



REPORT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2011

Session:	Public Session
Subject:	Strategic Plan: Inclusive and Accessible: Seniors – Progress Report
Prepared By:	Nancy Collister, Heather Heathcote
Presented By:	Nancy Collister
Purpose of Report:	For Receipt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Library Board receive this report.

Issue/Opportunity

The purpose of this report is to inform the Library Board about the progress of the staff project team assigned the task of developing a service strategy and plan for seniors.

Background & Review

The “Inclusive and Accessible Strategy” of the London Public Library (LPL) Strategic Plan identifies the need to review LPL’s services to seniors. London’s population includes many seniors, both active and frail, whose numbers will expand in the coming years. LPL has made many efforts to provide relevant, accessible and high quality services to seniors but based on demographic trends and projections there is a strong need to develop a focused library service strategy for this population.

With the City of London’s “Age Friendly City” initiative there will be opportunities to create strategic alliances resulting in a network of collaborative effort to ensure full participation in the community for older persons and to ensure our services are inclusive and relevant.

The work of the Project Team has been organized into two phases:

- Phase One - conduct research, including an environmental scan of current LPL services to seniors, City of London services to seniors and a review of best

practices of other library systems and service providers; identify relevant service and program concepts for LPL; and

- Phase Two - hold a staff visioning day and finalize recommendations, reporting these to Senior Team.

This will provide the foundation upon which LPL can build its service strategy and plan for seniors.

Progress to Date

The Project Team has completed the research phase and prepared a summary of the findings. This summary, along with key pieces of literature, will be issued to staff participating in the visioning day. Library staff have been involved in a variety of outreach and programming activities including those listed below.

- Staff are active participants on the Age Friendly Task Force. This fall, the Task Force established their vision of London as: “A diverse, vibrant, caring and healthy community which empowers all individuals to age well and have opportunities to achieve their full potential”.
- The Library participated in the second “Building an age friendly London” conference, held Friday November 4, 2011. Library staff were members of the planning committee and supported a conference booth to promote library services.
- The Libro Library Road show participated in events for seniors such as the London Multicultural Seniors Picnic and Rexpo, an annual recreational and leisure show.
- London Public Library staff have been expanding and developing new partner relationships. Working with Third Age Outreach, Council for London Seniors and the Seniors Community Association, the Library will offer a program series: Educational Opportunities for Seniors.
- Staff and the UWO Seniors in I.T. Club have developed a new program, Computers for Older Adults (50+).

Next Steps

Next steps include the following:

- Staff visioning day to be held in January 2012
- Community focus groups to be conducted early 2012
- Project Team to report on findings and recommendations
- Continue to participate on the Age Friendly London Task Force
- Continue to build and develop strategic alliances with organizations focused on serving seniors
- Develop a service strategy, with implementation priorities and timelines, based upon the recommendations from the Project Team