



## LGBT SENIORS ARCHIVE

Age-Friendly Communities Grant Proposal

### ABSTRACT

This Age-Friendly Communities Grant (Community Project) is an innovative project to value the legacy of social, economic and other contributions of our older LGBT Nova Scotians through the LGBT Seniors Archives. Get involved!

Jacqueline Gahagan, PhD

## 2018-2019 Age-friendly Communities Grant Program Application

### Community Projects Application

**Focus and Impact:** Canada is regarded as a very progressive country when it comes to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT\*) rights and protections. However, historical disparities exist from province to province in terms of advances in the adoption of legislative or other social, economic and related changes. While there are some existing sources of information on these advances presented as an aggregate at the national level, currently there is no publicly accessible, centralized archive of the diverse depth and breadth of the history of the LGBT communities in Nova Scotia. **This gap is particularly important to note in that many of those who are the keepers of this historical information in Nova Scotia are now seniors.** Further, the recent apology from the Prime Minister of Canada on the 40-year+ purge of LGBT individuals from the military and the civil service speaks to the timeliness and urgency in ensuring we have a better understanding not only of the impact of this purge but more broadly on the diverse social, economic and other contributions our older LGBT communities have made to the province of Nova Scotia.

**Purpose:** Given this, the purpose of this collaborative **community project** is to develop a digitized and publicly accessible archive of the various contributions made by diverse populations of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender seniors living in Nova Scotia. This proposed 2-year project is in keeping with the “SHIFT: Nova Scotia’s Action Plan for an Aging Population” document in that it will help build capacity among older adults and the broader community to connect and coalesce in the development of an archive aimed at raising awareness and appreciation of the social, economic and other contributions from ethno-culturally, linguistically, and geographically diverse members of our older LGBT communities across Nova Scotia. This large-scale, province-wide project will provide a platform to both increase social interaction and community involvement among older populations and will also create a living legacy through the collaborative development of an open, accessible, province-wide digital archive for use by community members, seniors, older and younger generations of LGBT populations, researchers and students, the Nova Scotia Department of Seniors, among others.

In collaboration with a variety of community-based organizations such as the Elderberries, the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project’s LGBT Elders program, prideHealth, the Youth Project, as well as post-secondary institutions such as Dalhousie University, the Nova Scotia Community College, and government partners such as the Public Archives, the Nova Scotia Public Libraries, the Department of Seniors, among others, this intergenerational project will bring together younger and older LGBT populations along with various allies and supporters from the community with the intention of developing an ***LGBT Seniors Archive***. As an additional and important legacy outcome from the archive project, a book proposal on the history of LGBT seniors in Nova Scotia will be developed.

This proposed ***LGBT Seniors Archive*** project will begin with a province-wide request for additional partners to form a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to help frame the shaping the parameters for archival materials using a combination of social media-generated and word-of-mouth invitation through our community-based partners. The final, collectively agreed upon parameters for information on historical content from our community and government partners such as same-sex marriage legislation, decriminalization of same-sex sexual activity, changes to gender markers,

\*LGBT is used in this proposal as it is in keeping with the generational differences between older and younger members of the rainbow community and it not meant to be exclusionary.

etc. and the role LGBT seniors played in advancing these various discrimination and harassment protections, among others as will be led by the CAC. The information collected will be stored with the Dalhousie University Head Librarian, Donna Bourne-Tyson until digitized and a website developed.

**Evaluation and Measurability:** Key indicators of impact and success of the *LGBT Seniors Archive* project include: 1. the numbers of LGBT and non-LGBT seniors coming forward to join the CAC and/or contribute to the shaping of the archive content, 2. the numbers of LGBT seniors expressing interest in contributing to assisting with archival document collection, sorting of content and digitalization of content, 3. utilization levels of the archived web-based content through monthly website analytics, 4. awareness levels of the archive through various senior and LGBT-serving organizations and agencies (both governmental and non-governmental), and 5. numbers of requests received for public presentations and displays in the public libraries across Nova Scotia of the *LGBT Seniors Archive*. Additional evaluation and measurability indicators will be developed in consultation with our Community Advisory Community members.

**Best Practice and Innovation:** In keeping with the purpose of the 2018-2019 Age-friendly Communities Grant Program Community Projects Application, our proposed *LGBT Seniors Archive* project will actively and intentionally facilitate the co-creation of age-friendly communities by seeking opportunities to engage with LGBT and non-LGBT seniors' groups and LGBT allies from across Nova Scotia. Further, it will advance the concept respectful communities both in terms of the diversity of our older populations in general as well as the specific contributions made to Nova Scotia by our senior LGBT communities. The innovation of this approach can be found in offering a community-based, collaboratively developed legacy project through a web-based archive that can be accessed by all Nova Scotians and which can serve to catalyze community discussions about importance inclusion, equity and diversity and in recognizing the various contributions LGBT seniors have made to Nova Scotia history.

