

The Elderberries of Atlantic Canada
3247 Union Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3K 5H2
January 29, 2024



RE: Support for Dr. Austin Oswald's Proposed SSHRC Grant

Dear members of the SSHRC Insight Development Grant review committee:

On behalf of the Board of the Elderberries, it is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of support for Dr. Austin Oswald's proposed research project: *Queering Age-friendly Nova Scotia: Strengthening Inclusive and Equitable Communities for 2SLGBTQ+ Older Adults*.

The Elderberries is a vital social and activist group for 2SLGBTQ+ seniors in Atlantic Canada. Dedicated to supporting the well-being of individuals aged 50 and over, we focus on tailored social, educational, and outreach activities. We are engaged in advocacy, lobbying, and often participate in meaningful research, contributing to the broader discourse on 2SLGBTQ+ issues and fostering a vibrant, supportive environment in Atlantic Canada.

The Elderberries Board is enthusiastic about this productive relationship with Dr. Oswald and is confident that this collaboration will develop into a longstanding relationship, emphasizing our shared values, dedication to community engagement, and our mutual goal of enhancing the well-being of 2SLGBTQ+ older adults.

The Board – and by extension, our membership – is pleased to support Dr. Oswald's project, which aims to investigate the unique needs and experiences of 2SLGBTQ+ adults aging in the community. Through our collaboration, we will support participant recruitment as well as help identify necessary information, resources, and support that organizations like ours require to enhance services for 2SLGBTQ+ seniors. This research is not only timely but also highly relevant, providing valuable insights that the Elderberries can leverage to enhance the well-being of aging 2SLGBTQ+ individuals in Atlantic Canada.

By partnering on this research project, we will be able to assist with knowledge mobilization activities for 2SLGBTQ+ seniors, community organizations, and others in Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada. We anticipate that this work will improve the lives of older 2SLGBTQ+ people by deepening public understanding of how to build inclusive and equitable communities for us to thrive.

Overall, we look forward to supporting, contributing, and collaborating with Dr. Oswald on this project if this grant application is successful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dan', is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Daniel MacKay
Secretary, on behalf of the Board of the Elderberries of Atlantic Canada