



Age-friendly British Columbia West Vancouver

Becoming Age-friendly

West Vancouver is involved in many area-wide efforts to create a more age friendly community. Building on the work of the North Shore Advisory Committee on Disability Issues, the Community Grants/Social Services Working Group and the board of the Seniors' Activity Centre, the District has worked to reduce barriers and increase access for all citizens, including seniors.

The Blueprint for Social Responsibility and Change (2008) calls for the values of equity, diversity, social inclusion, security and adaptability in all District initiatives. Starting in 2011, West Vancouver was one of three area municipalities supporting and participating in Seniors Today, a project to survey seniors and develop an action plan based on survey findings.

West Vancouver was recognized as an Age-friendly BC community in 2012.

“Accessibility cultivates inclusivity by eliminating barriers and creating social, physical and economic environments that enable all residents to participate actively in the community.”

-West Vancouver Access and Inclusion Policy, Adopted by Council, July 20, 2009

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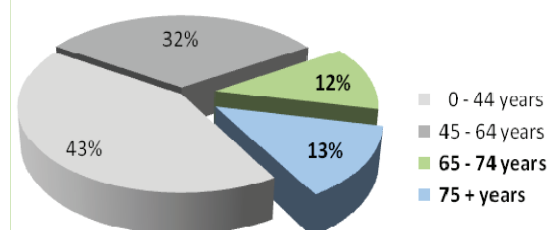


Photo Courtesy of the District of West Vancouver

Located across Burrard Inlet from Vancouver, West Vancouver's natural waterfront and mountain setting is prized by its 44,000 residents. The community centres, swimming pool, seniors' centre, library and other municipal facilities enhance the natural setting. Beautiful parks and beaches are easily accessible to all residents.

To learn more about the District of West Vancouver visit www.WestVancouver.ca. For more information on age-friendly actions in West Vancouver please contact: jlawlor@westvancouver.ca.

2011 Population: 42,694



Statistics Canada. (2012). Cumulative Profile, 2011 Census. Retrieved February 5, 2013, from <http://bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx>.

Age-friendly Actions

Public Spaces



Access improvements to John Lawson Park on the waterfront include:

- Seawalk path is accessible to wheelchairs
- Automatic door openers in public washrooms
- Viewing platform over the beach for those using wheeled mobility aids
- Design for new playground under construction in 2013 includes several accessibility improvements

Transportation



- Shuttle bus service for frail and isolated seniors
- Extended pedestrian crossing time with countdown timers and tactile strips at curb ramps for sight impaired
- Audible pedestrian signals with pushbutton locator tones and tactile direction indicators
- Curb extensions and ramps for those with mobility aids
- Accessible bus pads at key stops for those in wheelchairs

Housing



- Identification of new housing types through the Community Dialogue on Neighborhood Character and Housing
- Recommendations to develop seniors' and rental housing, accessible/adaptable housing and variation in unit size included in Housing Action Plan for West Vancouver

Participation



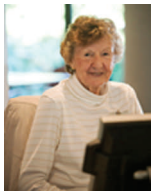
- Lionsview Seniors Planning Society survey in 2011 of 1,200 seniors
- Seniors' Activity Centre with a variety of programs and an Advisory Board that advises and recommends on matters related to the effective operation of the centre
- Affordable dining in the Seniors' Centre Cafe
- Lead role in North Shore LINKS for Healthy Living Initiative to reintegrate seniors into programs and activities

Volunteerism



- West Vancouver Senior Citizens Special Services Society, "Seniors Helping Seniors", offers daily telephone calls and rides to medical appointments
- Over 650 volunteers active at the Seniors' Activity Centre, which offers many opportunities for involvement

Communication



- Information resource on customer service for persons with disabilities
- North Shore partnership for a community health promotion project
- Keeping Connected programs targeted at frail and isolated seniors



AgeFriendlyBC

For more information on creating an age-friendly community visit:
www.seniorsbc.ca/agefriendly or email AgefriendlyBC@gov.bc.ca.
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