

## **CARP Emergency Preparedness and Housing Report December 7, 2012**

### **KEY FINDINGS - Emergency Preparedness**

**While the majority of members are prepared for a natural or man-made disaster, a significant minority are not. Most have escape plans from their homes and emergency supply kits. A surprisingly large proportion of members have lived through emergencies and had to leave their homes.**

**While most members would not require visiting in an emergency, the vast majority know someone they would visit. Members feel first responders will provide the most help in an emergency, but they see a role for a community volunteer network.**

### **Housing**

**The majority of members live in houses they own with a spouse. Few live in co-housing, with an extended family or in a granny flat. Members are somewhat doubtful of the benefits of co-housing, not liking the communal work, but being in favour of the ability of residents to care for each other. While co-housing is seen to be a good idea, only a minority are interested in living this way.**

**In traditional retirement residences, members pay (or expect to pay) about 45% of their income. They value the housekeeping, meals and company of others. Factors which inform their choices of where to live in retirement are independence and affordability, followed by a gracious living environment.**

**Few members live with family, or have considered it, because they don't want to burden their children. Moreover, the global model of parents living with their families is not seen as appropriate for Canada.**

**The wide majority of members believe the government should be investing in seniors' co-housing, but there is little interest in living there. This is because our members are disproportionately homeowners and couples, and do not see the need to use co-housing.**

## **Electoral Preference**

**While the Conservatives remain firmly in first place among members, the Liberals have supplanted the NDP as the second place party, and they have upward momentum, in contrast to a negative slide for the NDP.**

## DETAILED FINDINGS - Emergency Preparedness

CARP members are slightly more likely to be unprepared for a natural or man-made disaster (55%) than they are to be prepared (48%), although most say they are just “not very well prepared” (47%).

***How prepared would you say you are for a major natural or man-made disaster?***

<b>WELL PREPARED</b>	<b>46%</b>
Extremely well prepared	1%
Very well prepared	9%
Well prepared	36%
<b>NOT WELL PREPARED</b>	<b>55%</b>
Not very well prepared	47%
Not at all well prepared	8%

In total, close to 4-in-10 members (18%) or someone they know (21%) have experienced a major disaster (39% total).

***Have you ever or has anyone you know experienced a major natural disaster such as a hurricane, flood or wildfire?***

<b>YES</b>	<b>39%</b>
Yes, me	18%
Yes, someone I know	21%
<b>No</b>	<b>61%</b>

More than one quarter in total (27%) have had to leave their homes in a disaster, and this includes one tenth of respondents (9%).

***Have you or anyone you know ever had to leave your home because of a natural disaster or some other danger?***

<b>YES</b>	<b>27%</b>
Yes, me	9%
Yes, someone I know	18%
<b>No</b>	<b>73%</b>

One half would leave their homes if asked in a disaster (54%), but just fewer would make the decision themselves (41%).

***If you were asked to leave your home because of imminent danger from a natural or man-made disaster, would you leave?***

<b>Yes</b>	54%
<b>Maybe, depending on severity of situation</b>	41%
<b>No</b>	3%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	3%

The wide majority of members (70%) have mapped out a fire escape plan for their homes.

***Do you have an escape plan mapped out for your home in case of fire?***

<b>Yes</b>	70%
<b>No</b>	30%

An even larger majority (80%) keep emergency supplies on hand.

***Do you keep emergency supplies such as a flashlight, batteries, water, food and blankets on hand?***

<b>Yes</b>	80%
<b>No</b>	20%

Two thirds say they could live without power, heat or air conditioning for 4 or 5 days (65%), while just one fifth say they could not (20%).

***Are you prepared to live in your home without power or heat or air conditioning for up to four or five days?***

<b>Yes</b>	65%
<b>No</b>	20%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	15%

Fewer than one fifth would require a visitor if power, heat and air conditioning failed (18%).

***If power and heat or air conditioning were lost, would you require someone to visit with supplies and help?***

<b>Yes</b>	18%
<b>No</b>	67%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	15%

The vast majority say they have someone who could call on them in an emergency (80%).

***Do you have someone who would be able to check on you during a disaster or emergency?***

<b>Yes</b>	80%
<b>No</b>	20%

Four-in-ten would not be able to leave their homes in an emergency (40%), and this includes very few members themselves (4%).

***Do you know anyone elderly, including yourself, who would not be able to leave their home in the event of an emergency or disaster?***

<b>YES</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Yes, me</b>	4%
<b>Yes, someone I know</b>	36%
<b>No</b>	60%

Two thirds know someone at risk they would visit in an emergency (68%).

***Do you know anyone elderly you would call on or visit during an emergency or disaster?***

<b>Yes</b>	68%
<b>No</b>	32%

Police and other first responders are seen to be of the most help in an emergency (24%), followed by a community volunteer network (17%), the Red Cross or Salvation Army (16%), refuge centres for seniors and others (15%) and well-prepared neighbours (12%).

