere for aging residents of Fort St. John to go.

<sup>3</sup> SONS September 2018 statistic

## The opportunity

The changing face of the population presents an opportunity to create new and innovative solutions to better support the community. Aging-friendly environments that not only support healthy living, they provide environments that consider the long-term needs of residents.

The outdated facilities currently available in the region are not sufficient to support the anticipated growth. Additional resources are needed, and ones that represent a more modern approach to care.

To ensure that we are meeting the immediate needs of the Fort St. John community, Peace Holdings Inc. held the Seniors Housing Forum - a needs and interests' assessment where we engaged with the community directly.

*“Thank you for addressing this issue in our community!”*

- Survey voice



## The concept

Older adults are faced with many options when it comes to living arrangements, though means and priority levels differ.

Peace Holdings Inc. is in the process of designing a community in Fort St. John, located next door to the new hospital, that accommodates a full Continuum of Care for older adults – providing residents with the flexibility and freedom to transition within their own community. The intent of the Seniors Housing Forum was to better understand the community's needs, and to hear what residents had to say.

**It was important to us to hear this directly from the Fort St. John community, and in your own words.**

This report summarizes the findings of the Seniors Housing Forum, and specifically the data uncovered during the Continuum of Care Survey and Public Senior Housing Focus Groups.

We have included our recommendations and intent at the end of the findings report.

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*Terry Collier*  
*Senior Consultant, Collier Consulting*





# Introduction

Communities are made of people. They are defined by their shared beliefs and the strength of the connections between them. In turn, communities provide a sense of belonging, and *connection*.

The community of Fort St. John is aware of a growing need for housing options for their aging population. This growth presents an opportunity to engage the Fort St. John community members in making more aging-friendly options available to them.

The Fort St. John community is concerned and invested in helping to shape its direction.

*“I would like to be involved in this project for any assistance that you require.”*

## What's inside

The Seniors Housing Forum was a great success. This report is a summary of the primary initiatives of the forum:

1. The Continuum of Care Survey where we asked respondents to identify the most Important type of senior housing they felt was needed in the community
2. Three Public Senior Housing Focus Groups, where stakeholders were invited to share their thoughts and opinions on a series of questions, and a dialogue was facilitated to help better understand the needs of the community

Specific focus groups for special interest groups throughout the community were also held this time frame, to ensure inclusiveness.

General Presentations to community leaders and stakeholders took place, outlining the identified issues and potential solutions.



## Continuum of Care Survey top-level findings

The following graph shows the top-level results of the survey findings, and the answer to the question:

### WHAT LEVEL OF CARE IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Assisted and Supportive Living (Level 4) was the most important level of care, identified by 22.5% of respondents as their greatest need.

Assisted and Supportive Living was defined as having Personal Care Attendants, 24-hour LPN staff and Medication Assistance on site.

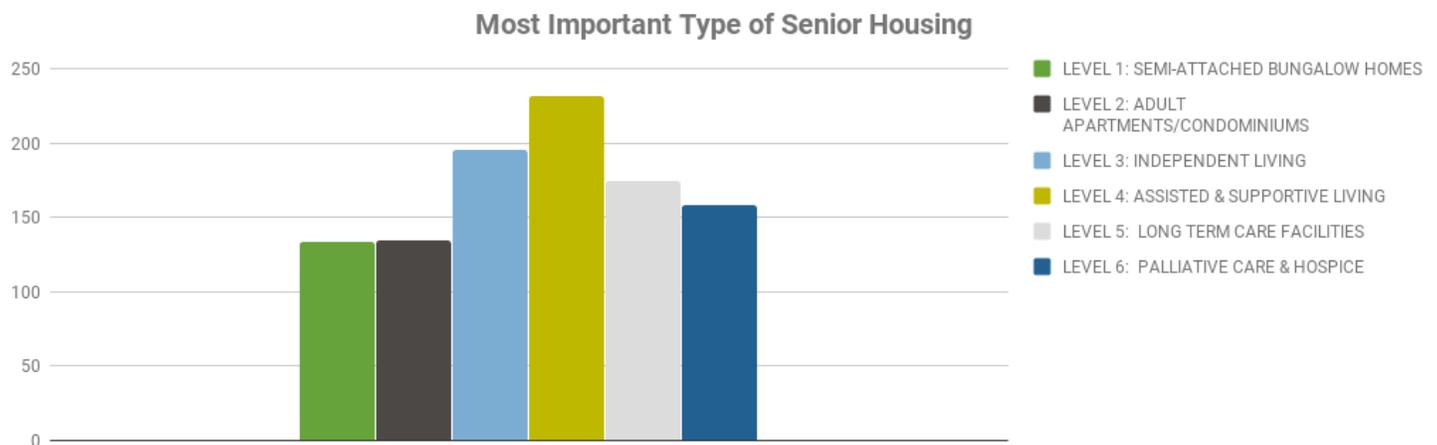
## Common themes

There were common themes identified by participants during the Senior Housing Focus Groups as well as with the open-ended questions included in the Continuum of Care Survey:

### IMMEDIACY

There is an immediate need for senior housing options in the Fort St. John area. We heard again and again that there is a current need, and that within a three to five-year period, this need will only increase. The greatest housing need obstacles were lack of space and long wait-lists to get into suitable housing. The community recognizes this and is prepared to get involved. They want to work with local government, develop partnerships with local groups, and work amongst themselves in order to provide the support and initiatives needed.

