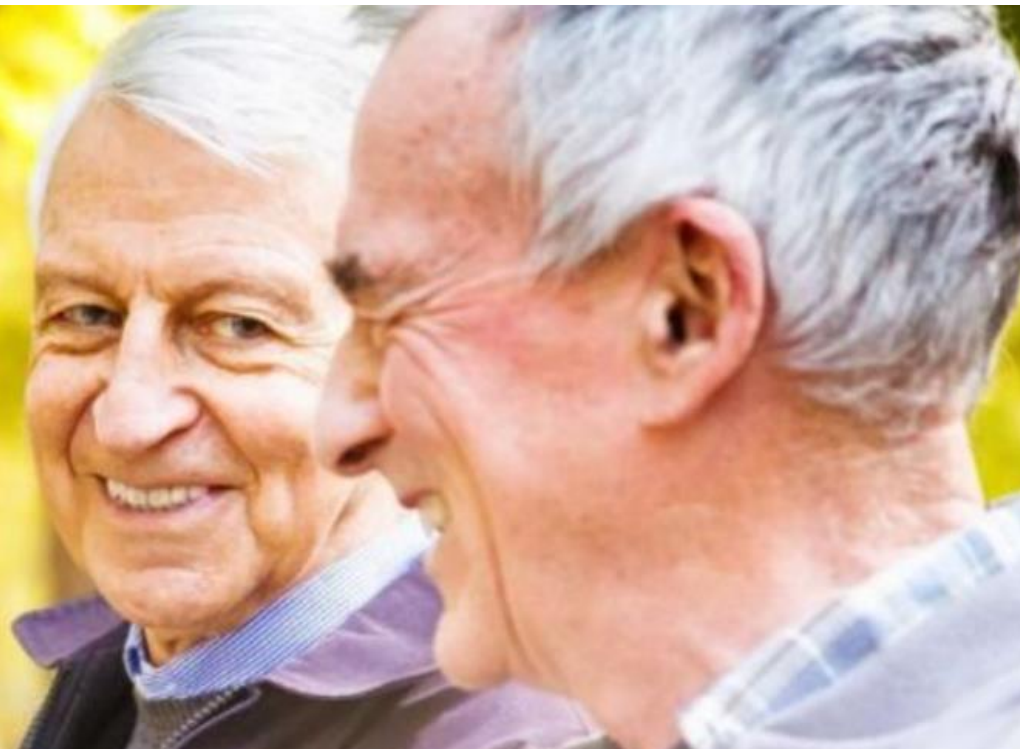


Elder Abuse in 2SLGBTIQQA Communities



Heather Hay Coordinator, Elder Abuse Prevention Muskoka
Anthony Mohamed Chair, Education, Senior Pride Network

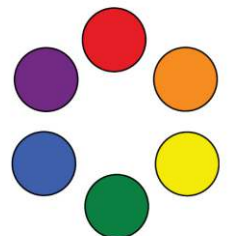


Elder Abuse Prevention (ON)
Stop Abuse - Restore Respect
Prévention de la maltraitance envers les aînés (ON)
Arrêtez les mauvais traitements - Restaurez le respect



**Fédération des aînés
et des retraités
francophones de l'Ontario**

**Senior Pride
Network**



Land Acknowledgment

Traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples. It is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, Métis, settler and newcomer communities. We all now have responsibilities as care takers of this land.

Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit. (NB - Drafted in 1787; Settled in 2010 - \$145M, each living Mississauga received a small amount, the rest put in trust for future generations)

<http://native-land.ca>

What you will learn? (Objectives)

- Who does 2SLGBTQQAA Seniors refer to?
- What is 2SLGBTQQAA Elder Abuse?
- Some considerations for *Queer/Trans Seniors* (**QTS**)
- Some related resources
- Getting to know each other (sharing only what you are comfortable with)

If you have any questions or comments, please put them in chat ASAP so we can summarize and address them if possible.

Queer & Trans Seniors (QTS) may include...

- **2S** - Two Spirit
- **L** - Lesbian
- **G** - Gay
- **B** - Bisexual
- **T** - Transgender
- **I** - Intersex
- **Q** - Queer
- **Q** - Questioning
- **A** - Asexual
- **A** - Allies



- **Who are 45-60+** (Many Variables - No defined age)

What is Elder Abuse?

