

## **CARP Accessibility Poll Report August 14, 2015**

### **Key Findings**

**Few members have mobility challenges, those who do include those subject to falls, relatively few members live in specifically accessible homes, they are split on whether they would move or retrofit to achieve accessibility and they agree accessibility can be built into homes without decreasing their value.**

**While relatively few members use mobility assisting devices, many know someone else who does, primarily canes and walkers. Most say it would be difficult for a mobility challenged person to get around in their house, and a significant minority have or know someone who has fallen due to lack of accessibility or mobility aids.**

**Stairs are the biggest obstacle to mobility in a home, and many members have retrofitted their homes accordingly, installing grab rails, walk-in baths and stair lifts. The vast majority know of the connection between drug interactions and falls, and the majority know someone who is prone to falling, many because of drug interactions.**

**The majority of members exercise partly with the goal of preventing falls, and a quarter live on their own. There is agreement removing carpet and area rugs and adding non-slip surfaces is the best step to prevent falls in the home.**

**Most say their home would provide an easy escape in time of emergency, half live on one floor (many, presumably, in apartments), few have an alternate escape route besides the stairs. About one third of members live in homes which could be considered accessible and mobility friendly from a number of perspectives.**

**Members are equally likely to say they would move or retrofit if mobility were an issue, and they are also split on whether they would wait until necessary or be proactive now. Cost is the primary factor in deciding to retrofit or move, and there is some concern about resale value in the case of retrofitting, but a majority of members agree if universal accessibility were built into homes from the start, their value would be increased.**

**The three leading parties are now almost exactly tied in member preference with one third of the vote each.**

## Detailed Findings

One fifth of members use assistive devices (20%), primarily a cane (12%), while as many as 8-in-10 members know someone using a device (81%), in this case, primarily a walker (40%).

***Do you use any kind of assistive device such as a walker, a cane, a mobility scooter or a motorized wheelchair/Do you know someone else who uses an assistive device?***

	<b>Me</b>	<b>Someone else</b>
<b>YES</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>81%</b>
<b>Cane</b>	12%	23%
<b>Walker</b>	5%	40%
<b>Mobility scooter</b>	1%	7%
<b>Motorized wheelchair</b>	*	8%
<b>Something else</b>	1%	4%
<b>NO</b>	81%	19%

Six-in-ten members say it would be difficult for a mobility challenged person to get around in their home (60%), and about one quarter characterize it as very difficult (23%).

***How difficult or easy would it be for frail or mobility challenged seniors to get around in your home?***

<b>DIFFICULT</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>Very difficult</b>	23%
<b>Somewhat difficult</b>	37%
<b>EASY</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Somewhat easy</b>	26%
<b>Very easy</b>	14%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	1%

In 4-in-10 cases (40%) members have, or know someone who has fallen because of lack of accessibility, usually someone they know (31%).

***Have you or has anyone you know injured themselves in a fall caused by lack of accessibility or mobility aids in the home?***

<b>YES</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Me</b>	6%
<b>Spouse</b>	3%
<b>Someone else</b>	31%
<b>NO</b>	<b>60%</b>

Stairs are seen as the biggest single mobility obstacle in a home (51%).

***What is the obstacle to mobility in the home you or those you know encounter the most frequently?***

<b>Stairs</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>Lack of handrails</b>	5%
<b>Small bathrooms</b>	4%
<b>Lack of ramps</b>	4%
<b>Raised thresholds</b>	4%
<b>Narrow hallways</b>	4%
<b>Inaccessible kitchen/stovetops/counters</b>	3%
<b>Lack of automatic doors</b>	1%
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	5%
<b>NO ONE USES ASSISTIVE DEVICES</b>	19%

Two thirds agree that building codes should require all new homes be built with accessibility in mind (65%).

***Do you agree or disagree the residential building codes in your province should require all new homes to be built with universal accessibility and mobility in mind?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	27%
<b>Agree</b>	38%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	22%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	5%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	9%

Four-in-ten members have renovated their homes in some way to make them more accessible, starting with grab rails (16%). Others they know are more likely to have retrofitted (54%), and this is most likely to be grab rails (12%), stair lifts (11%) and walk-in baths (10%).