## Most Important Type of Senior Housing – Bar Chart





## AFFORDABILITY

The need for housing solutions that are affordable for seniors and those on a fixed or limited income was of paramount importance to all of those surveyed. Creative ways of reducing costs and including government subsidization and volunteer time were explored.

## AMENITIES

The need for appropriate amenities and transportation consistently came up as an integral component to the community plan. Wheelchair-accessible transportation, access to pharmacies, clinics, parking, grocery stores and physical fitness opportunities.

## COMMUNITY LIVING

The concept of community living was identified as a necessity by the majority of participants. Whether it's a concern for isolation and loneliness, the need to allow pets, or have access to outdoor spaces and daily community involvement, a social component was recognized as a necessity for a healthy and ideal living space.

## About Peace Holdings Inc.

Peace Enterprises Inc., and our development arm Peace Holdings Inc., have been building in Fort St. John since 2005. We've built over 400 happy homes!

Director Ron Brar sat on the New Construction Committee with the North Peace Seniors Housing Society from 2011 to 2012, during which time he gained valuable insight and knowledge of the needs of the region. It was here that he realized the senior population, the same pioneers that built this great community, were not getting the attention they required.

Peace Enterprises is passionate about the housing needs of seniors in the Fort St. John area and driven by the results of the Seniors Housing Forum. With over 150 million dollars in projects completed, over 50 million dollars of projects in pre-construction planning, collaborations with Seniors Housing consulting experts and strategic partnerships with vested organizations in the Fort. St. John region, we have the resources, manpower and experience to move forward.





# What happened

## Methodology

The purpose of the research was to collect quantitative data from the online survey and qualitative data through targeted focus groups.

From November 2018 to January 2019, we had over 500 residents and community leaders offer their opinions on our online Continuum of Care Survey. All three of our Public Senior Housing Focus Groups were sold out, with hundreds of people attending and sharing their thoughts, concerns and ideas.

### CONTINUUM OF CARE SURVEY

The first part of the process involved an online survey. The survey was an electronic questionnaire that was hosted on the Peace Enterprises website: [www.peaceenterprises.com/seniorliving](http://www.peaceenterprises.com/seniorliving)

The survey was promoted to local residents through targeted social media promotions on Facebook and LinkedIn and was also shared organically.

Physical copies of the survey were handed out at each of the Focus Groups and the General Presentations held in November and December. These results were tabulated manually.

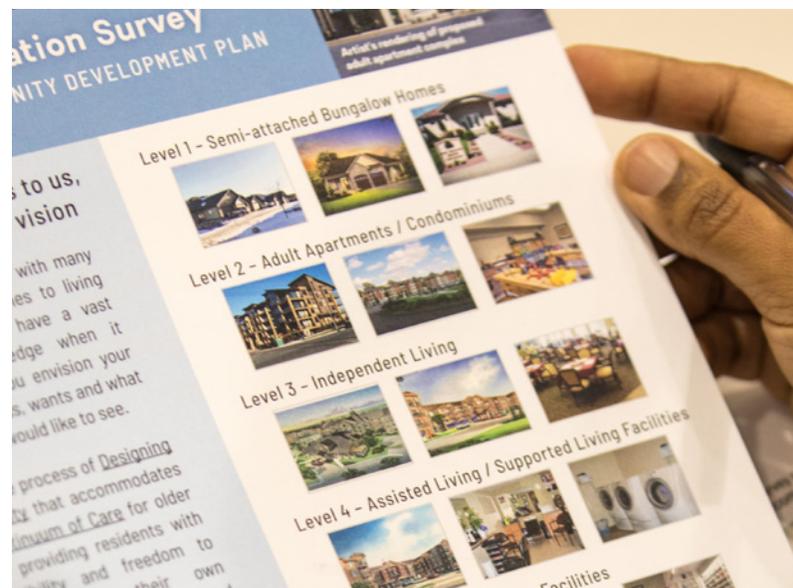
### Survey questions

The primary data collected via the survey were answers to the following questions:

1. Of the 6 Levels of Care (presented) which levels are of the highest importance to you?
2. Do you have any other comments or questions that you would like to add? (*Optional, open-ended*)
3. Name\* (*Optional*)
4. Email address\* (*Optional*)
5. Town or city of residence (*Optional*)
6. Year of birth (*Optional*)

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*•All names and contact information are confidential.*





## PUBLIC SENIOR HOUSING FOCUS GROUPS

The next step in our consultation process was to reach out to residents in-person, invite them to attend a presentation and participate in a discussion on the housing needs of the aging population in Fort St. John.

