

SALT and Seniors hold strategic planning session



Erma Armit, Chair of Assisted Living Action Group

By Mariene Deschamps

Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT) hosted a strategic planning session on Monday, March 26th at the Sister Kennedy Centre. Community partners from across the Rainy River District attended for an opportunity to provide their input on the implementation of a needs assessment survey and to determine current and future housing, safety and service needs for seniors.

More than 20 people attended the session with representation from Victims Services, LTNFC, the Town of Fort Frances, Board Members, Family Health, DSAAB Board, OPP Assault Team, Economic Development and Northwest Health Unit.

Lori Maki, Facilitator, led the group through an affinity exercise where everyone listed what they believed to be services needed for the ageing population in the district. This was

done on sticky papers and then posted on the walls. The group then put all the papers in a common grouping. They ended up with seven groupings which were: housing; leisure activities; home supports for daily living; health; safety; financial and transportation. Those attending were then broke into groups to discuss the grouping they had chosen.

Prior to the session it had already determined the following conclusions:

1- public monies from all levels of government are extremely limited.

2-The Town of Fort Frances supports in principle the concept of Assisted Living facilities from a district perspective.

3-two surveys are required to determine: A-health & social needs. B- Economic impact and level of commitment.

4-private investments will be required in order to proceed.

This session was to determine the questions to be part of a survey dealing with health and social needs that is slated to be ready within a month. It is hoped that all those who receive the survey will participate so the group can move forward with a viable list of priorities.



Photo - Marlene Deschamps