

A Clear Path Forward: Seniors' Priorities & Solutions



April 2026

SEED | SENIORS ENGAGEMENT
& EQUITY DIRECTIVE

City of
Summerside

Prince Edward Island, Canada

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brought to Council and its outcome}

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SEED Report Supplement

A SEED Report Supplement has been created as a companion document to support a clearer understanding of the SEED process, document key implementation considerations, and provide draft policy and bylaw language intended to assist city staff and Council in advancing priority actions in a timely and efficient manner.

Introduction

The City of Summerside created the Seniors Engagement & Equity Directive (SEED) Committee in August 2025 to ask local seniors about their needs, concerns, and challenges, and then to recommend actions Council can take to best support older residents in our community. Please see the SEED Supplement (EER—2) for the complete City Council mandate.

This Report provides City Council with a Prioritized Action Plan that:

- 1** Advise Council on **gaps** in current municipal policies, programs, and initiatives that impact seniors.
- 2** **Identify and prioritize key issues** facing older adults in Summerside, with **clear action recommendations** the municipality can take to address them
- 3** Include recommendations for provincial or federal **support, advocacy or partnership**, where such needs are identified



Executive Summary

In the fall of 2025, the City of Summerside established the Seniors Engagement & Equity Directive (SEED) Committee to advance Council's commitment to create an inclusive, accessible, and age-friendly community that supports residents to age in place safely and independently. Consistent with the City's Official Plan, age-friendly principles, and the SEED Committee's terms of reference, the committee was mandated to engage with seniors, prioritize needs, propose actionable recommendations to Council, and identify opportunities for advocacy, coordination, and partnership with provincial partners.

Between September and November 2025, the SEED Committee undertook extensive community engagement via surveys, door-to-door outreach, visits, small-table discussions, and community consultation sessions. Engagement included seniors living independently, in public and private apartment complexes, and in supported housing environments.

Several themes emerged as the highest priorities: transportation, communication, access to health and community care, and practical supports that enable aging in place. Seniors emphasized that remaining independent depends on safe and reliable mobility; clear, timely, and accessible information; and coordinated access to health, housing, and community-based supports that reduce risk, isolation, and unnecessary institutionalization.

Transit and mobility were repeatedly identified as critical to access health care, groceries, social programs, and community life, as gaps in route coverage, scheduling, bus stop and bus accessibility limit access. In response, and building on the Summerside Transit Feasibility Study (2023), the committee recommends creating a municipal transit service that integrates fixed routes with a door-to-door, on-demand, accessible Paratransit Bus service for seniors and people with mobility challenges. This service would provide the city with greater control over service levels, accessibility standards, scheduling, coverage, and communication while enhancing infrastructure through timed stops, benches, shelters, and clear signage.

Communication emerged as a parallel priority: Seniors reported difficulty understanding what local programs and services exist and how to access them. They emphasized the need for a centralized calendar of community programs and events and clear service navigation information as ways to increase awareness, enhance participation, and reduce isolation.

The development of a **Home and Yard Maintenance Program** also emerged as one of the most impactful actions the city could take to help seniors manage and afford routine

tasks such as snow removal, lawn care, minor repairs, and seasonal maintenance, thereby enabling them to maintain their independence and age in place safely.

Seniors further highlighted the importance of accessible infrastructure and amenities to enable mobility, health and social participation, including active transportation pathways, sidewalks and crosswalks; affordable and appropriate housing; and year-round public amenities such as benches, washrooms, and sheltered rest areas. The committee therefore recommends a series of targeted bylaws and policy updates to strengthen accessibility standards, improve the safety and usability of public spaces, and ensure that new development and public infrastructure better support seniors and residents of all ages and abilities.

Provincial

Health care access emerged as the most urgent concern raised by seniors in Summerside. As the most frequent users of primary, specialist, home care, and allied health services, seniors are disproportionately affected by shortages of physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals, which too often result in delayed care, increased emergency department use, prolonged hospital stays, and added stress for families. While health care delivery is a provincial responsibility, the SEED Committee proposes specific actions the city can take to advocate for greater transparency, enhanced coordination, and more proactive and timely health care recruitment, which will ultimately expedite local access and reduce local wait times. These include city-led recruitment efforts (in collaboration with the province); the availability of Summerside-specific health care and wait list data; and regular public updates from Health PEI.

Seniors also emphasized that their limited access to primary and community-based care often means they remain hospitalized while waiting for community placements, which negatively impacts hospital capacity. The committee therefore recommends assessing Summerside community care capacity and the potential need for **an additional community care facility**.

Seniors consistently asked to restore and strengthen the “community” element of **Community Public Long-term Care**. Local community care managers, staff, residents, and families highlighted the positive impacts of well-designed outdoor spaces, safe walking routes, intergenerational interaction, and animal companionship on physical health, mental well-being, and quality of life. In response, the committee recommends creative municipal–provincial partnerships to integrate municipal public amenities with provincial public housing and care facilities.

Housing security is a priority issue that directly impacts the health and independence of seniors. As of November 2025, 52 seniors in Prince County remain on the provincial

wait list for the Seniors Supported Housing Program: the SEED Committee recommends reducing this wait list by 75% over the next three years to reduce unnecessary hospitalizations, support safe transitions from hospital to community settings, and enable seniors to age in place. The committee also supports local proposals to enhance the use and supply of senior social housing, such as maintaining pet ownership and exploring Tiny Home Housing First models.

The SEED Committee is also recommending that the Province explore the development of a **Provincial Seniors' Advocate** position to provide independent oversight and advocacy. Several Canadian provinces (including British Columbia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador, with Manitoba) have recently implemented Seniors' Advocate roles that monitor and analyze seniors' services, identify systemic issues, and make evidence-based recommendations to government to improve outcomes in areas such as health care, housing, income supports, and community services.

Companion Document

These recommendations come with a companion document called the SEED Supplement, which consolidates background information, clarifies process decisions, and includes draft bylaws, policy concepts, and implementation tools that emerged directly from the committee's work. These materials are provided to reduce duplication of effort, shorten development timelines, and support informed internal review by staff across departments.

Collectively, these recommendations and the companion SEED Supplement form a coordinated, phased five-year roadmap that sets Council direction and supports staff-led implementation, sequencing immediate actions and longer-term planning to build a more accessible, connected, and age-friendly Summerside.

Guiding Principles of the Seniors Engagement & Equity Directive (SEED) Committee

The work of the Seniors Engagement & Equity Directive (SEED) Committee was grounded in the City of Summerside Official Plan, its Council-endorsed mandate, and recognized best practices in age-friendly and inclusive community planning. These guiding principles ensure alignment with Council goals while translating policy direction into practical, Summerside-based actions informed by seniors' lived experience.

1. Alignment with the Official Plan and Council Direction

SEED is grounded in the Official Plan's goal to sustain population growth, recognizing that supporting younger working households and planning for an aging population are complementary, not competing, priorities (p. 30). Seniors are an integral part of a complete, inclusive city, and age-friendly planning is a core municipal responsibility rather than a stand-alone initiative.

2. Age-Friendly by Design, Not by Exception

The committee's work furthers the city's vision as an *age-friendly community* and active partner in the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Cities initiative (Official Plan, p. 39) by emphasizing proactive planning that embeds accessibility, inclusion, safety, and social connection into everyday municipal decisions.

3. Evidence-informed and Demographically Responsive

Summerside's Official Plan recognizes demographic trends that clearly indicate a growing seniors population (p. 52). As of the 2021 Census, 24.3% of Summerside's population (3,890 residents) were aged 65, while 39.6% (6,330 residents) were aged 55 and over—meaning, about 40% of the city's population is already 55+ (see the SEED Supplement, EER-1, for more detailed Census information). Rather than treating this shift as a future concern, SEED is the city's response to our present-day reality, as planning for seniors is essential municipal infrastructure critical to economic resilience, service sustainability, and overall community well-being.

