

## **CARP Age Friendly Cities Poll Report June 16, 2015**

### **Key Findings**

**CARP members for the most part do not plan to move and two thirds say their current home is suitable for aging in place. It is important to fully three quarters that they don't have to move again as they age. Those who have moved are most likely to have moved from a big city, while those who plan to move plan to go to smaller centres. Members currently are evenly split between big cities and smaller centres/rural areas.**

**Downsizing is the key reason for moving, followed by moving to assisted living. More members say they will have the funds to enjoy their previous lifestyle after they move than say they won't. Two thirds currently have needed services and amenities close by, the most important being health care and medical professionals, followed by groceries and transit. Virtually all members characterize their access to these needed services as easy.**

**There is an even split over whether transit to all parts is more important than many community hubs which reduce the need for travel. Good roads and parking are seen to be twice as important as transit, both in cities and smaller centres.**

**Housing in members' communities is not seen as particularly affordable for older Canadians although it is generally available. The majority believes older people can't afford to live in Canada's big cities, especially Vancouver and Toronto.**

**Members approve of the federal government's proposal for voluntary CPP expansion, but half want to see it structured so matched employer contributions are mandatory. One quarter prefer the plan as proposed, voluntary for employees and employers.**

**The Conservatives and the Liberals are now tied, due to the NDP sharply increasing, both in vote share and expectations of victory. The three parties are headed to parity.**

## Detailed Findings

Just more than a tenth of CARP members plan to move as they age (12%).

***Do you have plans to move to a more convenient location, closer to services and amenities?***

<b>Yes</b>	12%
<b>No</b>	78%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	10%

Just less than half of members live in big city environments (45%), while the majority live in smaller cities, towns or in rural areas (51%). Those who plan to move, plan primarily to move into big cities (55%), rather than smaller areas (43%). Those who have moved already, however, favour smaller centres (56%) over cities (34%).

***In what kind of environment do you live/From where did you move to there, if you moved recently/To what kind of environment will you move, if you're planning to move soon?***

	<b>Live Now</b>	<b>Moved From</b>	<b>Move To</b>
<b>URBAN</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>34%</b>
Downtown, big city	13%	20%	14%
Outskirts, big city	32%	35%	20%
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>56%</b>
Downtown, medium city	10%	10%	20%
Outskirts, medium city	22%	15%	21%
Small town	9%	7%	9%
Rural	10%	11%	6%
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>10%</b>

The two most important reasons for moving are to downsize (33%) and because assisted living care will be needed (31%).

***What is the most important reason you will move eventually?***

<b>Downsizing</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Will need assisted living care</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Move into town/closer to amenities</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>To be closer to family</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Move out of town/more affordable</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Retire to vacation property</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Move downtown/closer to culture</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>7%</b>

A third of members say they will have the funds to continue their lifestyle after moving (33%) while half this group says they will not (16%). Three-in-ten say moving won't make any difference to their economic status (30%). Just under a tenth say their situation is so poor it can't get any worse (7%).

***Will you have the funds to enjoy your current lifestyle after you move?***

<b>Yes</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>No difference</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Can't get worse</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>12%</b>

Two-thirds say the home they live in now is suitable for aging in place (65%).

***Is the home you live in now suitable for aging in place?***

<b>Yes</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>8%</b>

Three quarters say it is important that they don't have to move again as they age (76%).

***How important is it to you that you do not have to move again as you age?***

<b>IMPORTANT</b>	<b>76%</b>
Very important	36%
Important	40%
<b>NOT IMPORTANT</b>	<b>22%</b>
Not very important	19%
Not at all important	3%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>3%</b>

Two thirds have those amenities and services they need for aging in place (67%).

***Do you currently have the services and amenities you will require for aging in place near your home?***

<b>Yes</b>	<b>67%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>12%</b>

Health care is the most important service to have nearby (48%), followed by groceries (27%) and transit (12%).

***Which is the most important service or amenity to have close to your home?***

<b>Doctor/clinic/hospital/health care</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>Groceries</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Transit</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Access to downtown</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Access to highway</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Banking</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>4%</b>

Virtually all members (93%) say it is very easy (37%) or easy (56%) to access necessary services.

***How easy is it for you to access necessary services like doctors, banking and shopping?***

<b>EASY</b>	<b>93%</b>
Very easy	37%
Easy	56%
<b>DIFFICULT</b>	<b>6%</b>
Difficult	6%
Very difficult	*

Close to half of members think services should be located where people live (46%) while about 3-in-10 think people should move near services (29%).

***Is it the responsibility of communities to ensure services are located where people live or is it residents' responsibility to move where services are located?***

<b>Services must be located where people live</b>	46%
<b>People must move near services</b>	29%
<b>NEITHER</b>	16%
<b>OTHER</b>	3%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	6%

There is an even split in preference between having transit that goes to all parts of a city (44%), or having many community hubs which reduce travel (46%).

***Which is more important in a large city, to have effective transit across the city allowing access to anywhere, or having many smaller community hubs so travel is not required?***

<b>Transit to anywhere</b>	44%
<b>Community hubs</b>	46%
<b>OTHER</b>	2%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	8%

Roads and parking are seen to be more important for a city (61%) than good transit (35%).

***Which is more important to you in the community you live in, effective transit or good roads and lots of parking?***

<b>TRANSIT</b>	<b>35%</b>
I live in a city	24%
I don't live in a city	11%
<b>ROADS/PARKING</b>	<b>61%</b>
I live in a city	35%
I don't live in a city	26%
<b>OTHER</b>	2%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	2%

One half say housing isn't affordable for older Canadians in their city (53%).

