

# Building an Age-Friendly Toronto

Host: University of Toronto

October 11, 2012

**Councillor Josh Matlow**

Ward 22, St. Paul's, City of Toronto

Chair, Seniors Strategy Subcommittee of  
Community Development and Recreation Committee

# Presentation Overview

- Council's Direction
- Subcommittee's Mandate
- What is Age-Friendly?
- City Divisions / ABCs
- Related Initiatives
- Prior Recommendations
- Seniors in Toronto
- Engagement
- Where do we go from here!
- Next Steps



# Council's Direction

June 2011:

1. convening a Senior Staff Steering Committee including all City divisions, agencies, boards, commissions and corporations affecting the needs of seniors
2. convening a Working Committee with outside stakeholders including but not limited to federal and provincial governments, businesses, local agencies serving seniors, research institutions, and members of the Toronto Seniors Forum to ensure all partners are engaged in the process and committed to supporting the outcome

# Council's Direction

3. Developing an engagement plan reviewed on an annual basis that builds on the existing networks and outreach to seniors, service providers, policy developers, and program funders, which shall establish and implement a comprehensive system of coordinated health, social services and infrastructure for senior citizens.

# Seniors Strategy Subcommittee Mandate

- Reports to Community Development & Recreation Committee
- Chair: Councillor Josh Matlow
- Councillors: Janet Davis & Kristyn Wong-Tam
- To provide advice and input on the development of a seniors strategy; and
- To meet a maximum of four (4) times to the end of the 2010-2014 or until Council approves a Seniors Strategy

# What does Age-Friendly Mean for Seniors?

- policies, services and structures related to the physical and social environment are designed to help seniors "age actively."
- the community is set up to help seniors live safely, enjoy good health and stay involved.



*Public Health Agency of Canada*

# An Age-Friendly Community

1. recognizes that seniors have a wide range of skills and abilities
2. understands and meets the age-related needs of seniors
3. respects the decisions and lifestyle choices of seniors
4. protects those seniors who are vulnerable
5. recognizes that seniors have a lot to offer their community
6. recognizes how important it is to include seniors in all areas of community life

*Public Health Agency of Canada*

# City Divisions

Policy Coordination / Development:  
Social Development, Finance and Administration

The team:

- 311
- Affordable Housing Office
- Shelter, Support and Housing Administration
- Emergency Medical Services
- Long-Term Care Homes and Services
- Parks, Forestry and Recreation
- Planning
- Transportation Services
- Revenue Services