4. Aging in Place as a Community Asset

Supporting seniors to age safely, independently, and with dignity in their own homes and neighbourhoods is a guiding objective. Aging in place strengthens neighbourhood stability, reduces avoidable health and housing crises, and enables seniors to continue contributing to their community.

5. Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion

SEED prioritizes equity-based approaches that recognize seniors are not a homogeneous group. Policies and programs must account for differences in income, mobility, health status, housing type, social supports, and access to transportation and

information. Universal design, clear communication, and barrier-free access are baseline expectations.

6. Municipal Action Within Clear Jurisdictional Boundaries

The committee focused on actions that fall within municipal authority or influence, while also identifying areas where the city can play a strong advocacy or partnership role with provincial and community partners to ensure recommendations are realistic, implementable, and respectful of governance roles.

7. Action-oriented and Implementation-focused

The SEED Committee was mandated to move from listening (consultation) to action (implementation) and provide Council and staff with clear direction, practical tools, and phased pathways advanced over multiple budget cycles.

8. Accountability to Lived Experience

At the core of SEED's work was accountability to the voices of seniors themselves. Engagement findings are treated as essential first-person evidence, and recommendations are designed to respond directly to what seniors identified as barriers, gaps, and priorities in their daily lives.

SEED Committee Membership

The City of Summerside believed the SEED Committee should be composed primarily of community members to ensure that lived experience, diverse perspectives, and meaningful community insight informed its work. To achieve this, an open application process allowed any interested resident to apply.

The committee also welcomed additional members over the course of its work as individuals came forward who demonstrated relevant interest, experience, or skills that would strengthen the committee's mandate. Community members were appointed through the City of Summerside's Public Appointment Bylaw process.

During the committee's term, two publicly appointed members—Donna Bell and Catherine Gaudet—withdrawed due to work-related commitments. We make mention of them to honour their work and community dedication during this process.

We thank the members of the SEED Committee below with sincere appreciation and gratitude:

SEED Committee Members:

Mary Jo Bernard (Member of the Public)
Bev Cornish (Member of the Public)
Maureen van Dreumel (Member of the Public)
Peter Holman (Member of the Public)
Glenna Lohnes (Member of the Public)
Anna MacDonald (Member of the Public)
Debbie MacRae (Member of the Public)
Christopher Wheeler (Member of the Public)
Peggy Miles (Staff, City of Summerside)
Ken Trenholm (City Councillor – Chair)

Community Engagement

To fulfill its mandate, the SEED Committee facilitated a comprehensive community engagement process between September 2025 and November 2025 that deliberately met seniors where they live. Rather than relying on centralized city-led public forums, engagement activities were brought directly into neighbourhoods, senior apartment buildings, community spaces, and door-to-door in known senior locations across the city. This approach reduced barriers related to mobility, transportation, health, and accessibility, and supported participation by seniors who may feel excluded from traditional engagement processes.

This engagement model reflects age-friendly and equity-based principles by prioritizing inclusion, dignity, and accessibility to ensure older adults with varying abilities, incomes, and support networks had meaningful opportunities to contribute. By grounding the process in lived experience and familiar environments, the committee was able to capture a more representative and accurate understanding of seniors' needs, priorities, and aspirations.

In the recommendations that follow, items prioritized by seniors during the Community Focus Groups will be identified with the following tag: **TOP SENIOR PRIORITY**

Please refer to the summary of the actions completed by the SEED Committee in [Appendix B](#).



Municipal Recommendations

Revised Prioritized Municipal Action Recommendations (Bold = Community Focus Groups identified as top 5 overall priority at their tables)	
1. City-run Transit + Door to Door Service	15. Outdoor Public Amenities Bylaw
2. Vulnerable Residents' Registry Program	16. Amend Zoning Bylaw for Tiny Home Development
3. Back Up Power & Emergency Outage Bylaw	17. Intersection Sightline Audit
4. Activity Calendar for All Ages	18. Accessible Storefronts for Businesses
5. Annual Summerside Seniors Guide	19. Updated Crosswalk Policy
6. Provincial Partnership Incentives for Walk-In Clinic and Respite Care	20. 5 Year RRFB Plan
7. Affordable Apartment Units Bylaw	21. Active Transportation Plan
8. Sidewalks for New & Existing Streets	22. EV Charging Station Bylaw
9. Home & Yard Maintenance Program	23. Benches In Memory
10. Accessible Emerg Procedures Clause	24. Free / Tiered CUP Membership
11. Secure Lock-Box Bylaw	25. Volunteer Services Directory
12. Mobile Home Policy	26. Active Living & Culture Programming
13. CUP Accessibility Audit	27. List of underused spaces
14. Increase police presence	** Creation of a Veteran's Crosswalk

In addition to these municipal recommendations, there are two administrative recommendations.

1. Annual Review of SEED Recommendations - Highlights the need to ensure transparency, accountability, and ongoing evaluation of progress. It also serves as a mechanism to ensure that the report—and the voices and recommendations of seniors—do not simply sit idle. The committee has often heard this: being heard truly matters only if it leads to meaningful action.

2. The City to Regain its Age-Friendly designation – To obtain a meaningful designation that aligns with one of the Overall Vision statements in the City of Summerside's Official Plan: *We want to be an age friendly community as a participating partner in the joint initiative between the City and the World Health Organization – WHO* (p. 39 Official Plan).

Theme 1: Communication & Information Sharing

Connect seniors to programs, services, and each other

While many activities, programs, and services are available in Summerside, seniors often do not know what is happening, where to find information, or who to contact. This lack of clear and centralized information creates equity and accessibility barriers, particularly for seniors living alone, those with limited mobility, sensory impairments, language barriers, or limited access to technology.

Participants emphasized that the city's role is not necessarily to create additional programming, but rather, to **serve as a central, trusted hub for sharing and coordinating information** about existing programs, services and events. Improving how information is shared—using accessible, consistent, and multi-format approaches—was identified as a key support for seniors to remain connected, informed, and engaged in their community as their needs and abilities change.

Recommendations:

1. Create a centralized **Summerside Activity Calendar website** that lists community activities and events, with direct links to external organizations and service providers. The calendar would include searchable tags (e.g., seniors, youth, families, accessibility, free events, etc.) and allow approved community groups and organizations to submit and manage their own events. See the SEED Supplement (EER-7) for a listing of potential user groups.



TOP SENIOR PRIORITY

I spend a lot of time at home, feeling lonely.

“I am a senior. I also have a disability. I only have a few relatives on the Island. They are also seniors. I visit them a lot. Other than them, I spend a lot of time at home, feeling lonely. How can I find out what's available for seniors like us?”

Seniors being left behind

“Many seniors are being left behind in terms of communication inclusion - the more digital you go the more you are going to leave behind. I am experiencing this firsthand - how are you going to include people like me?”

No central portal

“I don't know what is available to seniors in Summerside. Everything is spread out with no one portal.”

“Programs exist, but they're not connected. It's hard to figure out what's going on.”

Using this platform, the city would also:

- a. Produce a **monthly activity poster** for display on bulletin boards in municipal buildings, the library, and senior apartment complexes, and include it with electric bills.
 - b. Develop a **monthly activity pamphlet** that is both:
 - i. printed and distributed at designated locations across the city, and
 - ii. circulated through an email subscription service.
 - c. Share a **weekly social media post** highlighting “what’s happening this week for seniors in the city.”
2. Create an annual **“Supports & Services for Summerside Seniors road map or guide**, available in both online and print accessible formats. See the SEED Supplement (EER-8) for the layout and examples of how this guide would differ from the provincial guide.
- TOP SENIOR PRIORITY**
3. Use larger font or offer **large-print versions of public materials** where feasible.



