

Age-Friendly Businesses

The following checklist is simply a guide to increase consideration about age-friendly features from a business point of view.

Getting to Your Business

Sidewalks, Entrances

- Are well-maintained, accessible and free from obstructions
- Have wheelchair sloped entry ramps that are non-slip
- Are well lit
- There is prompt snow removal: snow is removed or piled well away from the entrance

Parking

- The parking lots are clear of snow and are kept ice free to prevent falling
- Available parking is well-maintained and located nearby for easy access
- Drop-off and pick-up areas are available, obstruction free, clearly marked, and conveniently located
- There are a sufficient number of handicap accessible parking spots

Older Employees in Your Business

- Seniors who are expected to use newer technologies in paid work are provided with appropriate training

Getting into Your Business

Buildings

- Entrance doors are easy to open by someone in a wheelchair or walker
- There are automatic doors with accessible buttons that are open long enough to allow people with wheelchairs and walkers to safely enter
- People in wheelchairs can easily navigate aisles and spaces in your business
- There are no or as few stairs as possible, inside and outside
- The flooring is non-slip
- Washrooms are located on the main floor
- Washrooms are large enough for wheelchairs, walkers and strollers
- Signs are easy to read outside and inside
- There is sufficient seating for patrons to rest or to use your services
- Elevators and ramps are available
- Stairs are safe and have railings

Getting Information About Your Business

Information

- Seniors can easily find information about your business
- Print and spoken communication uses simple, familiar words in short, straight-forward sentences
- Patrons have a choice of services and products to suit a variation of needs
- Seniors are visible in advertising and are depicted positively and without stereotyping

Technology

- Telephone answering services give instructions slowly and clearly and tell callers how to repeat the phone message at any time

Customer Services

- Transportation is available for seniors to get to the business (e.g., shuttle bus)
- Delivery services (groceries, medicines, etc.) or escorted shopping services are available to seniors

Staff Awareness

- Seniors are treated respectfully by staff including;
 - Addressed with appropriate titles
 - Needs are accommodated
 - Relevant, clear information is provided
- Staff are courteous, helpful and speak clearly and slowly