

Seniors crunch coming

Statistics suggest acute need coming for assisted-living housing

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THE North Shore will be in for a severe seniors' housing crisis in coming years if demographic trends continue, according to new figures released by the provincial government and supported by an independent local study.

By 2036, close to a quarter of North Vancouver residents will be 65 or older, and nearly one-third of those in West Vancouver

will fall into that category, according to the report, released in August by BC Stats.

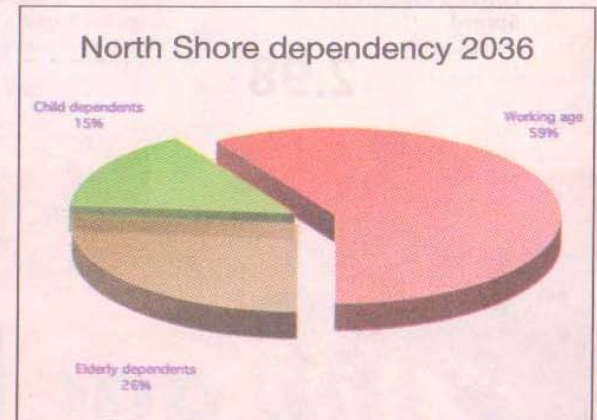
The numbers suggest that by then, appropriate accommodation will be in desperately short supply.

"There is certainly not enough appropriate housing stock right now," said Kate Mancer, whose company, Lumina Services, completed a similar study of demographic trends here in 2005 and updated it in October. "Governments need to be thinking about these issues."

Lumina's study was commissioned by Pacific Arbour, a company that is proposing to build and operate a new seniors independent living facility in Seymour.

With baby boomers moving into their silver years, and with

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NEWS graphic

THE elderly dependents of N. Shore working families will outnumber children by a factor of almost 2:1 by 2036.