Theme 2: Infrastructure, Transportation & Accessibility

Make physical improvements to promote safer and more inclusive participation

In nearly every interaction, seniors identified transportation and mobility as top priorities critical to their full participation in community life. Participants emphasized that an accessible, reliable city-run transit system; accessible outdoor amenities; and barrier-free access to buildings and destinations are inseparable components of independence. Seniors stressed that without dependable transportation, places to rest, accessible washrooms, and the ability to enter buildings safely, many are effectively excluded from community programs, services, and social connections. Furthermore, seniors who use wheelchairs or mobility scooters consistently reported difficulty entering private businesses and accessing washrooms, highlighting the critical role of building-level accessibility in supporting everyday mobility. Together with calls for improved accessibility at Credit Union Place, safer mobility scooter and bicycle routes, increased electrical capacity to support mobility devices, and a community bench sponsorship program, these priorities reflect a shared message: improving everyday infrastructure—both public and private—is essential to dignity, independence, and inclusion for seniors and other vulnerable residents.

Recommendations:

4. Create a new **city-run Local Transit Service** that combines (1) fixed routes and (2) an on-demand by request Paratransit Bus Service that comes to your door for qualified seniors and people with mobility challenges. As the city has already commissioned a Summerside Transit Feasibility Study (2023), current challenges (see SEED Supplement, EER-9) have led the committee to recommend the city begin work on a municipally-led transit system to ensure greater control over service levels, accessibility standards, scheduling, and offering more scheduled times and timed stops, benches, shelters, and signage to better meet the needs of seniors and others. This recommendation strongly aligns with the Province's Net-Zero Action



No wheelchair lift on transit bus

“I was excited to move in this building because it was a bus stop. Then I found out I can’t access transit because there is no wheelchair lift on the bus.”

Inequality based on mobility

“An inaccessible bus means people with no mobility issues are charged \$4 roundtrip, while a person with mobility issues must access a taxi at \$22 roundtrip.”

stay independent and connected

“We desperately need a form of public transit to help seniors stay independent and connected to the community. Seniors are isolated without this.”

Plan. See the SEED Supplement (ITO-1) for a city-run Transit Service and Accessible On-demand Bus introduction. NOTE: A complimentary provincial recommendation explores the feasibility of an island-wide accessible transportation service for seniors (with a companion if required) who need to attend medical appointments or health care services, but lack access to accessible/appropriate transport.

TOP SENIOR PRIORITY

5. Develop an **Outdoor Public Amenities Bylaw** to improve the availability and accessibility of public washrooms, year-round benches, and shaded rest areas. See the SEED Supplement (DBR-1-) for a draft Bylaw.



TOP SENIOR PRIORITY

6. Create accessible **public washroom** facilities along the **Summerside Boardwalk** with proposed locations at (a) The Shipyard, (b) Green Shore, and (c) a midpoint between Green Shore and the western endpoint; however, the SEED Committee recommends prioritizing **Green Shore** based on strong senior feedback during the SEED meetings and findings from the 2025 Parks and Green Space Survey, which identified the Boardwalk as the most frequently used park by residents aged 55+ (with eight out of ten seniors reporting regular use) and highlighted the lack of outdoor amenities—particularly washrooms—as the number one barrier to participation (see the SEED Supplement, EER-10) for full seniors' survey results).






TOP SENIOR PRIORITY

7. Conduct an **Accessibility Audit of Credit Union Place** in accordance with CSA B651 (Accessible Design for the Built Environment) and age-friendly best practices. The audit should identify and address barriers to access and include, but not be limited to, the following:



- a. Review the number and placement of accessible parking spaces closest to front doors.
- b. Consider whether the accessible pool ramp could remain installed and available at all times, including PD days, to support continuous access for users with mobility devices.
- c. Provide both ramped and stepped pool entry options to accommodate a range of mobility needs, consistent with inclusive design principles.

- d. Equip all aisles with handrails that meet CSA B651 standards for continuity, height, and grip.
 - e. Assess whether current pool temperatures (approximately 82°F for regular use and 78°F during competitive swimming) represent an appropriate balance between the needs of seniors, including those in therapeutic programs, and other lap pool users.
 - f. Assess the development of a mobility-access location at the southeast entrance. This assessment would provide an opportunity to review site design, parking accessibility, and circulation patterns to determine whether improvements (such as accessible parking spaces closer to the entrance, enhanced drop-off areas, or improved pathways) could better support seniors and individuals with mobility challenges.
 - g. Clearly identify accessibility features—including handrails, ramps, and accessible routes—on facility maps, ticketing platforms, signage, web pages, and at the front desk to support informed and independent use of the facility.
8. Establish a **Community Benches in Memory Program**, allowing residents to sponsor benches with commemorative plaques along walking routes at no cost to the city. 
9. Promote existing **federal and provincial business accessibility and adaptation funding programs**. Throughout SEED consultations, seniors who use wheelchairs or mobility scooters reported difficulty entering businesses and accessing washrooms. Promotion could include coordinated outreach through city communication channels, including social media, and be timed to align with funding program intake periods and application deadlines to maximize local awareness and uptake. (See the SEED Supplement, EER-11). 
10. Send **letters to businesses** across the city and partner with the Summerside Chamber of Commerce to share key SEED findings and highlight the role private businesses can play to improve mobility and accessibility for seniors. This approach would include both general communications to the broader business community and targeted letters addressing specific accessibility needs. 

Added by Focus Groups

Theme 3: Street Safety & Mobility

Make walking, driving, and crossing the street safer

Sidewalks, crosswalks, and pedestrian safety emerged as one of the most consistently prioritized themes, with residents clearly identifying sidewalks as the foundation of a safe, accessible, and age-friendly city. Notably, the two transportation-related solutions that the community ranked within the overall Top 5 recommendations were:

1. creating a policy requiring sidewalks on all new streets, and
2. developing a phased plan to add sidewalks to existing streets.

Other transportation measures, such as updating the City’s Crosswalk Policy and establishing a five-year Rectangular Flashing Beacon (RRFB) Crosswalk Plan, were also important to engagement participants, ranked as either the number one or two priority at four tables, meaning 8 of the 9 tables identified crosswalks and RRFBs as their top or second-highest transportation concern. This pattern highlights a strong consensus that pedestrian safety improvements—with sidewalks, intersection visibility, and active transportation planning—are critical to enable seniors to age safely in place, maintain independence, and safely and confidently navigate the city.

Recommendations:

11. Support the draft policy requiring **Sidewalks on all New Streets** currently before the Planning Committee and slated for Council review and consideration in early 2026.

TOP SENIOR PRIORITY



12. Develop a **Phased Plan** to build a connected sidewalk network by **Adding Sidewalks to Existing Streets** where they are currently lacking, and, where feasible, considering infrastructure constraints. See the SEED Supplement (ITO-4) for a draft 24-month work plan that includes Council decision points along the way.

TOP SENIOR PRIORITY



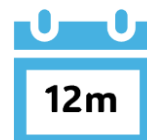
13. Conduct a city-wide **Intersection Sightline Audit** to identify and remove obstructions that limit clear visibility between pedestrians and drivers, recognizing that reduced reaction times make seniors particularly vulnerable at poorly sighted intersections. Specific locations have been shared with the committee or, previously, with the city (see the SEED Supplement, EER-12).



14. Create a **City Crosswalk Policy** (current policy is in draft format, 2012) to align with the most recent edition of the Transportation Association of Canada's Pedestrian Crossing Control Guide (2018) and include accessible pedestrian push buttons, regular inspection and repair of audible signals, installation of Leading Pedestrian Intervals (3–8 seconds), and pedestrian crossing times consistent with TAC guidelines, particularly near hospitals, manors, and areas with higher senior populations. See the SEED Supplement (DBR-7) for recommended changes to the current Crosswalk policy.



15. Establish a prioritized five-year **RRFB crosswalk plan** that would allow the city to proactively include RRFB installations as a recurring item in its annual budget. Given the ongoing and predictable demand for new crosswalks, a defined plan would improve financial planning, support more efficient capital budgeting, and provide residents with greater transparency by clearly communicating the timing and location of future installations.

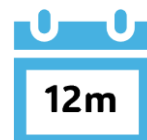


16. Create an **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Bylaw** that requires barrier-free access to sidewalks and building entrances at public facilities and prohibits charging cables from obstructing pedestrian routes. This proposed action aligns with Pillar One: Accessible Design, of the city's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategy. A draft bylaw is included in the SEED Supplement (DBR-8).