Tickets to the event were sold via Eventbrite and promoted on the Peace Enterprises social media channels.

There were three focus groups in total, with each event selling to capacity: **83** in total

- Senior Consultation: January 23, 2019 6-9 PM, 32 attendees
- Senior Consultation: January 24, 2019 6-8 PM, 28 attendees
- Public Consultation: January 25, 2019 8:30-11:30 AM, 23 attendees

### *Focus group format*

These focus groups were facilitated by Ron Brar and Terry Collier. The format consisted of an initial presentation, then attendees were asked to complete the Continuum of Care Survey. What followed was a roundtable discussion on a series of questions presented to the group.





# What we heard

## Continuum of Care Survey responses

The objective of the survey was to understand where the community felt the real housing needs were, as it related to the continuum of senior housing concept.

The list of questions was kept small to entice greater participation and increase the sample size.

Respondents rated each Level with a number, 1 being the most important, and 6 the least.

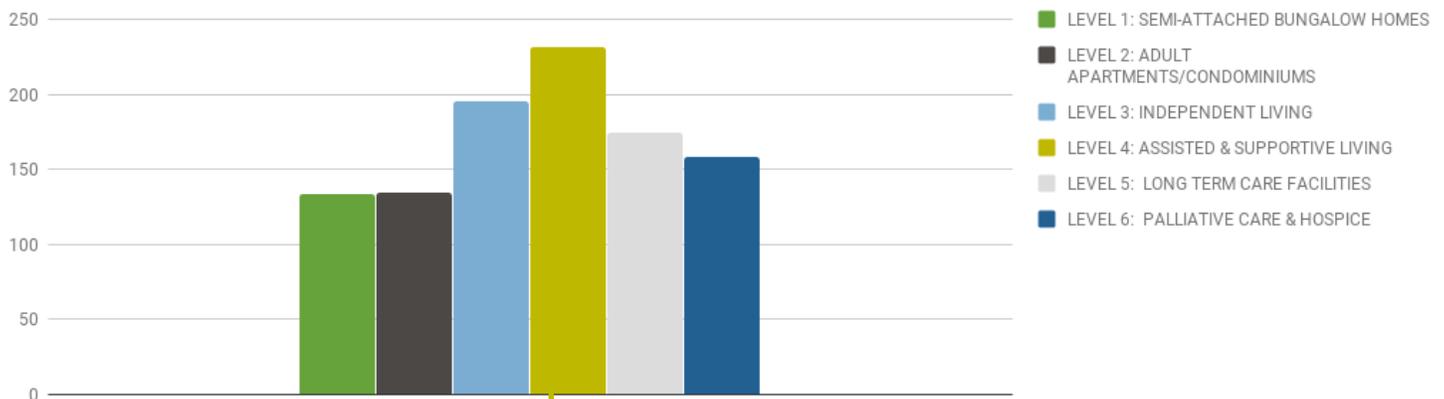
### WHICH LEVEL OF CARE IS OF THE

### HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO YOU?

Of the 6 Levels of Care, which levels are of the highest importance to you? Please rate each in order of importance to you.

- *Level 1: Semi-attached Bungalow Homes*
- *Level 2: Adult Apartments/Condominiums*
- *Level 3: Independent Living*
- *Level 4: Assisted and Supportive Living*
- *Level 5: Long Term Care Facilities*
- *Level 6: Palliative Care and Hospice*