# ABCs

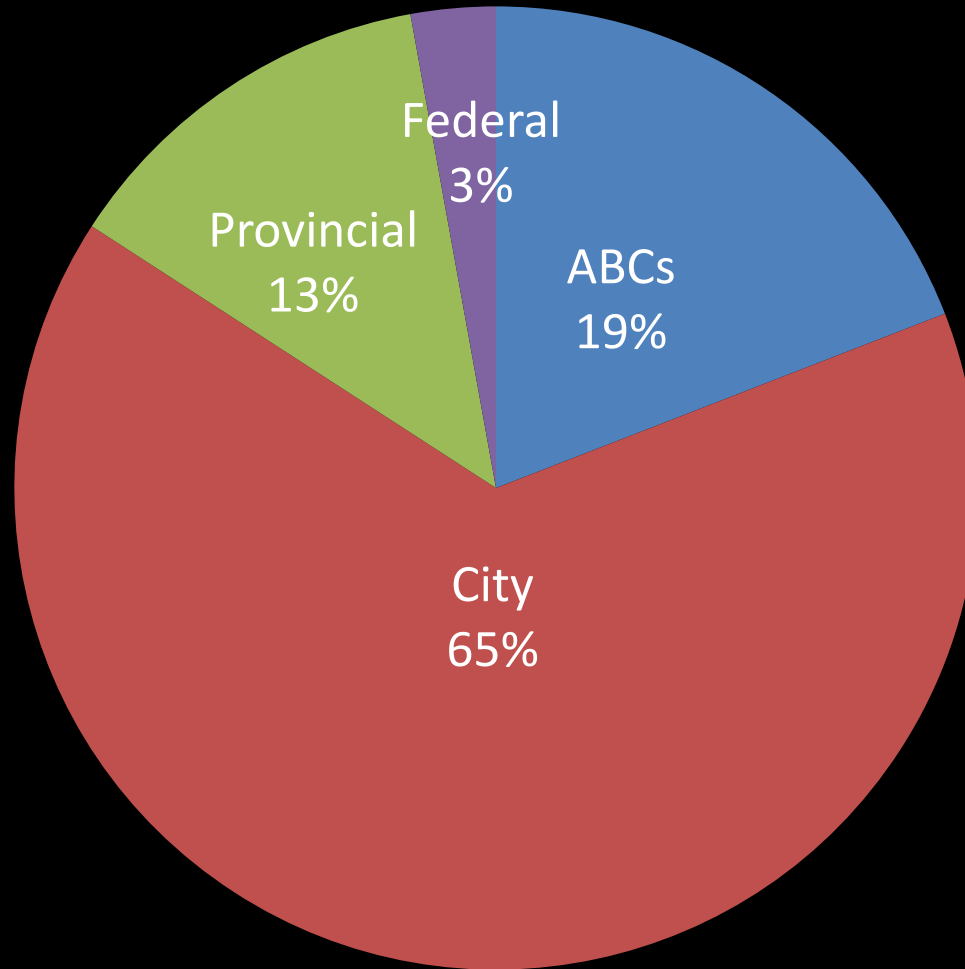
- Toronto Public Health
- Toronto Community Housing
- Toronto Police Service
- Toronto Public Library
- Toronto Transit Commission

# Related Initiatives

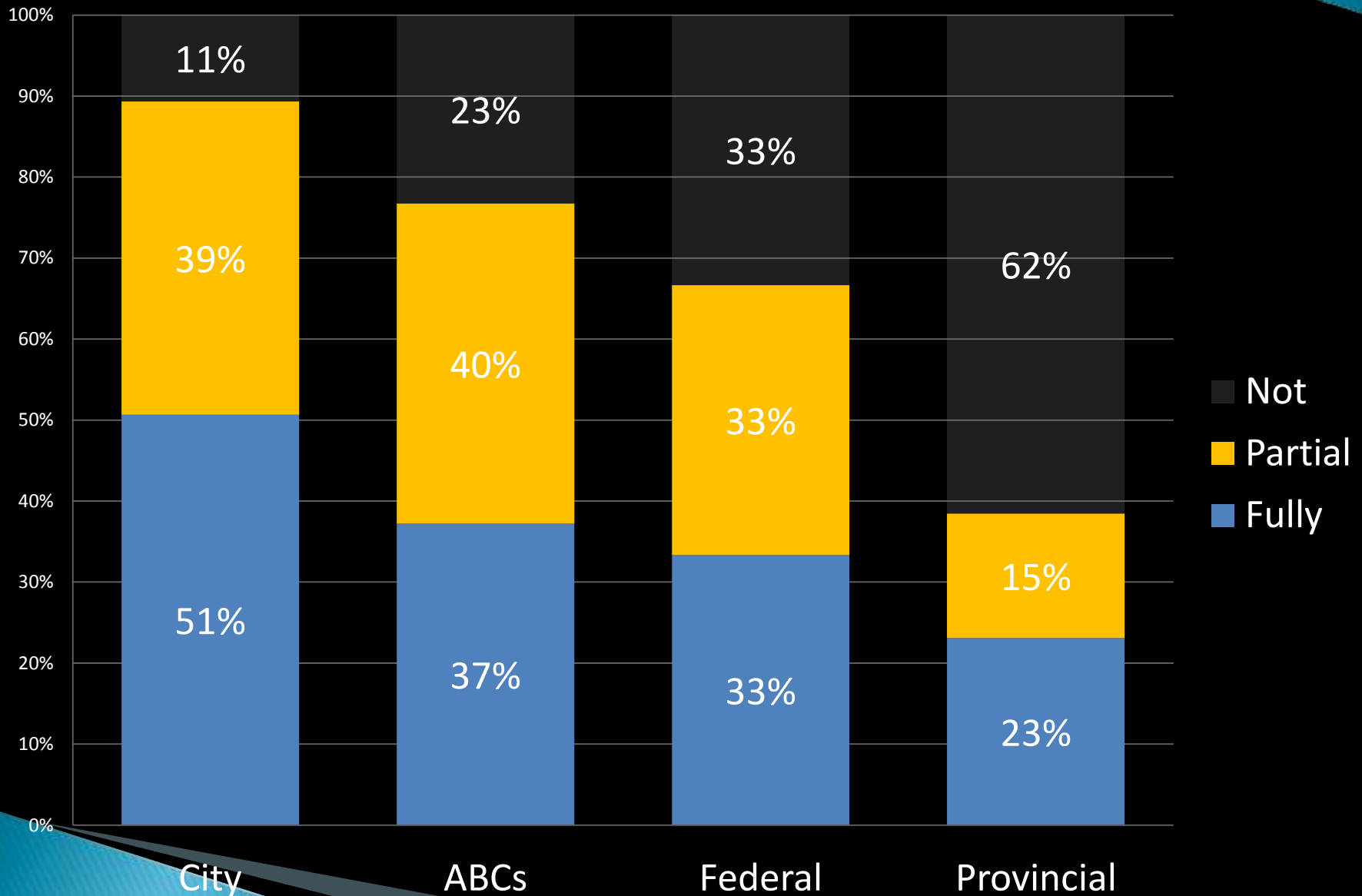
- Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)
- A Duty to Care - Ombudsman Report
- Province of Ontario Act to Regulate Retirement Homes
- WHO Global Age-Friendly Cities Initiative
- 8-80 Cities
- Peel Region, Mississauga, Niagara Region, Ottawa, Peterborough, London, New York City