Added by Focus Groups

17. Create an **Official Active Transportation Plan** as a Secondary Plan defined by our Official Plan, that explicitly incorporates the mobility, safety, and accessibility needs of seniors by enhancing bicycle lane and mobility scooter connectivity and safety to key high-traffic destinations, and that supports independent mobility for seniors and other vulnerable users, while also aligning with the Province's goal to be Net-Zero by 2040 and reduce transportation GHG emissions.



Added by Focus Groups

18. Establish a **Veterans Crosswalk** in consultation with the Royal Canadian Legion to formally recognize and honour veterans within the city.



Theme 4: Programs & Activities

Review and add to local programs and activities for seniors

While most Community Focus Groups recognized that programs and activities were necessary to reduce social isolation through increased social connections, participants noted that many of the offerings listed already exist throughout the city (Island day trips, computer classes, walking clubs, craft activities, card games, etc.), but that awareness is often limited due to communication challenges. While most did not view it as the city's role to lead such programs, there was a clear consensus on the role of a city-led, centralized online calendar of activities and events to help seniors know what is available and to identify gaps that could be filled by community groups or Active Living or Culture Summerside.

Solutions Recommended:

19. Ask Active Living and/or Culture Summerside to explore suggested programs:

- a. A weekly **Seniors indoor tennis program** at the Dome.
- b. More group **walking clubs**/times
- c. More **indoor physical activities** like senior dancing and Zumba or group strength activities
- d. More **Learn to Play events** (pickleball, tennis, curling, etc.)
- e. The list of activities and events identified by seniors in the SEED Supplement (EER-13).



20. Make a list of **underused spaces** available for future senior programming.



Theme 5: Supports & Services

Enhance independent living through additional resources

During Community Focus Groups, the development of a Home and Yard Maintenance Program emerged as a clear priority, ranking first or second at seven out of nine tables, and reflecting strong concerns about maintaining independence despite physical limitations and seasonal demands while living on fixed incomes. Alongside this, the SEED Committee identified the need for partnership incentives with the Province to support the establishment of senior respite care homes and a walk-in health clinic as priority actions, recognizing their importance in strengthening local care capacity and reducing pressure on existing services. The only other recommendation to consistently rank highly was a complimentary Credit Union Place (CUP) membership for seniors.

Recommendations:

21. In collaboration with the Province, explore targeted incentives to encourage the creation of a **walk-in health clinic** and **senior respite care**.

TOP SENIOR PRIORITY



22. Develop a **Home and Yard Maintenance Program** that matches vetted, skilled workers with seniors who require assistance with tasks such as snow removal, painting, yard clean-ups, and weeding, delivered either at no cost through donations or as a paid service option. See the SEED Supplement (ITO-2) for the operational primer and a pilot program proposal.

TOP SENIOR PRIORITY



23. Offer a **Complimentary Credit Union Place membership** to Summerside seniors who qualify under the Seniors Independence Initiative to support access to recreation, wellness, and social connection for those living on limited incomes. While a universal option ranked as a top priority during Community Focus Groups, the SEED Committee later introduced an income-tested approach.

TOP SENIOR PRIORITY



24. Create a centralized **Volunteer Services Directory for Summerside**, available online and in print, to improve awareness and access to volunteer opportunities for seniors and the general population who are looking to give back to the community.



Theme 6: Housing Affordability & Safety

Help seniors find and keep safe, stable, and affordable homes

Seniors need housing that helps them feel safe and secure and enables them to age in place. This theme received the most priority votes during the Community Focus Groups, with six solutions ranked among the top 16 municipal actions. Participants recommended strengthening safety, housing security, and emergency preparedness for seniors, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable residents by, for example, establishing a Vulnerable Residents Registry; adopting a suite of Housing Security Bylaws to help seniors age in place; implementing an Affordable Housing Units Bylaw informed by long-term rental market data; and supporting mobile-home residents facing potential evictions through a dedicated policy.

Recommendations:

25. Create a **Vulnerable Residents Registry** to support regular, coordinated wellness checks for seniors and persons with disabilities who live alone and lack a formal support network, including an Emergency Billeting and Support System. See the SEED Supplement (ITO-3) for a draft Operational Plan.

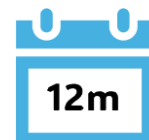
TOP SENIOR PRIORITY



26. Create and adopt a series of **Housing Security Bylaws** to support seniors aging safely in place by strengthening emergency preparedness, first-responder access, and social connections within multi-unit residential buildings:

TOP SENIOR PRIORITY

- a. **Senior Backup Power & Emergency Power Outage Preparedness Bylaw** requiring a minimum level of backup power capacity in senior apartment buildings to sustain essential life-safety systems during outages, alongside a city-administered power outage identification and response protocol for oxygen-dependent residents. See the SEED Supplement (DBR-2) for the draft bylaw.



- b. **Accessible Emergency Procedures for Residential Apartment Buildings Bylaw Clause** as a section in the City of Summerside Emergency Measures Bylaw (or other appropriate bylaw) requiring all residential apartment buildings to post and distribute clear emergency procedures, including



accessible evacuation plans for residents who use wheelchairs or mobility devices when elevators are unavailable. A draft clause is included in the SEED Supplement (DBR-4).

- c. **Secure Lock-Box (Knox Box) Bylaw** requiring all apartment buildings to install an approved master-key lock box to ensure timely emergency access for first responders. See the SEED Supplement (DBR-3) for the draft bylaw.



- d. Amend the Zoning Bylaw CS-40 to include provisions for **Tiny Home Development**, including a clear definition, identification of permitted zones, and establishment of applicable standards.



- 27. Adopt an **Affordable Apartment Units Bylaw** requiring apartment developments above a defined unit threshold to include a minimum number or percentage of affordable units, informed by long-term Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) rental vacancy data. Using a ten-year CMHC vacancy rate trend would help Council distinguish short-term fluctuations—such as the temporary 2025 increase (4.5%)—from persistent structural housing constraints, ensuring affordability requirements are evidence-based and responsive to long-term market conditions. See the SEED Supplement (DBR-5) for a draft bylaw.



TOP SENIOR PRIORITY

- 28. Develop a **Mobile Home Policy** to support the housing security, affordability, and stability that mobile-home residential units provide, recognizing that a significant proportion are owned by seniors. See the SEED Supplement (DBR-6) for a draft bylaw.



TOP SENIOR PRIORITY

- 29. Increase visible **police presence**, including walking patrols, in identified areas of concern to improve safety, deterrence, and community reassurance.



Theme 7: Specific Street Improvements

Make targeted improvements where seniors live or frequently walk

Throughout its engagement, the committee heard that the daily safety of seniors is shaped not only by major corridors, but also by the specific neighbourhood streets they rely on for walking, transit access, medical appointments, shopping, and social connections. The committee has therefore identified several high-use senior corridors where the absence of sidewalks, safe crossings, traffic calming measures, and age-appropriate design poses an immediate safety risk and barrier to their mobility and independence.

30. Frank Mellish Street (Priority #1)

- a. Construct an **Active Transportation (AT) pathway** on Frank Mellish Street to connect MacEwen Road and Roy Boates Avenue. This street lacks sidewalks; includes a transit stop on Frank Mellish; and serves Summerset Manor, Prince County Hospital, two public senior housing apartment complexes, and three private housing apartment complexes. Plus, it will soon be the transportation route for the future PCH Foundation expansion of approximately 16 acres (daycare, medical school, housing).



31. Lefurgey Avenue: (Priority #2)

- a. Construct an **Active Transportation (AT) pathway** on Lefurgey Avenue, adjacent to newly developed low-income housing and a new 46-unit public seniors' housing complex, extending from 225 Lefurgey Avenue to Granville Street.
 - i. "Sidewalks are not enough; we need a wider, paved lane."
 - ii. "I've been hit twice by cars while bicycling this year."



- b. Install a **crosswalk with RRFBs** on Lefurgey Avenue to provide safe access to the trail at Leger Park
- c. Install **two speed humps** on Lefurgey Avenue (between 225 Lefurgey Avenue and Granville Street) to reduce vehicle speeds and improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and mobility-device users.