Most Important Type of Senior Housing – Bar Chart

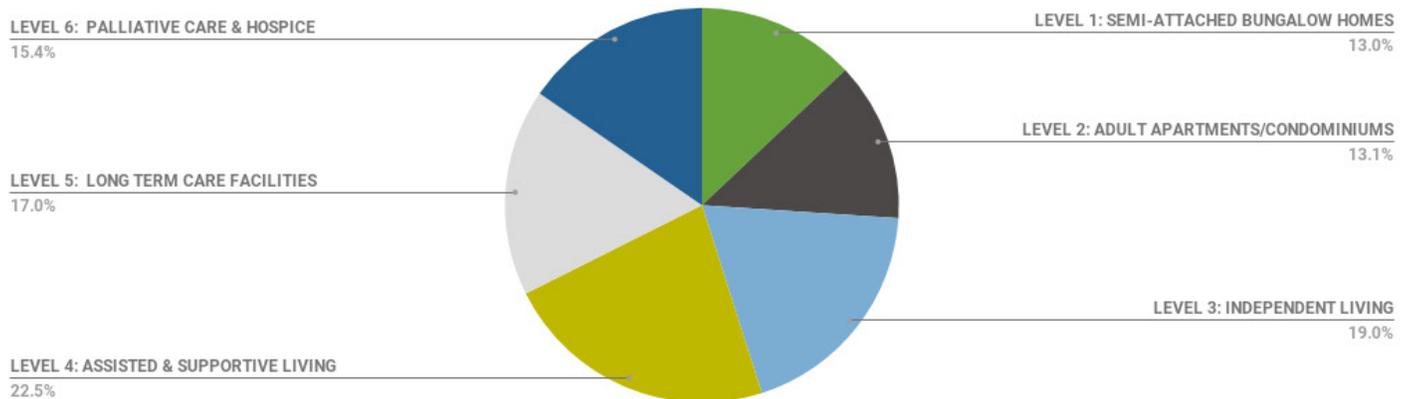


Assisted and Supportive Living (Level 4) was the most important level of care, with the majority of respondents indicating it was the greatest need.

Assisted and Supportive Living including having Personal Care Attendants, 24-hour LPN staff and Medication Assistance on site.



## Most Important Type of Senior Housing – Pie Chart



The chart above looks at the same data from the perspective of a pie chart and includes a breakdown of the percentages of each response.

The areas that were ranked as Most Important by the total respondents were those in the mid-levels of care: Levels 3 through 5. 58.5% of respondents indicated that the most important level of care for them was within this middle zone.

1. Assisted and Supportive Living (Level 4): 22.5%
2. Independent Living (Level 3): 19%
3. Long-term Care Facilities (Level 5): 17%

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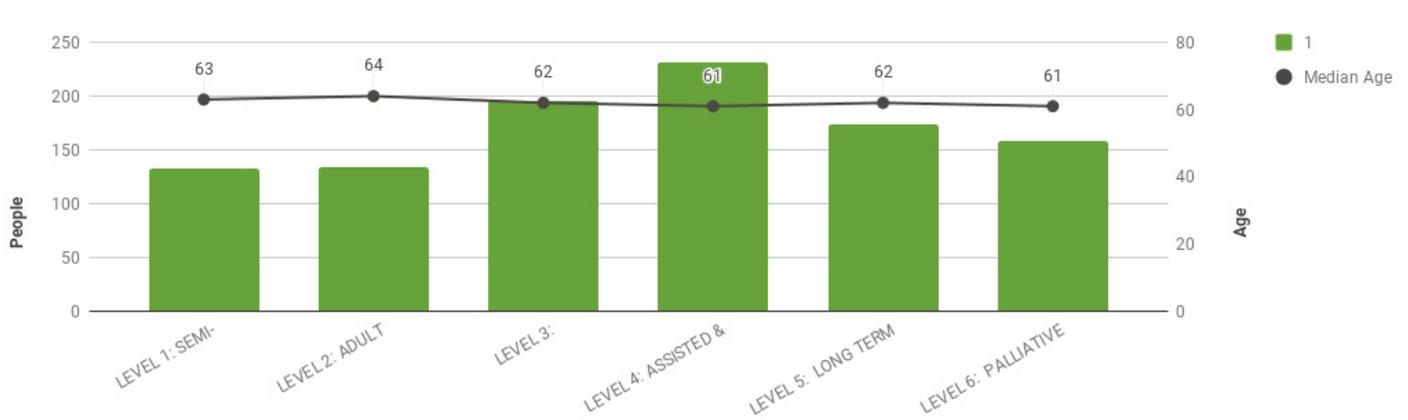
The outer-lying levels of care; Levels 1, 2 and 6, were ranked as the least important.

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*“I think the critical need is in the assisted living accommodations however I struggle with rank ordering these as they are all part of the picture. In a responsive community we would have more accessible bungalows and apartments so that folks could live in place much longer. The lack of these accessible homes is in part driving the increased need of assisted living through the roof.”*



## Most Important Type of Senior Housing – Median Age



In order to gain a greater understanding of this choice, we broke down the results and looked at the Median Age of the those who chose Level 4: Assisted and Supportive Living as being the most important.

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The Median Age of those who chose Level 4: Assisted and Supportive Living was 61.