***How affordable is the available housing for older people in your community?***

<b>AFFORDABLE</b>	<b>31%</b>
Very affordable	2%
Affordable	29%
<b>NOT AFFORDABLE</b>	<b>53%</b>
Not very affordable	42%
Not at all affordable	11%
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	16%

Housing is seen to be available where members live (77%), although is restricted to "some choice" (62%).

***Is housing actually available in your community, whether it is affordable or not?***

<b>YES</b>	<b>77%</b>
Lots of choice	15%
Some choice	62%
<b>NO</b>	<b>22%</b>
Not really	20%
Not at all	2%

Members would either like to live in a house in town (18%) or a condo in the heart of a big city (17%), followed by an apartment in town (10%).

***Where would you live if you could, and if cost weren't an object?***

<b>House in a town</b>	18%
<b>Condo, downtown in a big city</b>	17%
<b>Apartment in a town</b>	10%
<b>South/tropics</b>	9%
<b>House in a big city</b>	9%
<b>Assisted living residence</b>	9%
<b>House in a village</b>	8%
<b>Farm or country property</b>	5%
<b>Vacation property</b>	5%
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	10%

Close to half believe older Canadians can't afford to live in Canada's big cities (46%), and the remainder believe Toronto and Vancouver at least are out of bounds (35%).

***As far as you know, can older Canadians afford to live in Canada's large cities?***

<b>Not in most large cities</b>	46%
<b>Not in Vancouver or Toronto, but elsewhere</b>	35%
<b>Yes, in all large cities</b>	6%
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	14%

Two thirds approve of the federal government's proposed voluntary expansion of CPP (66%).

***The federal government has proposed a voluntary expansion of CPP, where Canadians could contribute above the mandatory minimum if they wished and receive enhanced benefits. Do you approve or disapprove of this proposal?***

<b>APPROVE</b>	<b>66%</b>
<b>Approve strongly</b>	21%
<b>Approve</b>	45%
<b>DISAPPROVE</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>Disapprove</b>	14%
<b>Disapprove strongly</b>	10%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	11%

Members are relatively equally interested in seeing this proposal with mandatory employee participation and mandatory employer contributions (28%), the proposal as planned (no mandatory participation, no matching employer contributions - 22%) or voluntary participation with mandatory employer contributions (22%). Very few want mandatory employee participation with no matching contributions (4%).

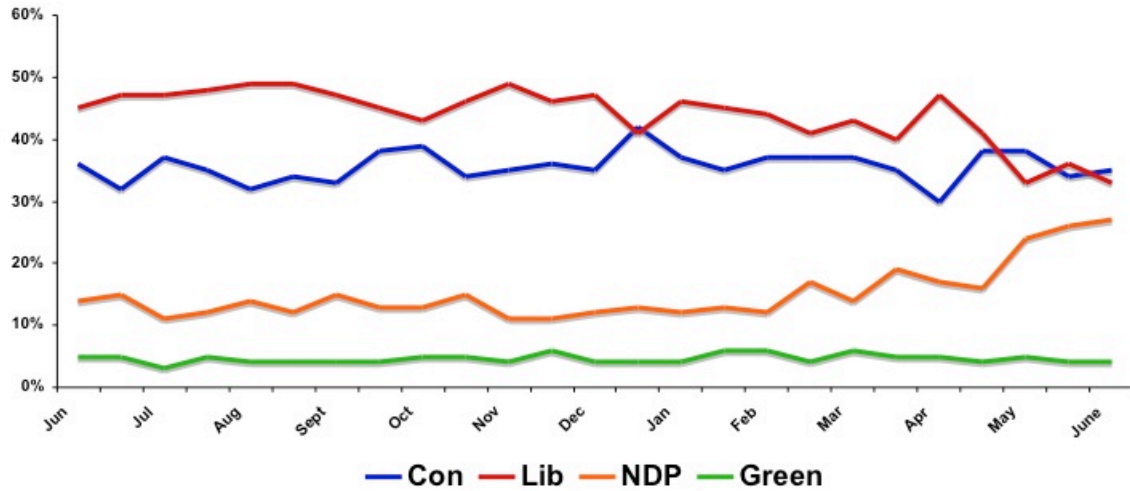
***Which of the following would make this proposal attractive enough to you to make you switch your vote from the party you usually vote for?***

<b>Mandatory for employees/mandatory employer contributions</b>	28%
<b>Voluntary for employees/ no matching employer contributions</b>	22%
<b>Voluntary for employees/mandatory employer contributions</b>	22%
<b>Mandatory for employees/no matching employer contributions</b>	4%
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	28%



## Electoral Preference

The Liberals (35%) are now tied with the Conservatives (33%), while the NDP have eaten into the Liberal lead (27%). The parties are trending towards parity.



Most members expect the Conservatives to win the next election (51%), followed by the Liberals (30%). The NDP does better on this measure recently (18%).

### *Which party do you EXPECT to win the next election?*

	Mar 24	Apr 10	Apr 27	May 19	June 4	June 16
<b>Liberals</b>	40%	45%	37%	34%	32%	30%
<b>Conservatives</b>	54%	48%	56%	54%	48%	51%
<b>NDP</b>	1%	6%	5%	11%	17%	18%
<b>Green</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*

**More than 2700 CARP Poll™ online panel members responded to this poll between June 4 and 7, 2015. The margin of error for a probability sample this size is about plus or minus 2%, 19 times out of 20**