

Atlantic Seniors Housing  
Research Alliance  
Alliance pour la recherche  
sur le logement des  
personnes âgées dans  
les provinces de l'Atlantique

# Focus Group Findings

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# Acknowledgements

**The following people contributed to the data collection and writing of the report:**

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**Prince Edward Island**

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**New Brunswick**

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# Focus Group Purpose

**To complement and  
enhance the data collected  
in the survey.**



# Research Question

**What factors influence the housing options of underrepresented seniors in Atlantic Canada?**



# 15 Focus Groups Completed with 123 Seniors

- **Aboriginal**
  - 25 seniors in 3 groups
- **Seniors with a Disability**
  - 34 seniors in 4 groups
- **Francophone**
  - 21 seniors in 3 groups
- **Multicultural**
  - 25 seniors in 3 groups
- **Rural**
  - 18 seniors in 2 groups





# Groups by Province

## ➤ Prince Edward Island

- **Aboriginal, Seniors with a Disability, Francophone**

## ➤ New Brunswick

- **Multicultural, Seniors with a Disability, Francophone**



## ➤ **Nova Scotia**

- **Multicultural, Aboriginal, Seniors with a Disability (2), Francophone**

## ➤ **Newfoundland and Labrador**

- **Multicultural, Rural (2)**



## Compared to the survey, the focus groups included more seniors in these categories:

- women
- under age 65, yet identified themselves, or were identified, as a senior in their community
- with a university degree
- employed either full or part-time
- less access to financial resources
- speak a language other than English
- live with people other than a spouse or partner
- live in larger households



- 48% spoke a language other than English or French, or a combination of languages
- High proportion lived with family members other than, or in addition to, a spouse or partner
- 20% lived in households with 4 or more people



# Results

- **Theme 1: Participant characteristics**
- **Theme 2: Housing situation history, plans and preferences**
- **Theme 3: Community-related issues**
- **Theme 4: Relationships, social networks and social roles**
- **Theme 5: Structural and regulatory systems**

**See Final Report Appendices F and H**



# Comparison of Focus Group and Survey Results

- Income
  - Focus group participants had less income
- Health
  - Focus group participants had more difficulty maintaining their home
- Relocation
  - Appeared to be considered more by focus group participants



- Support from family and friends
  - Focus group participants appeared to have less support
- Transportation
  - greater issue for focus group participants
- Future housing preferences
  - Survey: type of housing
  - Focus group: characteristics of housing
- Accessibility
  - More problems in focus group participants



# Add these topics:

- I'd find it helpful to hear about what people are looking for in terms of housing and supports, and maybe a bit about problems with current housing.





# Conclusions

- Similar to the survey participants, many seniors in the focus groups desired to age in place
- There are specific challenges and issues faced by the underrepresented groups including
  - Financial issues, lack of public assistance
  - Health challenges



- Home maintenance
- Social support
- Independence
- Problems with current housing
- Lack of viable housing options
- Lack of services in or near housing
- Seasonal and climate issues
- Regulations



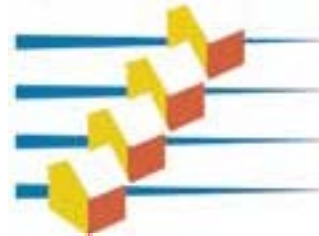
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