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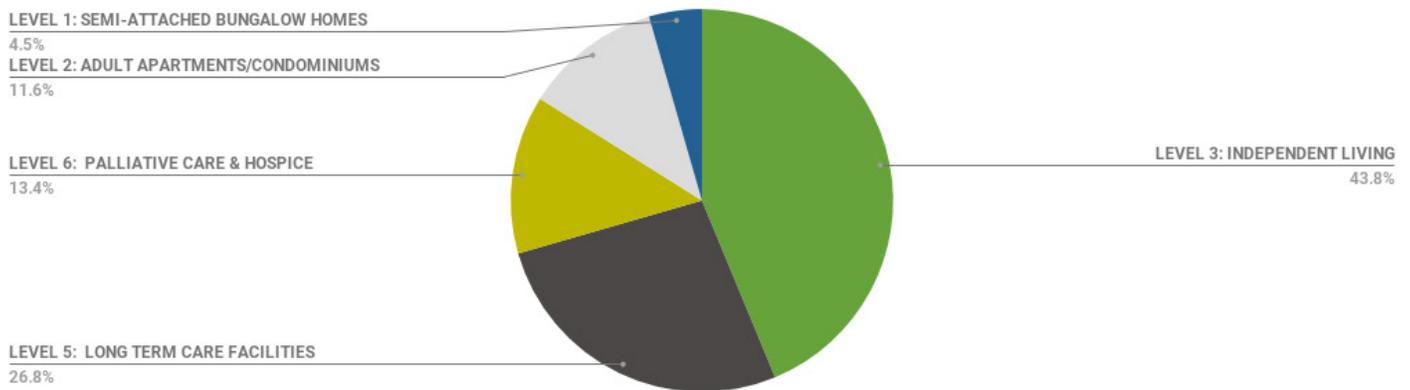
We can see from the results above that the age of the respondent was likely not a factor in why they chose the level of care that they did, as the age was consistent across all levels.

*NOTE: This is a sub-set of data, with 341 of 508 respondents providing their year of birth.*





## Second Priority of Senior Housing Type – of those who chose Level 4



A further breakdown of the results was undertaken to understand where the next level of importance lies for the subset of those who identified Level 4 as the most important.

Of those who chose Level 4 as the Most Important Type of Senior Housing, Level 3 was selected as the second most important.

NOTE: This is a sub-set of data, looking only at those who chose Level 4 (231 respondents) as their first choice.

The data is similar to what we found on pages 12 and 13 - Level 3 and Level 5 are also heavily needed.

The outer-lying levels of care; Levels 1, 2 and 6, are once again ranked as the least important.





## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

Participants were asked whether they had any other comments or questions that they would like to add. This question was optional, and open-ended. It was included in the survey in order to obtain a greater understanding of the communities' needs.

## We wanted to hear what people had to say, in their own words.

The comments did provide a greater insight. Upon analysis of what was said, there were several themes that came from the data obtained in the open-ended questions. These themes were also echoed in the Senior Housing Focus Groups:

1. Immediacy
2. Affordability
3. Amenities
4. Community living

### *Immediacy*

*“We definitely need more long-term care as some seniors need in ASAP and are in independent or assistant buildings already and can’t get in and then pass away too soon when they could have lived a bit better and safer transferring right into long term.”*

*“(There is a) huge need for senior housing. I would like to contribute and volunteer time.”*

*“We really need more doctors and nurses. We are really understaffed at hospital and home care.”*

*“Great concept. Get it built.”*





### Affordability

*“Our Seniors need all the care listed above. I had a hard time saying what was most important as we need them all. The seniors have little choices in Fort St. John. The first thing though is AFFORDABLE living. A single senior only has a limited amount of money and to take it all for a place to live is horrible. Therefore, payment based on income would be great. Entertainment, card tables, regular groups of games, even shuffleboards etc. would be awesome. And accessible to the down town area.”*

*“Must work for low income people as that’s majority here, also for farmers that don’t have pensions through their jobs.”*

*“To keep the housing costs as low as possible for the needs of seniors and handicapped.”*

*“I feel affordability will be the most important, so those that need it will have it. Community-based with lots of social areas, active and inactive, to keep spirits up and loneliness away. Making people healthier.”*

*“Financial support based on income for seniors’ services.”*





### Amenities

*“Would like the community to be self-sufficient with pharmacy, grocery and other basic needs that are affordable and (a) fair market pricing.”*

*“I hope you will include a gym or rehab. equipment in your plans for independent and assisted living facilities.”*

*“Access to outdoor space is very important: from balconies, paved patios, garden space, along with walking paths.”*

*“Allowing for basic physical activity improves general health. Give them a reason to be active and social.”*

*“Daycare and gardening space, close to school children can help.”*

### Community living

*“How will you staff? Will there be income-based subsidies? Will there be government funding? How do you encourage quality of life? Partner with other groups provide space for yoga, music, crafts, non-profits and fun activities.”*

*“I think that some homes should let people have a pet for company, so they don't get lonely. If they can look after it and its clean.”*





## CITY OR TOWN OF RESIDENCE

Disclosing the city or town of residence was an optional question listed on the Continuum of Care Survey. Of the 508 respondents, 387 chose to provide where they lived.