***If a natural or man-made disaster struck your town, which of the following do you think would be the most help to seniors at risk?***

<b>Police, EMS, firefighters</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Network of community volunteers</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Red Cross, Salvation Army</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Refuge centres for seniors, others at risk</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Well prepared individuals helping others</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Military assistance</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Local depots of emergency supplies</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Public Safety Canada Emergency Management</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>9%</b>

## Seniors' Housing

Two thirds of members live with a spouse in a home they own (67%), followed by single adults living in homes they own (20%), and no other housing arrangement is mentioned by more than 1-in-20.

### *How would you describe your housing situation?*

<b>LIVE WITH SPOUSE</b>	<b>71%</b>
Home we own	67%
Home we rent	3%
Retirement residence	1%
<b>LIVE ALONE</b>	<b>26%</b>
Home I own	20%
Home I rent	5%
Retirement residence	1%
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>2%</b>

One tenth live in (1%) or know someone who lives in co-housing (8%, total 9%).

### *Do you, or does anyone you know live in what is called co-housing, in which people share kitchen, living and dining quarters, but have separate sleeping quarters?*

<b>YES</b>	<b>9%</b>
Yes, me	1%
Yes, someone I know	8%
<b>No</b>	<b>91%</b>

One half of members are not in favour of the communal labour involved in co-housing (51%), because they are willing to pay for their services (16%). One third are in favour of communal labour (33%), mostly because it keeps costs down (12%).

***In co-housing, the residents share the cooking, cleaning and household duties. Would you be willing to take part in these activities in your retirement?***

<b>YES</b>	<b>33%</b>
If it keeps costs down	12%
I do it anyway	7%
It would keep me busy	6%
OTHER	8%
<b>NO</b>	<b>51%</b>
I'm willing to pay for service	16%
Don't want to work when I'm retired	6%
Not physically able	6%
OTHER	23%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>17%</b>

Just fewer than one quarter of members live in, or know someone who lives in either a multi-generational family home or a "granny flat" separate from the house (22% each). In each case, it is not the member, but someone they know.

***Do you or does anyone you know live in an extended, multi-generational family home?/Do you or does anyone you know live with family but in a separate "granny flat"?***

	<b>Family Home</b>	<b>Granny Flat</b>
<b>YES</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>22%</b>
Yes, me	3%	2%
Yes, someone I know	19%	20%
<b>No</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>78%</b>



Most members want to move into a retirement residence when they leave their homes (59%), but a significant minority opt for seniors' co-housing (13%).

***If the time comes when you can no longer stay in your own home, where do you want to go?***

<b>Retirement residence</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>Seniors' co-housing</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Live with family</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Nursing home</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Live with friends</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>13%</b>

More than half say they are unlikely to use seniors' co-housing (55%), compared to just more than a third who would be likely to do so (36%).

***How likely would you be to move into seniors' co-housing at some point, with common living, kitchen and recreation areas, but separate living quarters?***

<b>LIKELY</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Very likely</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Somewhat likely</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>NOT LIKELY</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>Not very likely</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Not at all likely</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>9%</b>

More than half of members think co-housing for seniors is a good idea (53%), mostly because it allows residents to care for each other (25%). One third do not think it a good idea (32%), because of privacy concerns (14%) and a distaste for the discussion communal living entails (13%).

***Which of the following best describes your reaction to the idea of seniors' co-housing, with common kitchen, eating, living and recreational areas, but private living quarters?***

<b>GOOD IDEA</b>	<b>53%</b>
People can take care of each other	25%
Keeps seniors engaged, in the loop	13%
Keeps costs down	7%
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>8%</b>
Neither a good idea nor not such a good idea	9%
<b>NOT SUCH A GOOD IDEA</b>	<b>32%</b>
No privacy	14%
Too much discussion, consensus required	13%
Want someone else to do the work	1%
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>4%%</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>6</b>

One half would require living, dining and kitchen facilities in a retirement residence (47%), whereas one third would not (34%).

***If you chose to live in a retirement residence (or if you do now), would you (or do you) require a full kitchen and dining area?***

<b>Yes</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>19%</b>

Members pay (or expect to pay) on average, about 45% of their income on retirement living in a residence.

***If you chose to live in a retirement residence (or if you do now), what would you expect to pay (or what do you pay) as a percentage of your annual income?***

<b>Less than 20%</b>	5%
<b>20% to 30%</b>	17%
<b>30% to 40%</b>	17%
<b>40% to 50%</b>	16%
<b>50% to 60%</b>	13%
<b>60% to 70%</b>	7%
<b>70% to 80%</b>	5%
<b>80% to 90%</b>	2%
<b>90% to 100%</b>	1%
<b>AVERAGE PERCENTAGE</b>	<b>~ 45%</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	18%

Independence and affordability are the two factors which most inform the choice of where to live in retirement (22% each), followed by gracious living (15%), location near family/friends (12%), access to care and privacy (10% each).