# Recommendations by Jurisdiction

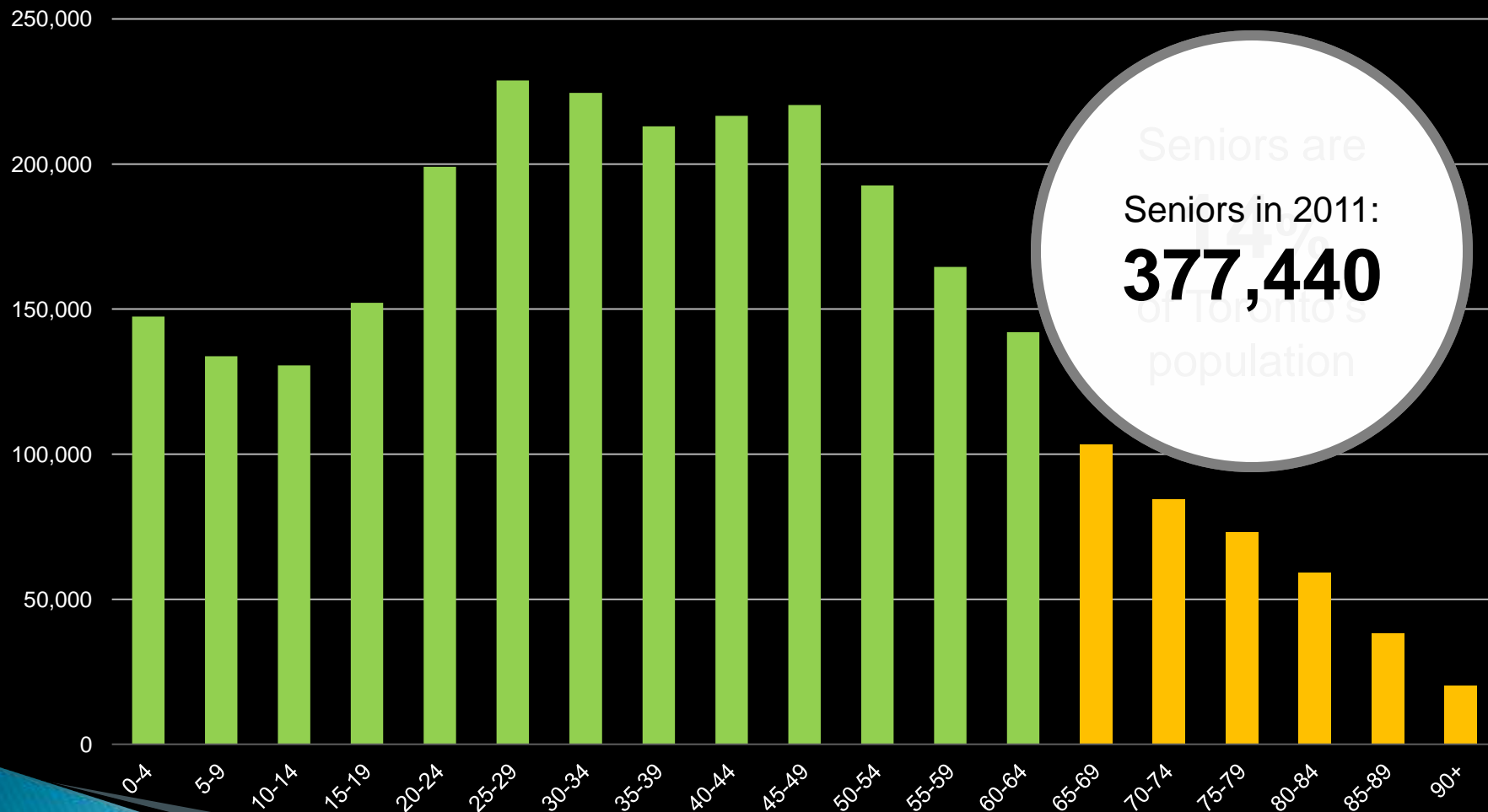


# Implementation by Jurisdiction



# Seniors in Toronto

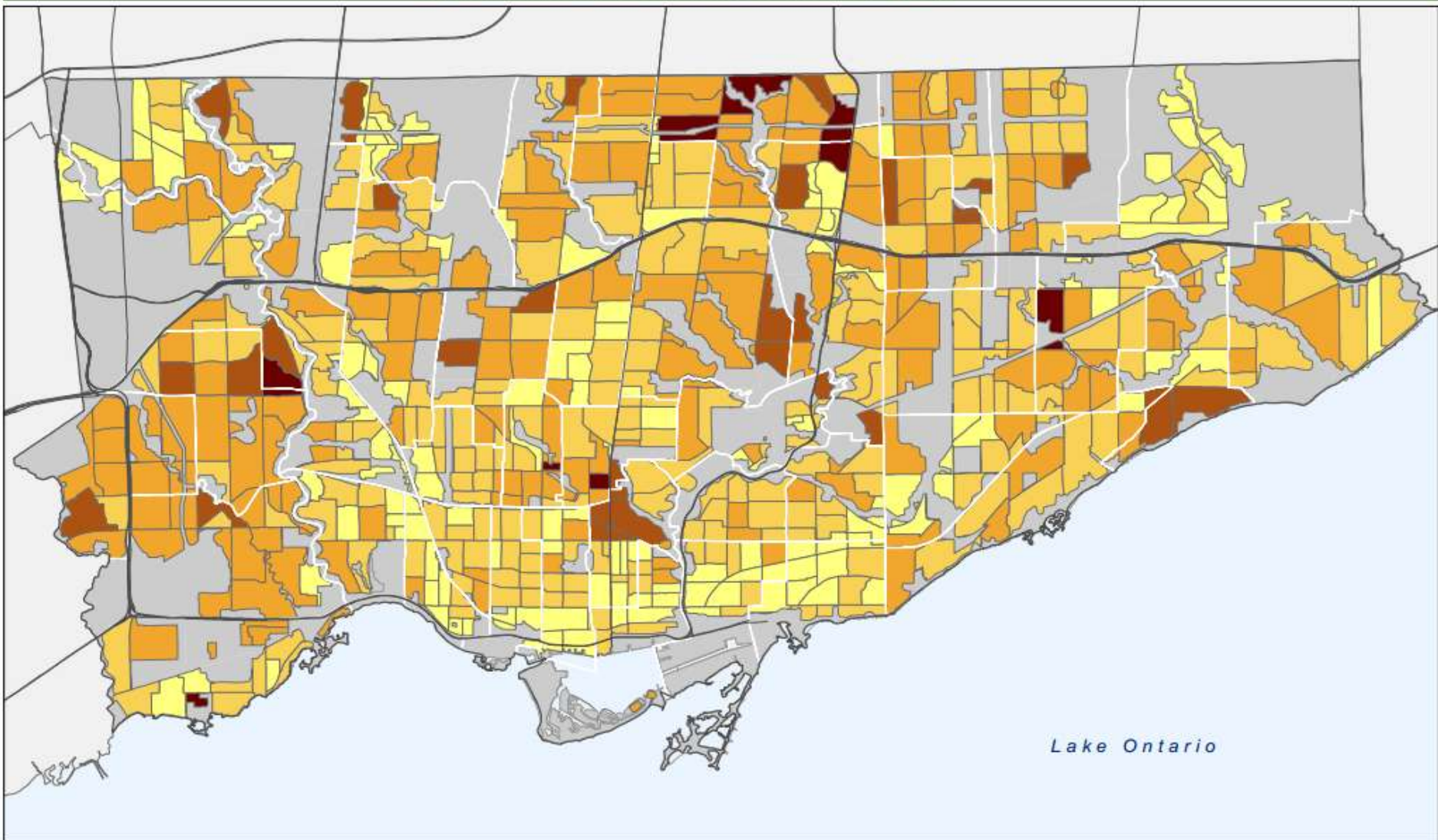
## Population of Toronto by Age



Source: Statistics Canada 2011 Census

Note: Unless otherwise specified, "seniors" refer to those 65 years old and higher (Statistics Canada) 13

# City of Toronto Concentration of Seniors 65+ years



**Legend**

|                             |               |               |                      |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|
| <b>% Seniors Population</b> | 2.9% - 11.0%  | 16.1% - 23.0% | Expressways          |
|                             | 11.1% - 16.0% | 23.1% - 30.0% | Ward boundary        |
|                             |               | 30.1% - 80.0% | Non-residential area |

0 1 2 3 4 Km

Source: Statistics Canada Census 2011; City of Toronto.  
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 Published: May 29, 2012  
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# Sources of Income (GTA)