**Engagement and Partnership:** An informal process of determining the utility of the project was initiated in 2018 and there was overwhelming support from the community and other partners to move this proposal forward (please refer to the attached letters of support). Since that time, a number of community partners with a mandate of serving older LGBT populations have agreed to contribute to this project once funding is in place. The success of this project will be built on respectful, equitable, inclusive and diverse community and other partners working collaboratively to advance our vision of the *LGBT Seniors Archive*. Specifically, the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project will assist with community awareness and mobilization through their monthly meetings with seniors from the LGBT communities; the Dalhousie University library system will assist with offering space for physical archival materials to be stored until digitized; prideHealth will assist by providing the web link to the archive once it is complete; the Lavender Door Project will assist with collection of materials, analytics and evaluation of the archive; the Healthy Populations Institute will assist with knowledge translation and mobilization. Other partners such as community groups and individuals from the LGBT community will be encouraged to join the project as it gets underway to assist with community engagement and uptake of the archive.

\*LGBT is used in this proposal as it is in keeping with the generational differences between older and younger members of the rainbow community and it not meant to be exclusionary.

**Capacity and Sustainability:** Given the focus on developing an interactive and iterative relationship with our partners, this project will be sustained through the ongoing support from, for example, Dalhousie University and the involvement of Master of Library and Information Studies students in digitizing the historical material, the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project's LGBT Elders Program will assist with awareness of the project through their province-wide network, among others. Our capacity to ensure the ongoing success of this archive can be found in the various in-kind contributions to this project. We will use a variety of mechanisms to determine utilization of the archive such as digital analytics of use as well as through an embedded survey to gather feedback on the current content and to solicit for additional sources to consider adding to the archive. We will also seek out additional forms of funding and partnerships to continue this work once this initial funding is in place.

## Appendix A: Proposed Budget

**Budget Information and Justification:** Given the large-scale nature of this legacy project, we are requesting \$22,030 which will be used to hire a student and a senior from our LGBT communities to assist with the project in the development of and support to the community advisory committee (CAC), the collection, sorting and digitally archiving historical documents on the history of LGBT communities in Nova Scotia through the eyes of LGBT seniors in our communities, to assist with community events, social media, and website-related activities in consultation with the CAC members, training of seniors on our history, on offering public talks in their communities, in connecting with other seniors and senior-serving organizations, and in helping to co-ordinate our teleconference and our community outreach and consultation sessions.

Other funds will be used to help offset the cost of engagement of seniors in our community sessions across Nova Scotia by offering mileage, taxi/bus fare and a teleconference option for those who cannot travel. We are also asking for funds to help offset the cost of printing, copying, couriering and digitally storing archival materials which will be initially stored and sorted on our dedicated project laptop and external hard drive until the website is set up. A final short report on the process of the development of the LGBT Seniors Archive will be made available in French and English.

Additionally, in-kind contributions from our community partners include expertise and training from the Dalhousie University library and the Halifax Public Libraries archivists, use of storage space for larger donations of materials, and access to digitization equipment, assistance with identifying community members from diverse seniors' communities across Nova Scotia through NSRAP, the Elderberries, prideHealth, among others, to offer input and increase awareness.

### **LGBT Seniors Archive Project expenses include:**

**Salary:** Hiring of 1 student and 1 community member @ \$16/hour x 5 hours/week x 22 months = \$14,080

**Professional fees:** French/English translation of final project report @ .38/word x 2500 words = \$950

**Materials:** Digitization costs, paper, printing, website hosting, project laptop, external hard drive, USB keys, photocopying, courier = \$3,500

**Meeting expenses:** Monthly teleconferences, bi-monthly in-person team meetings, community space rental, final launch event, refreshments, mileage, taxi/bus fare for community participants = \$3,500

**Total budget request = \$22,030**

\*LGBT is used in this proposal as it is in keeping with the generational differences between older and younger members of the rainbow community and it not meant to be exclusionary.

**Appendix B: Proposed Timelines and Workplan:**

Months 1 - 2	Months 3 - 4	Months 5 - 6	Months 7 - 8	Months 9 - 10	Months 11 - 12	Months 13 - 14	Months 15 - 16	Months 17 - 18	Months 19 - 20	Months 21 - 22	Months 23 - 24
Hire, train & mentor students/Set up CAC											
	Monthly teleconference with CAC										
	Community outreach for archival content /digitization/website development										
		Face-to-face community consultations (HRM)			Face-to-face community consultations (Non-HRM)					Face-to-face community consultations (Both HRM & non-HRM)	
											Final public launch event
											Final report

\*LGBT is used in this proposal as it is in keeping with the generational differences between older and younger members of the rainbow community and it not meant to be exclusionary.