***How have you renovated or retrofitted your home to be more accessible as you age?***

	<b>You</b>	<b>Someone Else</b>
<b>HAVE RENO'D/RETROFITTED</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>Grab rails</b>	16%	12%
<b>Walk-in bath/seated shower</b>	7%	10%
<b>Moved to accessible home</b>	6%	8%
<b>Non-slip surfaces</b>	2%	1%
<b>Wider doors</b>	2%	1%
<b>Stair lift</b>	2%	11%
<b>Ramps</b>	1%	7%
<b>Level thresholds</b>	1%	1%
<b>OTHER</b>	3%	3%
<b>HAVE NOT RENO'D/RETROFITTED</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>46%</b>

The vast majority are aware drug interactions can cause falls (92%).

***Interactions between drugs can cause unsteadiness, leading to falls. Were you aware of this?***

<b>Yes</b>	92%
<b>No</b>	8%

The majority of members say they, or someone they know is prone to falls (58%), while less than half this proportion are prone to falls due to drug interactions (21%).

***Are you, or is anyone you know prone to falls/Are you, or is anyone you know prone to falls due to drug interactions?***

	<b>Falls</b>	<b>Falls Due To Drugs</b>
<b>YES</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Me</b>	14%	2%
<b>Spouse</b>	8%	2%
<b>Friend or family</b>	18%	8%
<b>Someone I know</b>	19%	8%
<b>NO</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>79%</b>

Three quarters exercise at least partially to avoid falls (77%).

***Exercise is a good way to maintain mobility and prevent falls. Do you approach exercise with this goal in mind?***

<b>Yes</b>	77%
<b>No</b>	19%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	4%

One quarter live alone (26%).

***Living alone increases the incidence of falls and accidents. Do you live alone or not?***

<b>Yes, live alone</b>	26%
<b>No, live with others</b>	74%

Carpets and area rugs are seen to be a cause of falls (16%), and non-slip surfaces will prevent falls (18%), as will grab rails (15%), mobility devices (12%) and walk-in baths or seated showers (11%).

***What is the one best way to prevent falls in the home?***

<b>No carpets or area rugs</b>	22%
<b>Non-slip surfaces</b>	18%
<b>Grab rails</b>	15%
<b>Use scooters/walkers/canes, etc</b>	12%
<b>Walk-in baths/seated showers</b>	11%
<b>Ramps, lowered thresholds</b>	4%
<b>Wider doors</b>	*
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	17%

The majority say it would be easy for a mobility-challenged person to leave their home quickly in an emergency (55%).

***In the event of an emergency, how easy would it be for a mobility challenged or frail senior leave your home quickly?***

<b>EASY</b>	<b>55%</b>
Very easy	13%
Somewhat easy	42%
<b>NOT EAST</b>	<b>43%</b>
Not very easy	29%
Not at all easy	14%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>2%</b>

One half live on one floor (47%).

***In the next section, we ask questions that would be asked by a person with restricted mobility. Please answer as if you used a wheelchair or walker or were prone to falling. Do you live on one floor or on two or more floors?***

<b>One floor</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>Two or more floors</b>	<b>54%</b>

One third of those who live on more than one floor have an emergency escape route (23% total).

***Do you have an alternative escape route from upper floors besides the stairs, in case of fire?***

<b>Yes</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>LIVE ON ONE FLOOR</b>	<b>33%</b>

Just more than one third in total have a bathroom and bedroom on their main floor, and this is about two thirds of those on two floors or more.

***If you live on more than one floor, is there a bedroom and a bathroom on the main floor?***

<b>Yes</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>LIVE ON ONE FLOOR</b>	<b>40%</b>

Three-in-ten members have grab rails in their bathrooms (30%).

***Do you have grab bars near the toilet in the bathroom of your home?***

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

Half of members have a walk-in shower or tub (49%).

***Do you have a walk-in shower or tub?***

<b>Yes</b>	49%
<b>No</b>	51%

One third have room to use the bathroom sink from a wheelchair (33%).

***Is there room to use the sink in your bathroom from a wheelchair?***

<b>Yes</b>	33%
<b>No</b>	67%

About one quarter have enough room for a wheelchair to maneuver in their houses (23%).

***A wheelchair requires a turning radius of five feet. Do you have this much space in your home in hallways, washrooms and entrances?***

<b>Yes</b>	23%
<b>No</b>	78%

Fewer than one tenth have an emergency fall button (8%).

***Do you have an emergency alert system or panic button in case you fall and can't reach the phone?***

<b>Yes</b>	8%
<b>No</b>	93%

Members are equally likely to say they would retrofit or move if they needed more accessibility (37% each)

***If you or a member of your family experienced mobility challenges, would you be more likely to move to a more accessible home or to retrofit your own home to be more accessible?***

<b>Move</b>	37%
<b>Retrofit</b>	37%
<b>HAVE ALREADY MOVED</b>	8%
<b>HAVE ALREADY RETROFITTED</b>	3%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	15%

They are also equally likely to wait until crisis arrives (36%) or plan proactively for this (40%).

