

# RESEARCH

## Findings & Future Directions: UCalgary's Age-Friendly Assessment



### About the Assessment

- Timeline: July 2022 - March 2023
- Purpose: To assess strengths and gaps in UCalgary's age-friendliness
- Methods & Participants:
  - Inventory: Completed by 10 administrators to identify existing age-friendly campus practices and features
  - Survey: Completed by 1,953 faculty, staff, and students to understand their awareness, perceptions, and beliefs about age-friendliness and age-inclusivity on campus



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## Results Related to Research

### FACULTY COLLABORATION

**Two-thirds** of faculty reported being available for informal discussions about aging-related research, but only **one-fifth** were encouraged to collaborate on such research across faculties and departments.

### OLDER ADULT PERSPECTIVES AND ENGAGEMENT

**7.3%** of faculty were made aware of issues facing older adults that could be incorporated into their research.

**12.4%** believed that research across disciplines regularly included the perspectives of older adults.

UCalgary encourages community-engaged research relevant to aging across a range of disciplines.

### EXPERTISE AND FUNDING

It is unclear whether academic units prioritize hiring faculty with research expertise in aging.

Few faculty (**16.9%**) and students (**15.0%**) were aware of special funding opportunities for those interested in conducting aging-related research.



### STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

A small percentage of faculty (**9.0%**) and students (**12.7%**) indicated that their academic unit informs students about research projects related to aging.

Only **15.9%** of students reported being encouraged to conduct research on aging-related issues.

### DISSEMINATION

Approximately **one-third** of faculty and **one-fifth** of students were aware of aging-related research publicized to the campus community.

**13.5%** of students reported being encouraged to attend research presentations on aging topics.



### ACTION PLAN

*The assessment findings informed an action plan to address identified gaps. The goals shown here are part of that plan and focus specifically on research.*

#### GOAL 5

Aging research is prioritized and supported at an institutional level.

#### GOAL 6

Aging research is prioritized and supported within relevant faculties and departments.

#### GOAL 7

Aging education and research are informed by the needs and interests of seniors-serving organizations and older adults.

Ethics approval for this study was obtained from the University of Calgary Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board (REB22-0398).

