Age-Friendly Co-op Checklist

Use this checklist to assess your co-op's readiness to support aging in place. Mark each item as complete or identify areas for improvement.

Governance and Policy

☐ Does the co-op have a clear, written policy or statement supporting aging in place and age-friendly practices?

☐ Are older members represented on the board or committees?

☐ Are over-housing and internal move policies flexible and compassionate, considering the needs of aging members? This might include moving to smaller or more accessible units or allowing roommates or companions.

☐ Are anti-ageism and inclusion principles embedded in member recruitment and approval?

☐ Are anti-ageism and inclusion principles embedded in community engagement practices?

☐ Are there opportunities to support mentorship and transfer of knowledge from members with previous board or committee experience as part of onboarding of members and/or directors?

☐ Is meeting information provided in an accessible format for individuals with visual or hearing impairments?

Physical Environment

☐ Are common areas and at least some units accessible (ramps, elevators, wide doorways, grab bars, non-slip flooring)?

☐ Are meeting spaces accessible (ramps, elevators, wide doorways, grab bars, non-slip flooring)?

☐ Is there a plan or budget for future accessible upgrades?

☐ Are outdoor spaces (gardens, paths, seating) accessible and safe for people with mobility challenges, mobility aid devices, strollers, visual impairments?

☐ Are there regular safety audits or building condition assessments that consider the needs of older adults?

☐ Are annual accessibility audits conducted to identify areas for improvement, big and small?

Social Connection and Inclusion

☐ Are there regular social activities that are accessible and welcoming to all ages and abilities?

☐ Does the co-op have a “buddy system” or informal support network for members who may be isolated?

☐ Does the co-op implement procedures around checking in on isolated older members?

☐ Are new members (including older adults) welcomed and oriented to the co-op community?

☐ Are there opportunities for intergenerational activities, mutual support, knowledge and skills sharing?

☐Does your co-op host events specially designed for seniors, either in the co-op or for members in the community?

Support Services and Partnerships

☐ Does the co-op provide information about local health, home care, and community support services?

☐ Are there partnerships with local agencies (health, social, or volunteer organizations) to support aging members? Such as Better at Home, 411 services, local neighbourhood house, etc.

☐ Is there a process for members or families to request help or referrals for issues like dementia, mental health, or mobility loss?

☐ Are members or their families aware of available subsidies or financial support for accessibility or home modifications?

☐ Have you considered having members file information on ***power of attorney*** or ***next of kin*** with consent to share documents in the co-op office?

Financial and Operational Planning

☐ Has the co-op considered and appropriately planned for the financial impact of aging in place (e.g., increased maintenance, accessibility upgrades, potential changes in unit turnover)?

☐ Are there plans to access grants or sector funding for aging in place initiatives?

☐ Is there a process for reviewing and updating policies as the membership ages?

☐ Is there an aging-friendly emergency evacuation plan?

Culture and Communication

☐ Is there open dialogue about aging, inclusion, and the needs of older members?

☐ Are all members encouraged to participate in community life, regardless of age or ability?

☐ Are conflicts or tensions around aging, over-housing, or participation addressed respectfully collaboratively and proactively?

☐ Does the co-op celebrate the contributions of older members and foster a sense of belonging for all?