

OPADD Champlain and Algonquin College DSW Programme Team Up to promote Age Friendly Communities

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Saturday November 13th 2010 marked an important day for older adults with developmental disabilities in Ottawa, Ontario. Students from the Developmental Services Worker Program at Algonquin College hosted a critical discussion and cross sector dialogue. Representatives from Community Living, the Developmental Services Sector, City of Ottawa staff, as well as community and health sectors were in attendance.

Speakers ; Louise Plouffe from Health Canada gave the key note address outlining the Age Friendly Communities World Health Organization framework. The Chair of the Ottawa Council on Aging, Lise Chislette, spoke on the Council's three year project to foster more accessible, inclusive, enabling & supportive environments for all seniors in Ottawa. Chair of Seniors Advisory Council, Peter van Boeschoten informed the participants about aging demographics in Ottawa and provide some insights into the ways in which citizens can work with municipal government . All guests viewed the poster presentations made by DSW students, outlining innovative ways in which the DS sector is supporting older adults

Students from the DSW program participated in social action, and ensured inclusion of older adults with disabilities was a featured component of the critical discussion. Participants engaged in a conversation café and small group discussions examining context, capacity, strengths and assets and created propositions for community building.

Follow up to this workshop will focus on renewing the presence of OPADD in the Champlain Region through educational activities and by promoting the engagement of community support services and developmental services organizations in community planning inclusive, age friendly communities . “ All means all” !

Resources

To get some background regarding this event check out the AFC Backgrounder document posted on this site. PDF copies of the three presentations mentioned above are also posted.

Louise Plouffe's presentation gives a great overview of the age friendly communities approach. You may also want to visit

- the **Ontario Senior's Secretariat** web site

<http://www.culture.gov.on.ca/seniors/english/programs/agefriendlycommunities/index.shtml>

- the **Public Health Agency of Canada's** web site (Louise Plouffe's organization)

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/sh-sa/ifa-fiv/2008/initiative-eng.php>

- The **University of Waterloo's AFC web site** <http://afc.uwaterloo.ca/>

Each of these sites gives a good overview of the AFC approach and provides useful links and resources.

Check out our updated website: www.themills.on.ca