- *Fort St. John and area: 313*
- *Other: 74*

NOTE: This is a sub-set of data, with 387 of 508 respondents providing their city or town of residence

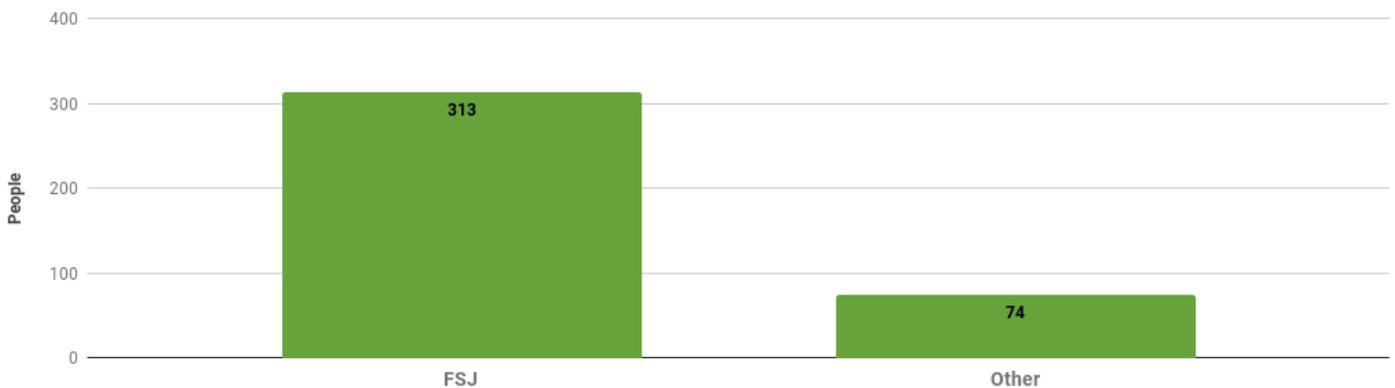
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The majority of participants were from the Fort St. John area.

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We heard from a people outside of Fort St. John in neighbouring areas including Baldonnel, Cecil Lake, Charlie Lake and Chetwynd, Montney, Rose Prairie and Taylor. These were grouped into the “Other” category.

### City or Town of Residence of Survey Respondents





## YEAR OF BIRTH

Year of Birth was an optional question listed on the Continuum of Care Survey. Of the 508 respondents, 341 opted to provide their date of birth.

Of these 341 respondents, the breakdown is as follows:

- *Under 50 years old: 78*
- *51-60 years old: 66*
- *61-70 years old: 100*
- *1-80 years old: 65*
- *81-85 years old: 24*
- *Over 86 years old: 8*

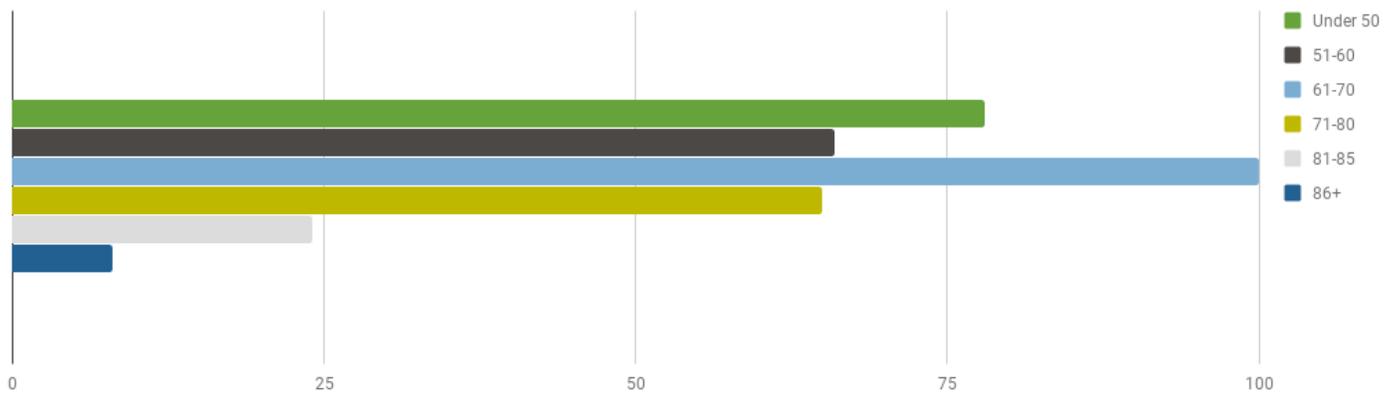
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The majority of survey respondents who provided their age were between 61 and 70 years old.

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NOTE: This is a sub-set of data, with 341 of 508 respondents providing their year of birth.

## Age Grouping of Survey Respondents





## Public Seniors Housing Focus Group findings

### COMPLETION OF THE CONTINUUM OF CARE SURVEY

For the first question, the focus group participants were asked to complete physical copies of the Continuum of Care Survey.

The surveys were collected, and data manually input.