32. Create or enhance RRFB-supported crosswalks at the following high-traffic locations that seniors frequent:

- a. **Alexandra Street / MacEwen Road**: create a crosswalk from Alexandra and Elizabeth Avenues on the east side of MacEwen Road to reach the west side to the sidewalk
- b. **Water Street East at Starlite Drive**: create a crosswalk from Starlite, Loggie, and Ellis Street.
- c. **Walmart / Superstore**: upgrade the existing crosswalk.



33. Upper Granville:

- a. Increase **pedestrian crossing times** at both the Wendy's intersection and the Walker Avenue/Granville Street crossing to better accommodate seniors and those with slower walking speeds. This item would be addressed with the proposed City Crosswalk Policy.



34. There are other crosswalks or street recommendations brought forward by seniors that reflect more general location recommendations that we ask Technical Services to consider moving forward:

- a. College of Piping (install RRFB)
- b. Canadian Tire/County Fair Mall (create a new crosswalk and signal lights)
- c. Wendy's/County Fair Mall (install a turning lane)
- d. Central Street near the Butcher Shop (create a new crosswalk)
- e. Granville Street at Roy Boates Avenue (new extension: create a crosswalk and sidewalk)
- f. Gallant Street at Walker Avenue (create new crosswalk)
- g. Develop a traffic-calming solution at the Duke Street/Pope Road intersection to address congestion and safety concerns, such as the installation of a dedicated right-turn lane.

Provincial Partnership, Support, and Advocacy Recommendations

The second direction from City Council to the SEED Committee was to identify areas where the City of Summerside can meaningfully advocate and partner with provincial partners, recognizing that many key issues affecting seniors fall outside of direct municipal jurisdiction. This work, however, is grounded in a holistic view of aging that recognizes health care, housing, social connection, mobility, and supportive community environments are interconnected factors essential to seniors' well-being.

Access to timely, quality health care was the most urgent concern raised by seniors, who are disproportionately affected by shortages of physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals, leading to delayed care, increased emergency visits, and added stress for families. The committee sees a meaningful municipal role in advocacy, coordination, recruitment support, and community-based solutions.

Recommendations:

- 1. Improve access to **physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals** to meet the growing health needs of seniors and reduce barriers to timely care:

TOP SENIOR PRIORITY

- a. Establish a **Summerside physician and nurse recruitment committee** of councillors, residents, local health care providers, etc., that collaborates with provincial recruiters but also focuses on promoting this city specifically as a great option for candidates.











- b. Call for provincial action to advance equitable access to same-day, non-emergency primary care across Prince Edward Island by supporting the establishment of a privately operated **walk-in health clinic in Summerside**.



- c. Explore **triage-based care models** that optimize the use of health care professionals within emergency departments and urgent care settings. In several health systems, triage nurses assess incoming patients and determine whether care should be provided by a physician or by a nurse practitioner, depending on the severity and type of condition. Under this approach, patients presenting with minor conditions can be treated by a nurse practitioner, allowing physicians to focus on more urgent or complex cases.



- d. Create a **Monthly Seniors' Health Clinic** offering preventative care, screenings, and coordinated health services in an accessible, community-based setting. 
 - e. Review primary care wait lists to quantify the number of **Summerside seniors still on the list** and develop solutions to reduce those wait times for seniors. 
 - f. Ask Health PEI to publicly release **Summerside-specific data and analysis** related to provincial health-care recruitment and retention efforts. 
 - g. Ask Health PEI to provide twice-a-year **town hall public update sessions** (e.g. early fall, late spring) to Summerside residents to let them know the status of recruitment efforts specific to the city and what is being done to address the ongoing shortage. 
 - h. Provide one-on-one support at Access PEI in Summerside for seniors on the provincial registry without a primary care provider to attend **virtual medical appointments**. 
 - i. Explore the feasibility of an **island-wide accessible transportation service for seniors** (with a companion if required) who need to attend medical appointments or health care services, but lack access to accessible/appropriate transport. 
 - j. Conduct a **seniors' health-care access survey** to document lived experience, referral pathways, wait times, travel burdens, and service gaps to inform advocacy and partnership efforts. 
2. Reduce the **Senior Social Housing** waitlist in Prince County by 75% in three years. As of November 2025, 52 seniors in Prince County are on the provincial wait list for the Seniors Supported Housing Program. 

TOP SENIOR PRIORITY

- a. Accelerate the delivery of new senior social housing units.

b. Allow seniors to keep companion pets when transitioning into senior housing, recognizing the health and emotional benefits.

c. **Building-specific improvement requests** submitted by residents will be forwarded to Public Housing for follow-up (See the SEED Supplement, EER-4, for details).



3. Build creative municipal–provincial partnerships that integrate municipal outdoor public community amenities and therapeutic programming with provincial public **long-term care facilities** to better support seniors across the full continuum of care:

TOP SENIOR PRIORITY

a. Undertake a **Long-Term Care Capacity Assessment** of the short- and long-term need for a new public long-term care facility in Summerside, including financial, social, and system impacts, with a focus on hospital bed pressures and care transitions. Where need is demonstrated, expedite planning for a new community care facility.



b. Develop a **five-year municipal–provincial implementation plan** for Wedgewood Manor and Summerset Manor that prioritizes safe mobility, therapeutic outdoor spaces, and intergenerational connection, including:

i. A publicly accessible safe, well-lit, fully paved **outdoor walking loop** with seating, sensory elements, gardens, art, and social amenities.










ii. An **accessible off-leash dog** area at each manor, with priority consideration for partnership or co-location when new neighbourhood dog parks are planned. The Wedgewood Manor timeline would be 6 months, and Summerset Manor 3-5 years, based on section (v) below.



iii. An **active transportation pathway** along Frank Mellish Drive to support Cycling Without Age and improve access to Summerset Manor.



- iv. An **active transportation pathway** along North Maple Avenue and a pedestrian bridge behind Jennifer Street to connect Wedgewood Manor to the Confederation Trail. 
 - v. Partnership with the Prince County Hospital Foundation to develop an **intergenerational playground** at Summerset Manor to be in close proximity to their new childcare centre. 
 - vi. Inclusion of **Confederation Trail zigzag gate** improvements as discussed in Action 6 below. 
4. Develop **Tiny Home Housing First** options to support individuals transitioning out of homelessness and to provide downsizing options for seniors, improving housing stability, health outcomes, and overall community safety. 
TOP SENIOR PRIORITY
5. Explore the development of a **Provincial Seniors' Advocate** position, similar to the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, to provide independent oversight and advocacy. Several Canadian provinces (including British Columbia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador, with Manitoba) have recently implemented Seniors' Advocate roles that monitor and analyze seniors' services, identify systemic issues, and make evidence-based recommendations to government to improve outcomes in areas such as health care, housing, income supports, and community services. 
6. Adopt the **Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) Act**, which enables the city to intervene in properties repeatedly associated with illegal or unsafe activities that negatively impact neighbourhood safety and vulnerable residents. 
TOP SENIOR PRIORITY
7. Conduct a **Respite Care Needs Assessment** to determine current and projected needs for seniors in Summerside, caregiver experiences, and local system capacity, as a guide for future respite bed availability planning. See the SEED Supplement (DBR-9) for the 

proposed assessment framework.

8. Undertake a **Mobility Device Equity Assessment** to examine whether Islanders aged 65 and over experience reduced or inequitable access to funding for essential mobility devices compared to individuals eligible for disability supports prior to age 65. See the SEED Supplement (DBR-10) for the proposed assessment framework.

9. The **Confederation Trail** is one of Summerside's most heavily used active transportation and recreation corridors. The 2025 Parks and Green Space Survey identified it as the second most-used park among residents aged 55+, with 63.8% (nearly 6 in 10 seniors) reporting regular use, underscoring its importance as a low-barrier, accessible public space that supports independence, mobility, and active living for seniors and residents of all ages and abilities. The committee

Added by Focus Groups

recommends the following actions:



- a. Conduct a **technical assessment** to evaluate the costs and benefits of paving, lighting, benches, and rest stops. Improvements to surface stability, visibility, and rest opportunities would enhance safety and support confident, year-round use, using the paved sections of the Trail in Summerside as a model.