“A single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person.” (WHO)

Types of abuse may include:

- **physical abuse** – causing injury or physical discomfort
- **psychological/emotional abuse** – diminishing identity, dignity and self-worth
- **sexual abuse** – sexual behaviour without their full knowledge or consent
- **financial abuse** – misusing funds & assets without full knowledge, consent or not in that person's best interests
- **neglect** – intentionally withholding or not providing basic necessities or care, because of a lack of experience, information or ability

Systemic barriers QT Seniors may face

- Profound **invisibility**
- Neglect, **discrimination** and discomfort from staff, other residents and families of other residents
- **Relationships devalued** - couples may be separated
- “Family” defined as **biological only**, not chosen
- **Self-advocacy difficult** if not ‘out’

Bloeman et al, 2019 (Colorado, USA)

Vulnerabilities That Increase the Risk for Abuse and Reduce Access to Services Throughout the Life Course		Exacerbation in Later Life
Ostracism from family due to LGBT status	→	Reduced access to caregivers and housing options
Prior abuse/violence	→	Increased risk of abuse
Increased prevalence of HIV	→	Increased vulnerability due to physical and cognitive impairment
Income discrimination Lack of spousal benefits	→	Reduced access to housing and caregiving resources due to lower income/lack of private health insurance
Poor interactions with law enforcement and medical providers	→	Reduced likelihood of reporting to law enforcement Discomfort with medical providers, unlikely to report or ask for help
Heteronormative experiences	→	Reluctance to engage with traditional support services Avoidance of long-term care

QT Seniors may also face...

- **Ageism** in opportunities & lack of QTS welcoming social spaces
- **Rejection** from potential partners of all ages (**loneliness**)
- **Low self-esteem** as body ages
- **Trans** people especially likely to be **victimized** both in QT communities and larger society
- **End of life issues** - dementia, estate planning, estranged biological family, no children

Adapted from Gutman (2017) Simon Fraser University

How can you help prevent abuse?



In the chat, list 1 or 2 actions that might help (individually or as a community) reduce or prevent QT elder abuse

If an older adult tells you they are being abused...

- be **patient**
- **believe** them
- do **not judge** them
- **changing** an abusive relationship is extremely difficult
- **do not deny** what is going on
- **do not confront** the perpetrator yourself
- **educate yourself** on resources available
- **encourage** them to seek help

Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario

**Get Help
Now**

**Call the Seniors Safety Line
1-866-299-1011**


Free to call
Confidential
24 hours a day
7 days a week



LTC Home Staff have a **duty to report** abuse to their Director

Long Term Care Homes Act s24:

24 (1) A person who has reasonable grounds to suspect that any of the following has occurred or may occur **shall immediately report** the suspicion and the information upon which it is based to the Director:

1. Improper or **incompetent treatment** or care of a resident that resulted in harm or a risk of harm to the resident.
 2. **Abuse** of a resident by anyone or neglect of a resident by the licensee or staff that resulted in harm or a risk of harm to the resident.
 3. Unlawful conduct that resulted in harm or a **risk of harm** to a resident.
 4. Misuse or **misappropriation of a resident's money**.
 5. Misuse or **misappropriation of funding** provided to a licensee under this Act, the Local Health System Integration Act, 2006 or the Connecting Care Act, 2019. 2007, c. 8, ss. 24 (1), 195 (2); 2019, c. 5, Sched. 3, s. 12 (3).
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Resources: (Webinar Hosts)

- **Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario** - provincial, charitable, non-profit organization focused on supporting the implementation of The Ontario Strategy to Combat Elder Abuse (www.eapon.ca)
- FARFO - la **Fédération des aînés et des retraités francophones de l'Ontario** œuvre auprès des francophones de 50 ans et plus domiciliés en Ontario. (www.farfo.ca)
- **Senior Pride Network Toronto** (SPN) - volunteer-run association of intergenerational individuals, organizations and community groups committed to expanding services for older 2SLGBTIQQ+ people. (www.seniorpridenetwork.com)

Some Selected Resources

- **Simon Fraser University** - wealth of resources related to aging within QT communities.
<https://www.sfu.ca/lgbteol.html>
- **Elder Abuse Prevention Muskoka** - <https://elderabuseprevention.ca>
- **Ottawa Senior Pride Network** - <http://ospn-rfao.ca>
- **Waterloo Region Aging with Pride** - <https://ourspectrum.com/projects/aging-with-pride/>
- **Senior Pride Network of Niagara** - <https://www.outniagara.org>
- **Ontario Human Rights Commission** - <http://www.ohrc.on.ca>
- **Long Term Care Action Line** (complaints by residents or non residents) 1-866-434-0144
- **Advocacy Centre for the Elderly** - <http://www.advocacycentreelderly.org/>
- **Rainbow Health Ontario** - <https://www.rainbowhealthontario.ca/>

Videos - LGBTQ- Simon Fraser University 2016

(Neglect/coming out in domestic relationship) 3 minutes

<https://youtu.be/s8ro9wpw-V8>

(Neglect in LTC) 3 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8QzCsryFU6w>

(Financial Abuse in domestic relationships) 2 minutes

<https://youtu.be/eGnhjnp3oi0>

Any last words?

In the chat, please send any...

- Questions
- Discussion
- Comments
- Helpful hints



Some tips for caring for QTS

- Revising and **updating policies** and procedures to reflect relevant human rights legislation.
- Does your **marketing materials** use gender-expansive language and do visuals depict the diversity of 2SLGBTQ+ people?
- Does your forms or staff **ask for preferred name** and/or pronouns?
- Is it **a comfortable space** for gender diverse people? (eg. common use of inclusive language, symbols/posters and washrooms)
- Does your team or workplace **need more education** about LGBTQ2S people and the barriers they face?



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