***Are you more likely to wait until a mobility crisis occurs before moving or retrofitting your home, or are you more likely to proactively plan for mobility challenges in advance?***

<b>Wait for crisis</b>	36%
<b>Plan proactively</b>	40%
<b>HAVE ALREADY MOVED/RETROFITTED</b>	10%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	15%

Cost is the most important factor in deciding to retrofit (54%), followed distantly by the effect on the resale value of the home (11%).

***What is the one biggest factor you would take into consideration in deciding to retrofit your home?***

<b>Cost</b>	54%
<b>Effect on resale value</b>	11%
<b>Tax credit available?</b>	7%
<b>Disruption</b>	7%
<b>SOMETHING ELSE</b>	7%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	14%

Two thirds believe universal accessibility can be built into homes in such a way as to increase their value (67%).

***Do you agree or disagree universal accessibility can be built into all housing in such manner as to enhance resale value rather than detract from it?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>67%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	19%
<b>Agree</b>	48%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	15%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	2%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	16%

Few agree the investment made in retrofitting a home can be earned back in resale value (30%).

***Do you agree or disagree you could recoup the investment made in retrofitting your home for accessibility when you sell it?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	4%
<b>Agree</b>	26%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	36%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	7%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	29%

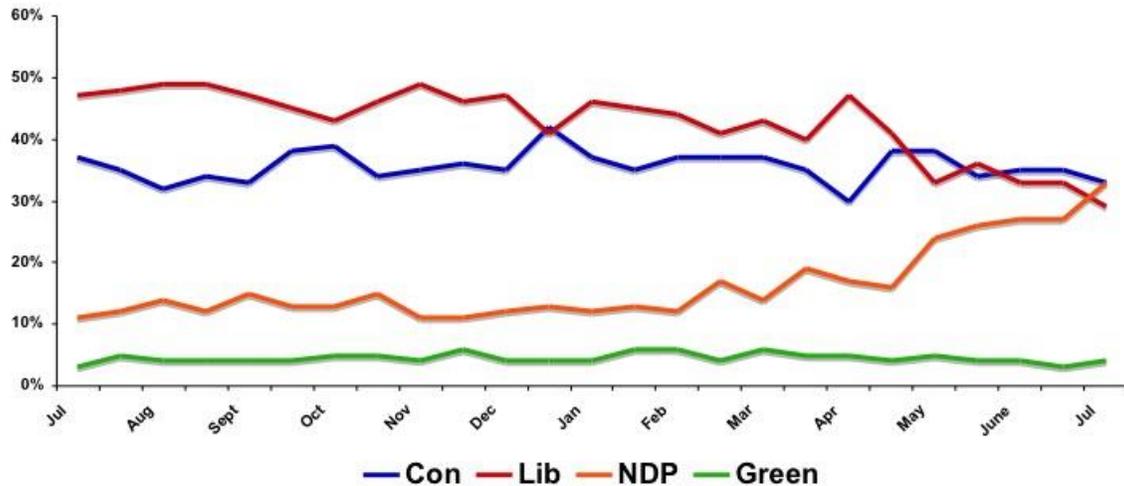
Primary concern for members in moving would be the cost (41%), followed by the disruption (31%), followed by loss of neighbours and friends (29%)

***What is the one biggest factor you would take into consideration in deciding to move to accessible home?***

<b>Cost of real estate</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>Disruption of moving</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Moving away from neighbourhood/friends</b>	<b>29%</b>

## Electoral Preference

The two leading parties have achieved parity (NDP - 33%, Conservatives - 33%) while the Liberals have fallen back (29%).



Most members expect the Conservatives to win the next election (46%), followed by the NDP (33%) and the Liberals (21%). The NDP is rapidly increasing their performance on this measure and may overtake the Conservatives.

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

	May 19	June 4	June 16	June 30	July 14	Aug 14
<b>Liberals</b>	34%	32%	30%	26%	23%	21%
<b>Conservatives</b>	54%	48%	51%	46%	44%	46%
<b>NDP</b>	11%	17%	18%	27%	32%	33%
<b>Green</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*

***About 1700 CARP Poll™ online panel members responded to this poll between July 17 and 20, 2015. The margin of error for a probability sample this size is about plus or minus 2%, 19 times out of 20***