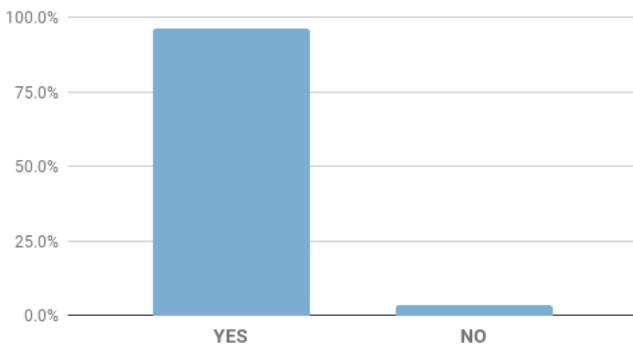
### DO YOU FEEL THE FACILITY SHOULD HAVE MAIN FLOOR COMMERCIAL SPACE?

Walk-in Clinic, Pharmacy, Seniors Drop-in Center, etc.

The responses from this question was a near unanimous yes.

Of the 83 people who attended a focus group, 80 felt it was important that the living space contain a main floor commercial space, where residents would have access to facilities such as a walk-in clinics, pharmacies, and activities center.

### Do You Feel the Facility Should Have Main Floor Commercial Space?



### OF THE FOLLOWING SERVICES, WHICH DO YOU FEEL IS THE MOST IMPORTANT?

Attendees were able to indicate any services of interest to them. The options were:

- Daycare
- Elder Care (Respite)
- Meals on Wheels
- Seniors Drop-in Center
- Walk-in Clinic

The most important service for senior housing to have access to, as indicated by all Public Focus Groups, was Elder Care (Respite).

Access to a Seniors Drop-in Center was also a very important feature, as well as a Walk-in Clinic.

This is telling of the flexibility the community is looking for when it comes to elderly care. Services that are customized to needs and allow freedom and flexibility to residents are highly valued.





## WOULD YOU VOLUNTEER 10 HOURS PER MONTH?

Participants were asked whether they would volunteer up to ten hours of their time each week if it meant they would receive a \$200/month credit.

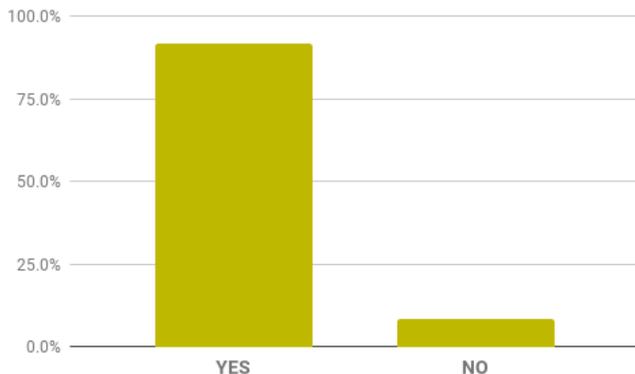
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This concept was very openly received, with a majority of focus groups attending indicating that they would be interested in a cost-reduction for care by way of volunteering their time.

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The Fort St. John community has consistently indicated that affordability and community involvement are key concerns, and we believe the response to this question is further reinforcement of those beliefs.

### Would You Volunteer up to 10 Hours Per Week for a Monthly Credit?



## WHAT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM DO YOU PREFER?

During this portion of the roundtable discussions, the following options were presented:

- *H/C bus or discreet van shuttle*
- *Ride share option with a resident with a licensed driver for a monthly fee (\$50)*
- *Resident driver with planned routes plus hospital and medical*
- *Taxi-style for a monthly fee (\$100)*

The greater part of discussions focused on the need for ease of mobility and low cost options for transportation.

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The majority of people preferred the idea of an H/C bus or discreet van shuttle as the transportation system.

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The taxi-style of service was perceived as costly, while ride-share options and low-cost resident driver solutions were discussed as viable options.





## HOW MANY YEARS FROM NOW DO YOU EXPECT YOU WILL HAVE TO MOVE?

*From your current residence to a seniors' property.*

- *Less than 6 months*
- *1 to 2 years*
- *3 years or more*

None of the Public Focus Group attendees stated they expect to be moving within six months.

Approximately half of people expected to be within the one to two year time line, while the other half indicated that the need to change their primary residence would be in three or more years.

## IF YOU HAD TO MOVE IN THE NEXT 90 DAYS, WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

- *Family member (In the community)*
- *Facility out of Fort St. John*
- *Government-funded facility*
- *Other*

Attendees were asked to share what they would do if faced with a Significant Medical Event. Discussions primarily centered around the perception that residents would not have any options, as they felt there was no where in the Fort St. John area that they could go.

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Additionally, attendees felt that if they left the Fort St. John area to get the help they needed, they would not have a home to return to.

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## ADDITIONAL FINDINGS

Attendees were given the opportunity to address other areas of concern.

Specifically, we asked what needs to happen to ensure the architects, city planners, health professionals and other vested interest groups responsible for planning seniors housing know, or understand, about the current seniors housing environment.