- b. Remove or widen the **gate gaps** to improve accessibility for seniors, people with disabilities, and those using mobility aids, and trishaws used by Wedgewood Manors and Community Connections. Current gate spacing creates physical barriers that reduce confidence, increase fatigue, and discourage use. Redesigned gates would better align with universal and age-friendly design principles.



- c. Provide **winter maintenance** to ensure continuous, safe access. Seniors identified the Trail as essential walking infrastructure, particularly in neighbourhoods without sidewalks. Its separation from traffic, gentle grades, and predictable surface make it safer and more predictable than sidewalks.

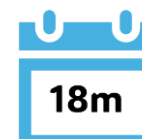


10. Enhance the **Seniors Independence Initiative** to reflect cost-of-living pressures better and improve program effectiveness.

- a. Change funding distribution from annual payments to monthly or quarterly installments to improve financial stability.
- b. Increase income eligibility thresholds to reflect rising living costs:
 - i. Single seniors: increase to \$35,000 (currently \$32,753)
 - ii. Couples: increase to \$45,000 (currently \$41,970)



11. Create a free **annual driver's assessment for residents aged 80 and over**, paired with education, retraining, and supports for those who do not pass, to promote safety while preserving independence and dignity.



Municipal Gaps in Programs and Services for Seniors

The third action mandated by City Council was to identify gaps in services, programs, and supports affecting seniors. Many of these gaps are addressed directly in this report through the recommended actions. To maintain a clear focus on implementable recommendations, remaining municipal service gaps are documented in [Appendix C](#). These gaps, while not accompanied by specific recommendations, are identified to ensure Council awareness.

The Path Forward

This report presents a set of practical, community-driven recommendations developed through the SEED Committee's mandate to identify how the City of Summerside can meaningfully respond to the needs of its aging population. Grounded in extensive engagement with seniors, caregivers, and service providers, the recommendations reflect lived experience and focus on removing barriers that affect daily safety, independence, and quality of life for many of our residents.

The recommendations are intentionally action-oriented and scoped to areas where municipal leadership can make a measurable difference. They focus on initiatives that fall within municipal authority or influence; advance accessibility, equity, and age-friendly outcomes; and support Summerside seniors to age safely and independently in place. Recognizing that many senior-related challenges intersect with provincial responsibilities, the recommendations also emphasize coordination, advocacy, and partnerships with the province—particularly in health care, housing, and community long-term care. Across all themes, priority was given to tangible, Summerside-based

actions that reduce isolation, improve navigation of services, and help prevent avoidable health, housing, and social crises.

To support implementation, this report is accompanied by a companion document—the SEED Supplement. The Supplement consolidates background research, engagement insights, and process considerations, and includes early-stage draft bylaws, policy concepts, and implementation tools, which have emerged directly from the committee’s work. These materials are not prescriptive; rather, they are intended to reduce duplication of effort, clarify policy intent, shorten development timelines, and support informed, cross-departmental staff analysis and legal review. Where appropriate, proposed tools and concepts should be refined in consultation with staff and vetted with the SEED Committee to ensure alignment with the Report's findings.

Taken together, the recommendations and the SEED Supplement establish a coordinated, phased five-year roadmap for action. The roadmap provides clear Council direction while supporting staff-led implementation, sequencing near-term actions alongside longer-term planning and policy development. This approach is designed to be realistic, adaptable across budget cycles, and responsive to evolving community needs, while maintaining a consistent focus on building a more accessible, connected, and age-friendly Summerside.

Appendix A: List of Prioritized Recommendations

Municipal Recommendations

Recommendation	Action # and Priority	Recommended Timeframe				
		6m	12m	18m	24m	3-5y
Communication & Information Sharing						
Activity Calendar	(Action #1, Priority #4) TOP SENIOR PRIORITY	X				
Annual Seniors Guide	(Action #2, Priority #5) TOP SENIOR PRIORITY	X				
Promote provincial and federal accessibility funding programs	(Action #9, Priority #18)	X				
Letter to Businesses re: accessibility storefronts	(Action #10, Priority #18)	X				
Volunteer Services Directory	(Action #24, Priority #25)		X			
Programs and Services						
Community Benches in Memory Program	(Action #8, Priority #23) Added by Focus Groups	X				
Free CUP Membership 65+	(Action #23, Priority #24) TOP SENIOR PRIORITY	X				
Active Living & Culture Summerside: Explore programming ideas	(Action #19, Priority #26)	X				
List of underused spaces that could be used for senior programming	(Action #20, Priority #27)		X			
Vulnerable Residents Registry	(Action #25, Priority #2) TOP SENIOR PRIORITY			X		
Partnerships with Province re: Respite Care and Walk-In Health Clinic Incentives	(Action #21, Priority #6) TOP SENIOR PRIORITY			X		
Accessibility Audit CUP	(Action #7, Priority #13) TOP SENIOR PRIORITY			X		
Transit and Paratransit Bus System	(Action #4, Priority #1) TOP SENIOR PRIORITY				X	
Home and Yard Maintenance Program	(Action #22, Priority #9) TOP SENIOR PRIORITY				X	

Municipal Streets, Infrastructure, & Safety						
Recommendation	Action # and Priority	6m	12m	18m	24m	3-5y
Frank Mellish AT Pathway (Provincial land)	(Action #30) Priority #1	X				
Lefurgey Ave AT Pathway	(Action #31a) Priority #2	X				
Lefurgey Ave Speed Humps	(Action #31c)	X				
Veterans Crosswalk Installation	(Action #18)	X				
Forward other general intersections and crosswalk concerns to Staff for review	(Action #34)	X				
Increase pedestrian crossing times at Walker/Granville & Wendy's/County Fair mall	(Action #33)	X				
Increase Police Presence in known areas	(Action #29, Priority #14)	X				
Washroom Green Shore	(Action #6, Priority #15) TOP SENIOR PRIORITY		X			
Alexandra/MacEwen RRFB	(Action #32a)		X			
Water Street East/Starlite Drive RRFB	(Action #32b)		X			
5-Year RRFB Annual Purchase Plan	(Action #15, Priority #20)		X			
Intersection Sightline Audit	(Action #13, Priority #17)			X		
Lefurgey Ave RRFB	(Action #31b)			X		
Walmart/Superstore RRFB	(Action #32c)			X		
Bylaws & Governance						
Recommendation	Action # and Priority	6m	12m	18m	24m	3-5y
Sidewalks on All New Streets Policy	(Action #11, Priority #8) TOP SENIOR PRIORITY	X				
Accessible Emergency Procedures for Residential Buildings Bylaw Clause	(Action #26b, Priority #10) TOP SENIOR PRIORITY	X				

Bylaws & Governance (con't)						
Recommendation	Action # and Priority	6m	12m	18m	24m	3-5y
Secure Lock-Box Bylaw	(Action #26c, Priority #11) TOP SENIOR PRIORITY	X				
Mobile Home Policy	(Action #28, Priority #12) TOP SENIOR PRIORITY	X				
Backup Power & Emergency Power Outage Preparedness Bylaw	(Action 26a, Priority #3) TOP SENIOR PRIORITY		X			
Outdoor Amenities Bylaw	(Action #5, Priority #15) TOP SENIOR PRIORITY		X			
Update City Crosswalk Policy	(Action #14, Priority #19)		X			
Active Transportation Plan	(Action #17, Priority #21) Added by Focus Groups		X			
Amend Zoning Bylaw CS-40 to include Tiny Home Developments	(Action #26d, Priority #16) TOP SENIOR PRIORITY			X		
Electric Vehicle Charging Station Bylaw	(Action #16, Priority #22) Added by Focus Groups			X		
Phased Plan Sidewalks on Existing Streets	(Action #12, Priority #8) TOP SENIOR PRIORITY				X	
Affordable Apartment Units Bylaw	(Action #27, Priority #7) TOP SENIOR PRIORITY				X	