***Which one factor would be most important (or was most important) in choosing your retirement living arrangements?***

<b>Independence</b>	22%
<b>Affordability</b>	22%
<b>Quality accommodations/gracious living</b>	15%
<b>Location/close to family/friends</b>	12%
<b>Access to care/help</b>	10%
<b>Privacy</b>	10%
<b>Company of others</b>	3%
<b>Room for my things</b>	2%
<b>OTHER</b>	1%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	4%

Housekeeping/meals are the service most valued in retirement residences (33%), followed by the company of others (17%) and a nurse on staff (11%).

***If you were a resident of a retirement residence (or if you are one now), which one service or feature would you (or do you) value the most?***

<b>Housekeeping/meals</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Company of other seniors</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Nurse on staff</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Recreation areas</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Linen/laundry</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Parking</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Pool/spa</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>17%</b>

One fifth of members have discussed living with family (21%) but few are planning to do so (2%). Three quarters have not had this discussion (78%), mostly because they don't want to burden their children (36%).

***Have you ever discussed living with your family when you can no longer live in your own home?***

<b>YES</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>It's one option</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Decided against it</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Planning to do this</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>NO</b>	<b>78%</b>
<b>Don't want to burden kids</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Have no family/few family</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Never occurred to me/us</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>16%</b>

There is a split in opinion on whether the international model of parents living with their children is appropriate (46%) or not (43%) in Canada.

***In many cultures, family elders live out their lives with family. Is this cultural model appropriate for Canada?***

<b>APPROPRIATE</b>	<b>46%</b>
Very appropriate	7%
Somewhat appropriate	39%
<b>NOT APPROPRIATE</b>	<b>43%</b>
Not very appropriate	36%
Not at all appropriate	7%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>11%</b>

Most members, if they lived with family would require a suite with living and cooking facilities as well as a bathroom (22%) or at least a suite with a bathroom (28%). Few would accept a bedroom only (8%).

***If you were to live with family, would you require your own suite, or would your own bedroom be enough?***

<b>Suite with bathroom</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Suite with bathroom/kitchen/living room</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Won't live with family</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Suite with bathroom and kitchen</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Bedroom only</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>NO FAMILY</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>4%</b>

Three quarters agree the government should invest in seniors' co-housing (75%).

***Do you agree or disagree the federal government and the provinces should invest in developing co-housing for seniors to help accommodate the coming wave of baby boomers?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>75%</b>
Agree strongly	27%
Agree	48%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>13%</b>
Disagree	10%
Disagree strongly	3%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>13%</b>

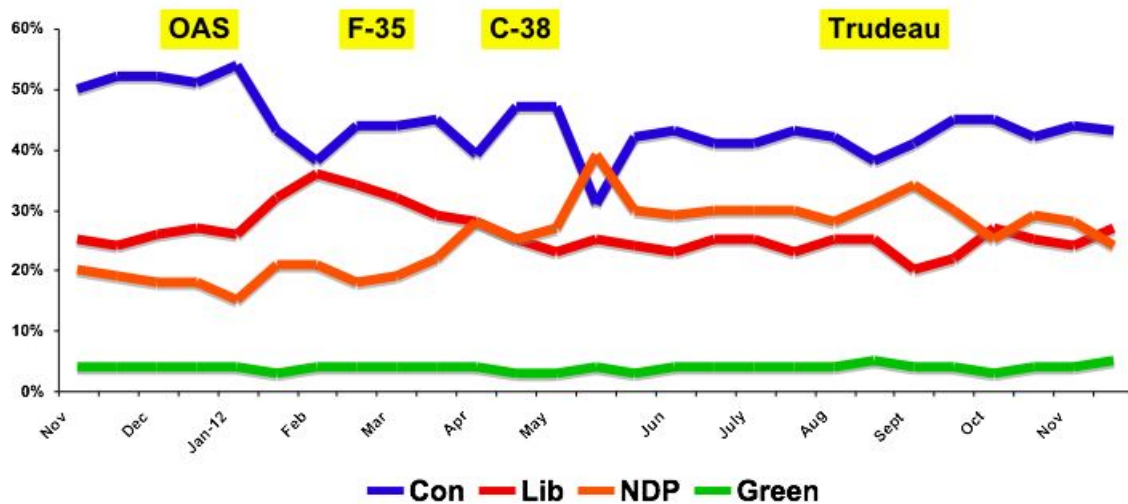
The wide majority think the need for supplemental family housing (79%) outweighs the goals of restrictive building codes (6%)

***In many municipalities, there are building code by-laws preventing the construction of separate seniors' apartments, or "granny flats", Does the need for family housing for seniors outweigh the legitimate objectives of these by-laws?***

<b>Housing outweighs by-laws</b>	79%
<b>By-laws outweigh housing</b>	6%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	14%

## Electoral Preference

The Conservatives are still firmly in first place, but have levelled off ( 43%). The Liberals have regained the “Trudeau Bounce” and are now back in second place with 27% to the NDP’s 24%.



***More than 2400 CARP Poll™ panel members responded to this poll between November 16 and 20. The margin of error for a probability sample this size is plus or minus 2.0%, 19 times out of 20. That is, if you asked all members of the CARP Poll™ panel the identical questions, their responses would be within 2%, either up or down, of the results shown here, 95% of the time***