



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Brenda Strafford Centre on Aging

An overview for makeCalgary

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makeCalgary Event on Aging

- Historical overview
- External context
- Brenda Strafford Centre on Aging
- Key requirements for successful centres
- University context
- Next steps

- History at the University of Calgary dates back to the mid-1960s
 - A.E. David Schonfield, Donald Spence, Victor Marshall, and Gloria Gutman all on campus
- Ad hoc committee struck to investigate the possibility of a centre in 1968 – interdisciplinary research group struck
- Ad hoc committee in 1977 that evolved into a President's Committee on Aging & Gerontology in 1978 (disbanded by 1983)
 - Held symposium in 1979 of the form and function of a proposed institute

- Rapid population aging called a “game changer” leading to a number of grand challenges
 - Potential of extending life span
 - Promoting healthy aging (healthy brain aging)
 - Living well with chronic conditions (dementia & mental health)
 - Housing, transportation, and supportive technology
 - Income security, sustainable expenditures, and ensuring fair allocation & an equitable society

- 50+ gerontology programs and aging research centres in Canada (visited and reviewed a few)
 - Vary greatly in objectives, form, and functions (and success)
 - A number of common functions but need to differentiate

- 2011 an endowed gift agreement signed establishing the Brenda Strafford Centre on Aging
 - Initially inter-Faculty centre (most centres are intra-Faculty)
 - Recently moved by mutual consent into the O'Brien Institute for Public Health

- Administrative and collaborative hub for interdisciplinary research and educational programming
 - Age-related research
 - Advocacy and public policy development
 - Interdisciplinary teaching and learning
 - Community outreach



- Development work
 - Accrue endowment
 - Environmental scan and work plan
 - Alberta Association on Gerontology (AAG) consultation meeting

- By areas
 - Research (funding of post-doctoral fellows)
 - Public policy (older driver symposium, meeting with parliamentarians)
 - Interdisciplinary education (student research meetings)
 - Community outreach (co-funding exercise & aging symposium)



1. Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging



2. Age-friendly Calgary



- Pre-conditions
 - Critical mass of faculty, adequate funding, infrastructure

- Key elements
 - Interdisciplinary leadership
 - Engagement and support from institutional leadership
 - Linking activities to broader institutional initiatives
 - External funding (research studies)
 - Promoting interdisciplinary collaboration

- Strategic direction
 - Eyes High – “global intellectual hub” (research focus)
 - Seven academic priorities – includes *Interdisciplinarity* and *Connection with Community*
 - Six strategic directions – links with four (*Brain and Mental Health, Engineering Solutions for Health, Chronic Diseases, Human Dynamics*)

- Complex organization with other calls for institutional support & the commitment of faculty

- Vision: Healthy aging within supportive communities

- Core areas
 - Age-related research
 - Advocacy and public policy development
 - Interdisciplinary teaching and learning
 - Community outreach

- Establish/ implement ✓
 - Supportive governance structure
 - Leadership and administration model
- Ensure clear alignment with the mission, vision and research themes of the University ✓
- Obtain support from ✓
 - University leadership
 - Faculty (with their active participation)
- Create presence (footprint) in University
 - Strong profile
 - Inspiring goals
 - Demonstration of success
- Funds development

- Emerging opportunities
 - Becoming part of the O'Brien Institute for Public Health
 - Strong relationship with W21C
 - Biomedical Innovations in Home Health Care for an Aging Population
 - Strong relationship with Strafford Foundation
 - West Campus Development

- Sponsor of **Walk21 Conference** plenary session featuring Peggy Edwards, age-friendly walkability and winter walkability expert from Ottawa (Sep 2017)
- Barrie I. Strafford Masters and Doctoral **Scholarships** for Interdisciplinary Studies on Aging (under review for 2018 Open Competition)
- Funding for **faculty-specific** interdisciplinary aging initiatives (2017/2018)
- **Catalyst Grants** for aging-focused researchers (ongoing)
- Fall 2017 public talk and research symposium celebrating **Resilience & Aging** (more to come soon)
- And others...



COMMENTS? QUESTIONS?