Source:  
 Statistics Canada 2010,  
 CANSIM Table 111-0035

# Engagement

- Consultation Workbook
- Toronto Seniors' Forum
- Expert Panel Meetings



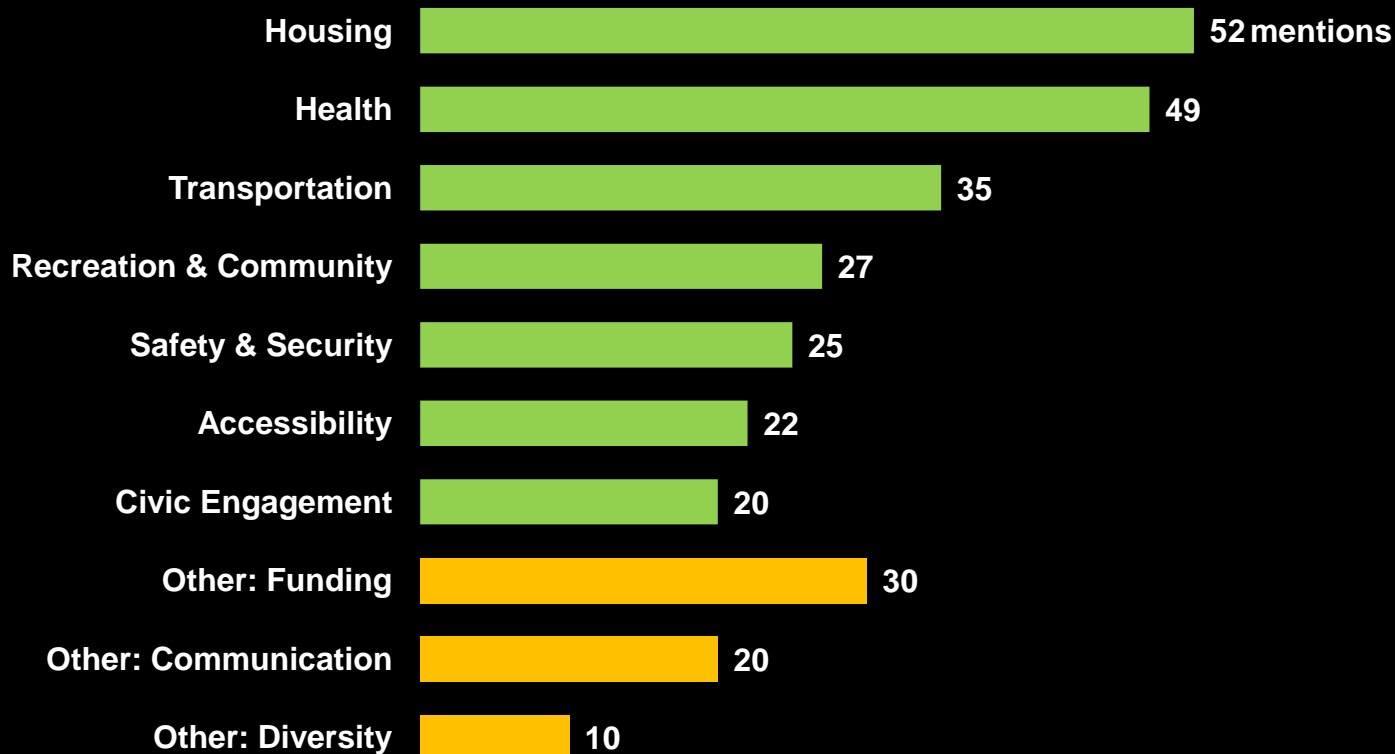
**Extended to  
October 31,  
2012**

<http://www.toronto.ca/seniors/strategy.htm>



# Interim Comments

## Distribution of Open-Ended Responses



**85% of respondents agreed that “these themes represent [their] concerns.”**

# Interim Comments

## Other themes were raised:

### Communication

Promoting services that already exist

Communicating information in other languages

Dedicated point-person to deal with "seniors' affairs"

### Funding Services

Concerns about low service levels and high access costs

Addressing seniors with low income

### Diversity & Respect

Immigrants, newcomers, and different cultural backgrounds

Recognition of LGBTQ issues

Educating service providers and the public about seniors' issues

# Where do we go from here!

## The Seniors Strategy will:

- Focus on deliverables by the City and its ABCs
- Bring a seniors lens to the services and programs provided by the City and ABCs
- Build on existing City programs and services
- Find ways for the City to collaborate with other partners
- Minimize isolation and improve well-being
- Be based on reliable research and proven best practices
- Clearly articulate who is responsible through an Accountability Framework

# Next Steps 2012–2013

- October/November: Analyze Consultation Findings
- Fall: Meet with Seniors Expert Panel
- Late Fall: Seniors Strategy Subcommittee Meeting
- Winter: Community Development & Recreation Committee
- Spring: City Council



<http://www.toronto.ca/seniors/strategy.htm>