

**Session Identifier: A.2**  
**Session Theme: Aging in Place and Sustainability**  
**Thursday, June 16, 2016**  
**10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

The Role of Aging Populations in Shrinking Cities

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Aging populations are both an effect and driver of urban shrinkage. The inability for shrinking cities to retain or attract young people results in lower birth rates, higher dependency ratios and, often, an unbalanced workforce. The factors contributing to urban shrinkage have been widely discussed in the urban studies and planning literature, however the emergence, influence and interaction of these factors in urban shrinkage processes have received little attention. This paper builds on the established circular causality of urban shrinkage processes by empirically examining the time series relationship of fifteen demographic, migratory, labour and built environment factors. Additional focus is put on the role of aging in the shrinkage process. A novel cross-correlation network analysis is developed to disentangle the complex processes and explore the regional differentiation of urban shrinkage. Cape Breton Regional Municipality, a shrinking and aging city, is examined over a period of seventeen years from 1997 to 2013. Results indicate that factors in the urban shrinkage process are strongly interrelated and exhibit circular trends and feedback mechanisms. Remarkably, trends in aging are positively associated with employment, labour participation and immigration.

The Sustainability of the Aging in Place Industry

Dr. Suzanne Dupuis-Blanchard, Université de Moncton

The majority of older adults want to stay in their homes for as long as possible. This reality generates various thoughts and questions on the part of government, community service agencies, researchers, seniors and families as to available options for support and care for aging in place. Of enormous complexity, aging in place is a multifaceted concept that involves the housing sector, health, communities and public policy. The goal of this presentation is to describe findings from a program of research on aging in place with older adults in the province of New Brunswick. Two qualitative and one mixed-methods study were conducted in the last few years describing the process of aging in place described by adults over the age of 75 years; the service needs of older adults wanting to age in place; and, service agencies' future planning for support and care in the community. Results showcase New Brunswick's ability to represent different Canadian settings in being an officially bilingual province with a rural and urban landscape. Pooling the results from these studies provides a better understanding of the sustainability of the aging in place industry in New Brunswick, including the need to revise services, assess human resources practices and the importance of planning for our future that is aging.

Aging Communities and Rising Seas, a Community Planning and Design Challenge: Case Studies from Nova Scotia

Dr. Patricia Manuel, Dalhousie University; Dr. Eric Rapaport, Dalhousie University; Dr. Janice

Keefe, Mount Saint Vincent University

Rural communities in Atlantic Canada are aging. Sea level is rising along the shores. Individually, these two trends present challenges to community planning and design; together they are formidable, and they are the future of many towns, villages and hamlets in the region. Nova Scotia has the largest proportion of senior citizens of any Canadian province, and many of them are living in rural coastal communities where infrastructure and services are vulnerable to impacts of inundation and storm flooding as the coastline moves inland. Using a case study approach and the understanding of two disciplines – community planning and gerontology – we investigated the relationship between coastal flooding, aging populations, and the infrastructure and services of importance to the health and well-being of elderly residents in Lunenburg and Annapolis Counties, Nova Scotia. We used Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping and analysis, and combined population projections to 2026, spatial distribution of infrastructure and services, location of residential dwellings, and sea level rise and storm flood extent projections in 2025. We examined local policies and plans for responsiveness to both climate change impacts and strategies to support aging populations through community design. Our work shows increasing community vulnerability: assets important for older residents will be impacted under the scenarios used in our studies; and community planning and design are not yet adapted to address the impacts. We have illustrated the need to for informed planning and design to ensure livable, and safe, rural communities of aging citizens living along an increasingly vulnerable coast.