

24 February 2026

RE: Support for Dr. Numer's Operating Grant Application-
Elderberries (Halifax, Nova Scotia)

Dear Canadian Institutes of Health Research:

The Elderberries Society of Nova Scotia is very happy to support Dr. Matthew Numer of the Sexual Health and Gender (SHaG) Research Lab at Dalhousie's proposed CIHR Operating Grant-funded project, *From Crisis to Collective Action: Community-Driven Responses to Housing and Health among 2S/LGBTQI+ People through Arts-Based Intervention Research*.



Elderberries is a nonprofit society of 2SLGBTQIA+ seniors and allies founded in Nova Scotia in 2010 as a result of a gathering where we talked about the needs of the senior Q communities. Depending on how you count, we have somewhere between 600 and 1000 members.

Secure housing is a very frequent topic of discussion as one of those core needs and the connection between that and longterm wellbeing has not been adequately explored and we look forward to working with Dr Numer on amending this.

The Elderberries also serve as a contact point for researchers doing work on 2SLGBTQ+ health and history. We have previously collaborated with Dr. Numer and the SHaG Lab on their 'Digital Aging' research project focusing on 2SLGBTQ+ older adults health and social connections during the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand Dr. Numer's current research project will focus on housing insecurity among the 2SLGBTQ+ community in Nova Scotia. Through our networks, we know that an issue in our community related to housing is a fear of facing homophobia, transphobia and discrimination from other individuals, particularly when transitioning long-term care.

We support Dr. Numer and his team's application, and we believe that they are the ideal candidates to lead this work. If Dr. Numer's grant application is successful, we look forward to continuing to support his research. We are happy to share our insights as a community group of older 2SLGBTQ+ adults in Nova Scotia, and to share recruitment materials and findings with our networks.

We strongly solicit your support for this valuable research.

Sincerely,

Daniel Mackay
Secretary, Elderberries Society of Nova Scotia