



Government of Yukon

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NEWSrelease

FOR RELEASE #10-025

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Input requested for the seniors' healthy aging strategy

WHITEHORSE – Seniors, elders and those planning to retire in Yukon can participate in an Aging Well Expo to help government gather information to design a strategy that will meet the needs of Yukon seniors in the future.

"The expo will bring people together to help us develop a long-term strategy that will support our seniors today and into the future, in how they live and age in Yukon," Health and Social Services Minister Glenn Hart said today in announcing the expo.

In preparation for the event staff from the Seniors' Services/Adult Protection unit have been hosting various meetings throughout Yukon for social service agencies, seniors and First Nations elders.

"The response has been informative," Hart said. "Seniors, elders, and those almost there are giving us ideas and options that are new and certainly worth consideration as we adapt our services for our aging population."

More and more, Yukon residents are choosing to stay in Yukon after retirement. This is different from 10 or 20 years ago, when large numbers of people over 65 moved south. By 2020, it is estimated that the number of Yukoners over age 65 will increase from 2,600 to more than 5,000 people.

"It is important that we plan now for the future," Kelly Cooper, manager of the Seniors' Services/Adult Protection unit said. "We know that seniors today are healthier and live longer than previous generations. We need to make sure that support and services are in place to help seniors stay in their homes longer, and remain socially engaged and safe."

One hundred and twenty-five people are expected to participate in the expo, which features workshops by local agencies and guest speaker Dr. Holly Tuokko from the University of Victoria's Centre on Aging.

"I think the synergy and the wisdom of our seniors and elders; and those knocking on the door, will help us build a strategy that meets our needs today and into the future," Hart added.

Registration forms for the workshop are available at www.agingwell.leafsolutions.ca or call 456-3946. The expo will be held at the Whitehorse Westmark on Wednesday, March 3 and Thursday, March 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please register by February 18.

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