

# Peterborough Council on Aging

Discussion paper series – #5, 2015

## Civic Participation and Employment

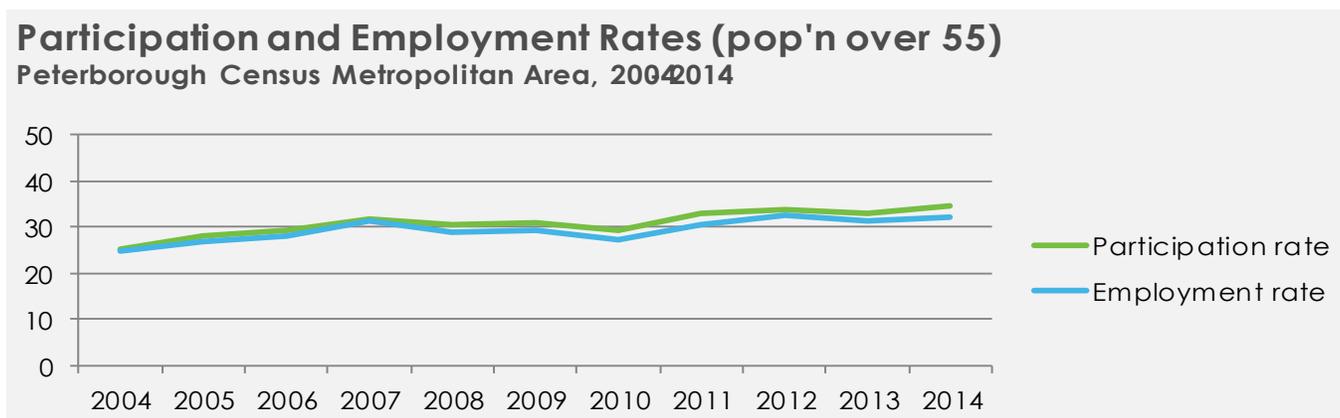
“An age-friendly community provides options for older people to continue to contribute to their communities, through paid employment or voluntary work if they so choose, and to be engaged in the political process.”<sup>(1)</sup>

Older adults contribute to their community in many ways. Some engage in paid employment well into their older years, providing mentorship and leadership to younger workers. Others participate in volunteer work, serving on local committees or boards of directors. Older adults may also contribute to their community by engaging in political processes, through their participation in electoral processes and civilian led civic campaigns, and/or by holding elected positions.

### Paid Employment

In 2014, more than 12,000 individuals over the age of 55 in the Peterborough Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) participated in some form of paid employment. Of these, approximately 8,700 were employed full-time. A further 24,700 individuals in this age bracket did not participate in the labour force, meaning that they were not employed nor were they looking for work<sup>(2)</sup>.

Over the past 10 years the labour force participation rate of individuals over 55 years old in the Peterborough CMA has risen from 25.4% to 34.5%. This means that, as of 2014, approximately 34.5% of individuals over 55 years of age were either working or looking for work. Similarly, the employment rate has risen from an annual average of 24.9% in 2010 to 32.1% in 2014<sup>(2)</sup>. These figures are consistent with trends seen across the province.



SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA, 2015, TABLE 282-0129

# Civic Participation and Employment

Tax filer data shows that individuals aged 55-64 in the Peterborough CMA derive over 60% of their total income from some form of employment. For those over 65 year of age this figure drops to just over 10% of total income. Approximately 40% of the total income of those over 65 years of age is derived from government transfers, including the Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security <sup>(3)</sup>.

## Volunteering

### Fast Fact:

Over half of Peterborough residents (51.9%) volunteer <sup>(5)</sup>.

In Peterborough, the [Four Info](#) community information listing service provides information about available volunteer opportunities in the community. The service is managed locally by United Way Peterborough and District. In October, 2014 there were 204 local volunteer opportunities listed on the site that were identified as being suitable for older adults <sup>(4)</sup>.

## Voting

In the City of Peterborough online voting has been available for municipal elections since 2010. In the most recent (2014) municipal election over 6,500 voters aged 55 and over cast their ballots online. This represents a nearly 140% increase over 2010 numbers <sup>(7)</sup>.

Throughout the County of Peterborough township residents have a number of options for casting their ballots, including mail-in ballots, online voting, and voting by phone <sup>(8)</sup>.

### Did You Know?

Older adults are more likely than other voters to use alternative voting methods, including advanced polls and special ballots <sup>(6)</sup>.

### References:

- (1) World Health Organization, 2007. Global Age-friendly Cities: A Guide.
- (2) Statistics Canada, 2014. Table 282-0129. [\[Labour Force Survey Estimates\]](#)
- (3) Statistics Canada, 2012. Table 111-0035. [\[Seniors Characteristics by Age Group and Income Source\]](#)
- (4) United Way Peterborough and District, 2014. Personal Correspondence.
- (5) Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough, 2014. [\[Vital Signs\]](#)
- (6) Elections Canada, 2014. [\[Estimation of Voter Turnout by Age Group\]](#)
- (7) City of Peterborough, 2014. [\[Election Results\]](#)
- (8) Various Township Websites, 2014.

### Contact:

Sarah Cullingham  
Age-friendly Coordinator  
scullingham@peterborough.ca  
www.peterboroughcouncilonaging.ca