Provincial Recommendations

Recommendation	Recommended Timeframe				
	6m	12m	18m	24m	3-5y
Increase access to physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals to meet the growing health care needs of seniors and reduce barriers to timely care. The following seven recommendations speak to the solutions.(Action #1)					
TOP SENIOR PRIORITY					
Recommendation	6m	12m	18m	24m	3-5y
a. City-specific Physician/Recruitment Committee	X				
b. Walk-In Clinic in Summerside				X	
c. Explore triage-based emergency care models (NP & PD)		X			
d. Monthly Seniors Clinic			X		
e. Quantify Summerside seniors on the wait list	X				
f. Summerside public data	X				
g. Bi-Annual Town Hall update	X				
h. 1:1 Virtual Medical Appointments Support Access PEI		X			
i. Explore island-wide transportation for medical/health appointments		X			
j. Survey Summerside senior healthy system user experience			X		
Reduce Senior Social Housing wait list in Prince County by 75% in 3 years. (Action #2)					
TOP SENIOR PRIORITY					
Letter to Social Housing to share resident feedback (Action #2c)					
	X				
Build creative municipal–provincial partnerships that integrate municipal outdoor public community amenities and therapeutic programming with provincial public long-term care facilities to better support seniors across the full continuum of care: (Action #3)					
TOP SENIOR PRIORITY					
Recommendation	6m	12m	18m	24m	3-5y
a. New community LTC facility assessment & creation if warranted					X
b i. Paved walking loop with public amenities				X	
b ii. Wedgewood: Dog park	X				
b ii. Summerset: Dog park					X
b iii. Summerset: Frank Mellish AT	X				
b iv. Wedgewood: AT Maple Ave + Jennifer St. bridge					X
b v. Summerset: PCH daycare playground partnership				X	
b vii. Confederation Trail gates (see Action # 9b)	X				

Recommendation	6m	12m	18m	24m	3-5y
Tiny Home Housing First (Action #4) TOP SENIOR PRIORITY					X
Provincial Seniors' Advocate (Action #5)				X	
Safer Communities and Neighbourhood Act (Action #6) TOP SENIOR PRIORITY				X	
Conduct an assessment on current and projected senior respite needs in Summerside (Action #7)			X		
Assess equity of mobility-device funding for seniors (Action #8)				X	
<p>The Confederation Trail is the second most heavily used park for those aged 55+. This level of use underscores the Trail's importance as a low-barrier, accessible public space that supports independence, mobility, and active living for residents of all ages and abilities and informs the following three Committee recommendations. (Action #9)</p> <p>Added by Focus Groups</p>					
a. Conduct a technical assessment to evaluate paving, lighting, and adding more benches.				X	
b. Remove/Widen the Confederation Trail gates	X				
c. Year-round winter maintenance to allow year-round usage		X			
Enhance Seniors Independence Initiative (Action #9)				X	
Free annual driver's assessment 80+ (Action #10)			X		
Frank Mellish AT Pathway (Provincial land) Priority #1 for street infrastructure in the city	X				

Appendix B: Community Engagement

1. Early Background Work

While the committee’s formal work began in September 2025, preliminary engagement was undertaken in the spring of 2025, when the committee Chair met with a range of community service providers to start identifying key issues, gathering background information, and developing an initial list of ideas to inform the committee’s work and invite participation. Before the committee’s launch, the Chair met with over a dozen interested stakeholders, including representatives from the Minister of the Department of Social Development and Seniors, the Seniors Navigator program, the former East Prince Seniors’ Initiative Chair, Age-Friendly PEI, previous City of Summerside Senior Advisory Committee members, and many others, to obtain early input from diverse senior-serving perspectives.

2. Senior Survey

Surveys were available both online and in paper. We hand-delivered the survey to known senior residences, apartment complexes, churches, and senior events, and included it in all electric bills as a paper and electronic mailout. When the surveys were dropped off door-to-door in residences without a common meeting area (ie, duplexes, single family homes, apartments without common rooms), the committee would return on the posted date on the letter and pick up the surveys. While this exercise was time heavy, it also created two opportunities for the committee to invite residents to the survey, and the outcome of the committee, and invite to upcoming Community Focus Groups.

The survey asked two questions:

- 1. What do you think is working well in our community/services for seniors?
- 2. What would you like to see improved or added to better support seniors?

Please visit the SEED Supplement (EER-3) for the complete information received. The committee received 184 completed surveys.

Type of Survey	Total	Percentage
Online Survey	89	48.3%
Paper Surveys	95	51.6%
Totals	184	

3. Senior Complexes Common Room Meetings

The committee conducted outreach visits to senior apartment complexes with common rooms across the city. Two-member teams connected directly with residents to gather

feedback. When possible, committee members also went door to door to personally invite seniors to participate and to ensure that those who were unable or hesitant to attend were still informed and able to share their input through a survey left at their door. Through this approach, 110 seniors participated in the meetings, and a total of 171 seniors were engaged either through meeting attendance or direct, door-to-door outreach. Another 88 solutions were put forward for the committee to consider. For a complete list of buildings visited and the solutions raised, see the SEED Supplement (EER-4).

4. Senior Long Term Care Facilities & Support Provider Meetings

The committee met with residents of Andrews of Summerside and engaged with residents, family members, and leadership teams at Wedgewood Manor and Summerset Manor during their regular monthly family meetings. These conversations provided additional opportunities to hear directly from seniors and those who support them. The committee also met with representatives from the Provincial Geriatric Program, and the input and recommendations shared through these discussions were documented and brought forward for committee consideration.

5. Community Focus Groups

By the time the two 2.5-hour Community Focus Groups were held at the Wilmot Community Centre and the St. Eleanor's Community Centre in November 2025, the committee had collected more than 200 solutions from seniors across the community. Of these, 105 solutions were brought forward to the focus groups (see the SEED Supplement, EER-5, for the complete list). Given the breadth of information already gathered, the purpose of the Community Focus Groups was to help streamline and prioritize seniors' input to guide the committee's next phase of work.

The Community Focus Groups had four key objectives:

1. To gather input from seniors the committee had not yet heard from;
2. To demonstrate to seniors already engaged that their continued participation remains central at every stage of the process;
3. To ask the senior community to help identify the most urgent, impactful, and achievable solutions for municipal action recommended by their peers; and
4. To build a shared understanding of the challenges the committee will face, using the same small-table process to assess priorities.

In total, nine tables of community members participated, with one SEED Committee member facilitating each table. Tables were first asked to identify their top three priorities within each theme: Communications; Infrastructure; Street and Parking Safety; Programs and Activities; Supports and Services; Housing Affordability and Safety; and Provincial Jurisdiction. Each table was then asked to identify its overall top five

priorities. The full outcomes of the Community Focus Groups are provided in the SEED Supplement (EER-6). In the recommendations, items which received senior community priority will be illustrated with the following tag:

TOP SENIOR PRIORITY

This process resulted in 21 priority items that the community identified as requiring the committee's focused attention:

1. City-run Transit (5 tables)
2. Outdoor Public Amenities Bylaw (4 tables)
3. Online Activity Calendar (distribute in summarized paper form) (4 tables)
4. Vulnerable People's Registry (4 tables)
5. Services and Programs for Seniors Guide/Road Map (3 tables)
6. Information Sessions (3 tables)
7. Affordable Housing Units Bylaw (3 tables)
8. Mobile Home Policy (2 tables)
9. Sidewalks on all streets (2 tables)
10. Home and Yard Maintenance Program (2 tables)
11. Power Outage Protocol Bylaw (2 tables)
12. Housing Bylaws (Secure Lock Box Bylaw, Safety & Communications Bylaw, Seniors Common Room Bylaw) (1 table)
13. Summerside-specific Seniors Navigator (1 table)
14. Credit Union Place Discounts (1 table)
15. Community Transportation Program (1 table)
16. More social events and food events (1 table)

Provincial Jurisdiction

17. Health care and physician and nurse recruitment (7 tables – 2 did not rank as taken for granted an issue)
18. Safer Communities & Neighbourhoods Act (2 tables)
19. Walk-in clinic (1 table)
20. Public community care facilities (1 table)
21. Senior Social Housing/Tiny Homes (1 table)

6. Public Consultation on Draft Recommendations

All individuals who provided feedback to the committee and indicated a desire to receive updates were invited—by email, text, or phone—to participate in the November 2025 Community Focus Groups and the January 2026 Public Consultation meetings. These sessions provided the SEED Committee with an opportunity to report back to the

community on its draft recommendations before finalization. A total of 32 people attended the Public Consultation meetings and provided feedback. 49 online and paper surveys were received, with 93.9% supporting the recommendations. EER-14 provides a full quantitative report on the survey results. EER-15 provides qualitative comments and the changes made following the public consultation. This outreach reflected the committee's commitment to transparency, open community dialogue, and ensuring its recommendations reflect the most current and relevant senior-identified priorities. While not every suggestion received or proposal supported by individual committee members could be included, only those recommendations that received a majority vote of the committee were advanced in the final report.

