



---

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **Planning for Age-Friendly Communities A Call to Action**

June 18, 2009

As the 'Baby Boomer' generation begins to retire, many communities will see profound changes in the demand for social services, housing, transportation, and health care, to name but a few. Ontario's current built environments are not well suited in all cases to address this range of emerging issues.

The Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) has prepared a Call to Action highlighting and focusing on key issues and concerns that need to be addressed so that Ontario's planners and communities can respond more effectively to the challenges posed by an aging population. Planners have a pivotal role to play in bringing together multiple partners and disciplines and in engaging their communities about the necessary changes.

*OPPI believes that planners cannot afford to be taken by surprise. Planners need to help put into place the infrastructure, accommodations, community supports and services necessary for the changing population needs of the future – not just those of today.*

Wayne Caldwell, MCIP, RPP  
President, OPPI

OPPI members are committed to creating and fostering healthy communities throughout Ontario. They recognize how land-use and transportation planning decisions shape us in ways we are only just beginning to appreciate, including potential contributions to obesity, heart disease, mental health, social isolation, nutrition, and poor air quality.

A copy of the Call to Action and further information can be found at:  
<http://www.ontarioplanners.on.ca/content/media/pressreleases.aspx>

*The Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) is the recognized voice of the Province's planning profession. Its more than 3,000 members work in government, private practice, universities, and non-profit agencies in the fields of urban and rural development, urban design, environmental planning, transportation, health and social services, heritage conservation, housing, and economic development. For further information, go to: [www.ontarioplanners.on.ca](http://www.ontarioplanners.on.ca)*

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:  
Loretta Ryan, MCIP, RPP, CAE  
Manager, Policy & Communications  
416-668-8469  
E-mail: [policy@ontarioplanners.on.ca](mailto:policy@ontarioplanners.on.ca)