We believe all of the reasons we heard are important. We've included a sampling of them here:

*“Homecare needs to be a consistent person – (there is currently) no continuity.”*

*“Homecare support phones in sick – so there is nobody (there).”*

*“(There are) lots of gaps in homecare.”*

*“Will there be security cameras in the common areas?”*

*“Develop a community so we have excellent doctors.”*



# What's next

We are humbled  
by your response.  
You have redefined  
community for us,  
and inspired us  
into action.

We have heard your voices. We believe we must proceed with a solution that's defined by what you've told us:

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The Number One need is for the creation of Assisted and Supported Living options.

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Our next steps in the process are to determine what the Assisted and Supportive Living needs and requirements are, and how we can achieve the best fit for the community of Fort St. John.

There are many contemporary and responsible solutions. Models that are working with great success in Europe as well as the United States and Canada. Solutions that look at the bigger picture, where aging-in-place structures are integrated into the community, facilities are built into the concept, and social interaction is at the forefront of the design.

## Achieving balance

The balance we need to achieve is to ensure we are creating something that can accommodate the needs of a larger community like Fort St. John.

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In order to define the action plan, we must continue our collaborative work with Northern Health Authority and BC Housing.

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*Myron Dirks, Senior Project Manager, Peace Holdings Inc.*



## Our recommendations

Quality of life, quality of care and financial viability are at the forefront of our vision. We believe in innovative ideas and incorporating solutions that are proven to benefit those needing assistance.

Our recommendation is to focus on developing small intentional communities where residents can thrive, and experience full, vibrant lives. This modern, interactive style offers community living, which is a proven model to enhancing quality of life.

*“Every one of these levels (of care) are long, long overdue for the Fort St. John area. Anyone who’s lived here would know that and agree. What’s needed for seniors is better meals. The buildings need appropriate kitchens to cook wholesome meals in. Buildings need to look and feel warm and inviting. The cold institution look isn’t acceptable.”*

## COMMUNITY-BASED LIVING

We believe small format solutions are the future of care. They offer a home style of comfort help seniors live longer, and happier. There are many successful examples of this that we can look to.

In addition to this, we need to find ways to enhance quality of life through community engagement and social interaction.

### *Bee Hive And Green House Concepts*

Bee Hive and Green House formats are based around creating an environment that feels like living in a real home. Smaller format homes provide a personalized approach that allows for flexibility and freedom, more social interaction and engagement.

Each community consists of multiple units where residents can live comfortably, in an environment designed to create a more gentle and compassionate alternative to traditional nursing homes.

### *Volunteering*

Volunteering is a powerful way to make a difference in the lives of residents. It benefits volunteers mentally, socially and even physically, and makes a positive impact on the health and well-being of communities being served. Most seniors enjoy it so much they end up volunteering more than 30 hours a month.

By offering residents the opportunity to volunteer their time in exchange for a monthly discount, we enhance engagement and enjoy a feeling of contribution.



## A CUSTOMIZED APPROACH

Large single-building solutions and smaller format solutions alike can benefit from a model that provides residents with a fulfilling life – this can be achieved by providing options that are offered with the resident's needs in mind.

### *A la Carte Service Offerings*

Supportive services with an a la carte model allow residents to only pay for the services they need and use. This model allows costs to be allocated appropriately, and helps lower costs to those who don't need or want the services.

### *Lifestyle Amenities*

Lifestyle amenities are developed with aging in place design for wheelchairs and walker accessibility, including exercise and activity rooms as well as social opportunities like communal spaces, games rooms, and social facilities

## SAFERHOME STANDARDS

Wider doorways, hallways and stairs all add up to a feeling of open space, offering a stylish and more liveable environment for all ages and abilities.

SAFERHome is a universally accepted standard of building care that ensures homes are built to suit the evolving needs of older adults. We have used this standard of build on past projects including our 40 unit development Crosstown Apartments as well as Avalon Villas Bungalows, a 12 unit smaller format build. This standard allows residents to comfortably age in place if a significant medical event occurs.





## Working collaboratively

It has been clear from the outset that in order to achieve success we need to work together – builders and developers, advocacy groups, partners, community members and families – to form a common voice.

The Age-Friendly Assessment and Action Plan Summary Report prepared for the City of Fort St. John by the Community Development Institute recommends taking action to incorporate age-friendly design in City-owned public buildings and outdoor spaces in Fort St. John. Additionally, it clearly indicates advocacy is needed, and that the city should work with building owners on ensuring age-friendly upgrades to existing spaces and structures.

*“Collaborating in local not for profits to provide programming for seniors around gardening, food preparation, knitting. Connecting seniors and students etc. is something I would love to see happen in this community. Neat idea.”*

We have heard from the members of the Fort St. John community. We have listened to the needs of special interest groups and vested interests in the region. We have the experience. We have the team. We have the resources.

## It's time to put it all together.

We will continue to engage community members, and work with stakeholders in order to ensure we are changing and adapting as needed throughout the process.

We will work closely with the many levels of government needed to ensure we are developing a solution that best meets the needs of the Fort St. John community.





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