

Aging in community: a focus on older LGBTQ2S+ Canadians



Progress in LGBTQ2S+ rights has not always ensured safe and inclusive services and environments for older LGBTQ2S+ individuals. While many North American communities are committed to becoming age-friendly, little work has been done to explore and promote both age- and LGBTQ2S+ friendly communities. The goal of the Aging in Community project is to:

1. Identify existing communities that are both age and LGBTQ2S+ friendly.
2. Explore what it means to be age- and LGBTQ2S+ friendly.
3. Provide considerations and recommendations for increasing inclusion and diversity within age-friendly communities.

What participants said.

“A community that acknowledges and embraces its elders will always be stronger for doing so.”

“Age-friendly to me is cradle to grave.”

“A community that is age-friendly and LGBTQ2S+ inclusive should just look like a community that allows everyone to be a part of it.”

Method

Data were collected through multiple avenues.

Environmental Scan



Survey

71 surveys analyzed



Online Search



Referrals



Interviews

18 individuals from 14 organizations interviewed

Findings

1. Age- and LGBTQ2S+ Friendly Initiatives

The environmental scan and interviews were used to identify age- and LGBTQ2S+ friendly organizations and initiatives.

70 initiatives in **26** locations were identified as age- and LGBTQ2S+ friendly.



KEYPOINT

Most of the age-friendly initiatives were not cities, municipalities, or geographical communities. They were initiatives, programs and organizations that may not be designated or officially recognized as ‘age-friendly’.

2. Core Components of an age and LGBTQ2S+ Friendly Community

The survey asked participants to describe a community that is both age friendly and LGBTQ2S+ inclusive.

5 core components of an age- and LGBTQ2S+ friendly community.



Diverse and Intergenerational



Free From Harassment and Discrimination



Inclusive Programs and Services



Systemic Inclusion and Visibility



Encompassing and Compassionate

3. Recommendations and Considerations

Recommendations and considerations are made that can be referenced for current and future work related to the development and implementation of age-friendly initiatives which includes and supports LGBTQ2S+ communities.

9 recommendations and considerations* for the creation of age-friendly initiatives that support LGBTQ2S+ communities.



Ensure LGBTQ2S+ older adults are included.



A local community’s history, context, and dynamics should be considered.



Build upon, create partnerships with, or learn from existing age and LGBTQ2S+ inclusive programs, organizations, and initiatives.



Targeted, long-term funding is needed to support the sustainability of programming and initiatives.



Information sharing should be facilitated between communities and initiatives.

* see all 9 recommendations and considerations in the full report

