



ACTIONS for promoting dignity, respect and equality for 2SLGBTQI Seniors



1 Show Openness



- Explicitly state that services are open to 2SLGBTQI people, and that they are welcome.
- Use neutral and inclusive language in individual and group interactions, both with other staff members and with seniors as a whole.
- Send a clear message of openness and support to 2SLGBTQI seniors whose sexual orientation is known.

2 Create an atmosphere of trust and a positive rapport

- Make staff members and seniors aware of 2SLGBTQI realities and hold them accountable for understanding them.
- Encourage mutual understanding and a positive and inclusive attitude for all residents during cultural and recreational activities.
- Implement measures suited to the particular setting to foster a comfortable, receptive, safe and respectful environment.
- Develop and apply a trauma-informed approaches.



3 Counter stereotypes, prejudice and rejection



- Take concrete measures to eliminate homophobia and other forms of discrimination against 2SLGBTQI seniors, such as adopting policies that condemn any form of discrimination, providing access to teaching tools that deal with the issues that 2SLGBTQI seniors face, and updating existing codes of conducts or ethics.
- Remind staff of the codes of conduct with regard to 2SLGBTQI seniors.
- Involve 2SLGBTQI organizations in consultations on policies aimed at seniors.
- Intervene immediately with individuals who create situations of homophobia, heterosexism, rejection or discrimination.

LIVE WITH pride

4 Counter mistreatment

- Offer information about the mistreatment of 2SLGBTQI seniors.
- Post ads dealing with the issues of abuse and violence against seniors.
- Listen to any expressed concerns.



5 Reduce isolation and loneliness



- Develop communication skills among staff to help them interact with 2SLGBTQI seniors.
- Designate a staff member as a “listening ear” who will be sensitive to the realities and needs of isolated 2SLGBTQI seniors by passing on messages and showing tact and respect for confidentiality.
- Set up meeting places, discussion groups and social activities to give 2SLGBTQI seniors opportunities to share their life experiences and help one another.
- Develop mentorship programs that pair 2SLGBTQI youth or young adults with 2SLGBTQI seniors.



6 Recognize loved ones

- Ask 2SLGBTQI seniors to identify the people in their social circles (not only members of their biological families) whom they consider to be their caregivers.
- Consult with significant people who are close to an 2SLGBTQI senior when decisions need to be made for their well-being.
- Recognize and acknowledge common-law spouses.



Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario

For more information :

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Sources :

www.canada.ca
Social isolation of seniors: A focus on LGBTQ seniors in Canada
<https://open.alberta.ca/>

