

### 3.3 Seniors

Seniors have been a significant group of the City's population for many years. Maintaining and improving the well-being and independence of older residents within the community has been the focus of City responses to seniors issues.

Guidelines and policies addressing specific housing needs, locational criteria, and design aspects have been developed in recent years. The City has also established principles and objectives which will support older persons in their day-to-day activities through housing related strategies and community based guidelines for the redevelopment of Lower Lonsdale. In addition, Lower and Central Lonsdale neighbourhoods, where seniors are currently concentrated, are natural focal points for City future initiatives responding to housing and service needs.

As the City's population continues to age, the specialized needs of older residents require a thoughtful focus. Affordable and appropriate housing, local provision of support and care services, and community design considerations are particular concerns. The City's most important roles will continue to be found in partnering with others to support seniors, and enable their participation as active community members. Housing and transportation concerns, and ensuring involvement of seniors are addressed in other sections.

#### **GOAL**

**To support the independence and well-being of older City residents.**

**Objective 1: Support provision of a coordinated continuum of formal and informal social and care services for seniors.**

#### **Actions**

The City will:

1. Continue to liaise with service providers regarding the development of an effectively planned, coordinated, and integrated system of services and programs for all City seniors.
2. Support initiatives from the North Shore Health Board, provincial authorities, and community agencies which seek to provide effective, integrated services for City seniors.
3. Advocate for adequate provincial and federal funding for housing, support and care services for seniors living in the community.

**Objective 2: Address the support and care service needs of seniors through City policies and initiatives.**

**Actions**

The City will:

1. Facilitate the development of a variety of spaces or facilities appropriate to seniors' needs in higher density residential developments in the core area of Central Lonsdale and other priority locations.
2. Promote the City's interest in development of seniors' housing projects which provide in-house services ("supportive housing") to maintain independence and well-being of residents.
3. Determine, with the assistance of seniors, members of the Services to Seniors Coalition, and the North Shore Health Region, the priority types of space and ideal locations for local delivery of seniors' services, and for programs which facilitate development of social supports.
4. Seek the collaboration of service providers in utilizing existing space or facilities for providing seniors' services on a local basis.
5. Recognize and support the collaborative process involving the North Vancouver Recreation Commission, North Shore Health Region, and seniors' organizations which seeks promotion of active lifestyles for seniors, coordinated recreation programs, and links between recreation and leisure activities, and social and care services.