Note on Committee Decision Making

The outcomes of the Community Focus Groups did not represent final SEED Committee recommendations at the time they were held. The SEED Committee subsequently reviewed all information gathered through surveys, meetings, interviews, and focus group parking lot items.

During the 2.5-hour Community Focus Group sessions, participants identified 21 priority items for the committee's consideration. These priorities, along with the full set of solutions collected, over 300 were reviewed, assessed, and further prioritized by the SEED Committee using a structured, small-table decision-making process.

What follows is the result of this comprehensive review and prioritization process and represents the final recommendations of the SEED Committee. The recommendations reflect both the broader body of community input and the significant weight given to the 21 priorities identified by seniors through the Community Focus Groups.

Appendix C: Municipal Gaps

Identified Gap: Physical Drop-In Hub for Seniors

The absence of a centralized, physical drop-in hub for seniors was identified as a gap in the city's current service landscape. At present, most senior-serving programs and supports in Summerside are delivered through a variety of decentralized formats, including individual organizations, program-specific locations, outreach-based services, and virtual or appointment-based models. While this approach allows services to be embedded within existing community organizations, it can also create challenges related to service navigation, visibility, and ease of access—particularly for seniors who are new to the community or unfamiliar with available supports.

During the SEED engagement, some seniors expressed a desire to return to a model similar to the former East Prince Seniors Initiative (EPSI), which previously provided a recognizable physical space for seniors to gather, access information, and receive in-person support. At the same time, it was consistently acknowledged that many of EPSI's former services and supports have since been replaced, redistributed, or expanded across a range of provincially or community-based organizations and venues, including:

- Rotary Library – computer one-on-one training classes, digital literacy, afternoon movie club, and senior-guided information monthly sessions
- Seniors Navigator – assistance in directing seniors to appropriate services and supports
- Parkview Seniors Club – social, recreational, and entertainment activities happening most days of the week.
- Age Friendly PEI – a pan-PEI organization (originally Age Friendly Summerside) that is based in Summerside and provides information, education, and community awareness initiatives.

Finally, while the committee recognizes the potential benefits of a drop-in hub and potentially co-locating services and supports (such as improved coordination, increased visibility, and opportunities for social connection), it also heard clearly that for the majority of seniors, the creation of a centralized physical drop-in hub was not a top-tier priority. In fact, of the nine discussion tables during the Community Focus Groups, only one ranked a physical seniors' hub as a top-three priority within the Supports and Services theme, and no tables identified it as their top five priority across all themes. This suggests that while the concept resonated with some participants, as it did with members of the SEED Committee, it was consistently outweighed by more immediate, practical needs such as transportation, vulnerable residents registry, a suite of housing

safety bylaws, sidewalks on all streets, home and yard maintenance, health care access, and public long-term care priorities. As such, the committee views the concept of a physical drop-in hub as a longer-term or complementary opportunity that should be revisited only after higher-priority, community-identified needs are addressed and following a more precise assessment of demand, accessibility, and operational sustainability.

Identified Gap: Material Performance of Sidewalks in Senior Walking Areas (Asphalt vs Concrete)

Concerns regarding the performance of sidewalk materials—specifically the use of asphalt versus concrete in senior-priority walking areas—emerged consistently during senior engagement. Of the nine discussion tables, five ranked this issue among their top three priorities under the Street and Parking Safety theme, with three identifying it as their top priority. This reflects a high level of support for exploring how sidewalk material choices affect safety, comfort, and usability for older adults.

Seniors identified several perceived advantages of asphalt in local conditions, including improved ice melt during icy and snowy weather due to heat absorption, reduced slipperiness in wet or rainy conditions, and the absence of control joints that can shift with moisture and temperature changes and create uneven walking surfaces. These concerns were grounded in lived experience and day-to-day navigation of sidewalks.

However, when considered alongside all other recommendations across themes, the committee did not advance this item as a priority at this time. While the committee recognizes the merit of further exploration and acknowledges the strong theme-level support, it determined that more immediate, outcome-driven needs—such as sidewalk coverage, connectivity, crosswalk safety, and accessibility—required prioritization. As a result, the exploration of asphalt versus concrete is identified as a gap for future consideration rather than a current priority action, to be revisited as higher-priority safety and accessibility improvements are addressed.

Identified Gap: Downtown Grocery Store

Seniors and residents with mobility limitations identified the lack of a full-service grocery store within or adjacent to the downtown core as a gap affecting daily independence, food security, and the ability to age in place. While this gap disproportionately affects seniors who no longer drive or who live on fixed incomes, the committee viewed downtown grocery access as a broader population-wide issue rather than a senior-specific one; accordingly, it did not advance as a final SEED recommendation. That

said, the committee sees value in potential business incentive or grant-based approaches and notes that, should there be interest from the Economic Development Department, the data and lived-experience findings contained within the SEED Report could directly support such an initiative.

Identified Gap: Electricity

Reliable electricity is foundational to seniors' health, safety, and independence. During SEED Committee outreach, seniors described how electricity underpins nearly every aspect of daily living—particularly for those aging in place, living alone, or managing chronic health conditions.

For many seniors, electricity is essential for:

- Medical and health needs, including oxygen concentrators, CPAP machines, mobility-device charging, medication refrigeration, and home monitoring devices
- Personal safety, such as lighting, elevators, emergency call systems, and powered door access
- Daily living and dignity, including cooking, heating and cooling, laundry, communication, and staying socially connected
- Aging in place, allowing seniors to remain safely in their homes rather than transitioning prematurely to institutional care

Despite their critical importance, specific-electricity-related matters could not be included as a formal recommendation in this report, as the committee is not an expert in the field. That said, the committee believes it is important to explicitly acknowledge and affirm the essential role electricity plays in seniors' well-being. Accordingly, the SEED Committee strongly supports the Summerside Electric Utility's efforts to ensure sufficient system capacity, reliability, and resilience.

Identified Gap: Women's Clothing Stores

The limited availability of women's clothing stores in the city—particularly options that meet the needs of older adults—was identified as a gap during community discussions. Some seniors noted challenges accessing appropriate clothing locally and expressed a desire for greater retail choice without the need to travel outside the city.

However, the senior community and the SEED Committee did not prioritize this gap as a direct role for municipal action. While a business incentive grant for women's clothing retail was presented to the community, and discussed as a committee, the committee determined that municipal incentive tools should be directed toward higher-priority

needs with greater community-wide impact. It is the committee's hope that, as the city's population continues to grow and age, local businesses will view this gap as a market opportunity and respond accordingly.

Instead, the committee recommended focusing business incentives on two priority health and care investments:

- **Senior respite care homes**, providing short-term, flexible supports for seniors while offering relief to families and caregivers; and
- A **walk-in health clinic**, accessible to seniors and the broader community, to improve timely access to primary and non-emergency care while reducing pressure on hospital emergency departments.