**Appendix C: Current Partners/Letters of Support (See attached files)**

- \* prideHealth/Nova Scotia Health Authority
- \* Dalhousie University libraries
- \* Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project/Elderberries
- \* Halifax Libraries

## Appendix D: References

- Andermann, A. (2013). *Evidence for Health*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Bauer, G., Colgrove, R., LaRussa, P., Pitt J., & Welles, S. for the WITS Study Team. Antiretroviral resistance mutations in viral isolates from HIV-1-transmitting mothers and their infants. *AIDS* 2006;20:1707-1712.
- Bauer, G., Hammond, R., Travers, R., Kay, M., Hohenadel, K. & Boyce, M. (2009). "I don't think this is theoretical; this is our lives." How erasure impacts health care for transgender people. *Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care*,20:348-361.
- Bauer, G., & Jairam, J. (2008). Are lesbians really women who have sex with women (WSW)? Methodological concerns in health research on sexual minority women. *Women & Health*,48:383-408.
- Bauer, G., Wayne, L. (2005). Cultural sensitivity and research involving sexual minorities. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*,37:45-47.
- Brotman, S., Ryan, B., & Cormier R. (2003). The health and social service needs of gay and lesbian elders and their families in Canada. *The Gerontologist*, 43(2): 192-202.
- Bryson, M., Taylor, E., Boschman, L., Hart, T., Gahagan, J., Ristock, J., & Rail, G. (2019). Awkward choreographies from Cancer's Margins: Incommensurabilities of biographical and biomedical knowledge in sexual and/or gender minority cancer patients' treatment. *Journal of Medical Humanities*, 39(1).
- Bunton, R. (2002). "Health Promotion as Social Policy". In *Health Promotion" Disciplines, Diversity and Developments*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. R. Bunton & G. Macdonald (Eds.) (pp.129-157). London: Routledge.
- Burgard, S., Cochran, S., & Mays, V. (2005). Alcohol and tobacco use patterns among heterosexually and homosexually experienced women. *Drug and Alcohol Dependency*, 77:61-70.
- Canadian Community Health Survey 3.1. (2010). Summary Report to the District Health Authorities. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
- Coleman, E., Bockting, W., Botzer, M., Cohen-Kettenis, P., DeCuypere, G., Feldman, J., Fraser, L., Green, J., Knudson, G., Meyer, W. J., Monstrey, S., Adler, R. K., Brown, G. R., Devor, A. H., Ehrbar, R., Ettner, R., Eyler, E., Garofalo, R., Karasic, D. H., Lev, A., Mayer, G., Meyer-Bahlburg, H., Hall, B. P., Pfaefflin, F., Rachlin, K., Robinson, B., Schechter, L. S., Tangpricha, V., van Trotsenburg, M., Vitale, A., Winter, S., Whittle, S., Wylie, K. R., & Zucker, K. (2011). Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender-Nonconforming People, Version 7. *International Journal of Transgenderism*, 12:165-232.
- Crinson, I. (2009). *Health Policy: A Critical Perspective*. London: Sage publications.
- Gahagan, J., & Subriana-Malaret, M.\* (2018). Improving pathways to primary health care among LGBTQ populations and health care providers: Key findings from Nova Scotia, Canada. *International Journal for Equity in Health*. 17(76). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-018-0786-0>
- Gahagan, J., Humble, A., Gutman, G., & de Vries, B., (2018). Older LGBT Adults' End-of-

\*LGBT is used in this proposal as it is in keeping with the generational differences between older and younger members of the rainbow community and it not meant to be exclusionary.



Gahagan, J. January 20, 2019

- Life conversations: Findings from Nova Scotia, Canada. *Atlantis: Critical Studies in Gender, Culture and Social Justice*. 39(1):31-40.
- Gates, G. (2013). Demographics and LGBT Health. *Journal of Health and Social Behaviour*, 54: 72-74.
- Gates, G. (2011). How many people are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender? Los Angeles: The Williams Institute.
- Gutman, G., Mock, S. de Vries, B., Humble., A. Gahagan, J., Chamberland, L., Fast, J. & Walker, E. (2018) The role of internet technology in social integration and end-of-life planning of LGBT older adults, *Gerontechnology* 2018;17(Suppl.): 85s
- Handsley, S. (2007). "Community Involvement and Civic Engagement in Multidisciplinary Public Health". In: E. Lloyd, S. Handsley, J. Douglas, S. Earle & S. Spurr (Eds.) *Policy and Practice in Promoting Public Health*. 223-255. London: Sage.
- Howitt, D., & Cramer, D. (2010). *Research Methods in Psychology*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Toronto: Pearson.
- Johnson, C., Mimjaga, M., & Brandford, J. (2008). Health Care Issues Among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) Populations in the United States. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 54:213-224.
- King M, Semlyen J, See Tai S et al. (2008) *Mental Disorders, Suicide and Deliberate Self-Harm in Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual People*. London: National Mental Health Development Unit.
- Lachowsky, N., Gahagan, J. & Anderson, K. (2018). Pathways to Health Equity for LGBTQ Populations. In N. Arya & T. Piggott (Eds.), *Under-Served: Health Determinants of Indigenous, Inner-city, and Migrant Populations in Canada*. Canadian Scholars.
- Makadon, H. (2011). Ending LGBT Invisibility in Health Care: The First Step in Ensuring Equitable Care, *Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine*, 78:220-224.
- Mayer, K., Bradford, J., Makadon, H., Stall, R., Goldhammer, H., & Landers, S. (2007). Sexual and Gender Minority Health: What we know and what needs to be done. *American Journal of Public Health*, 98:989-995.
- McKay, B. (2011). Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health Issues, Disparities, and Information Resources. *Medical Reference Service Quarterly*, 30:393-401.
- Murray, J. & Adam, B.D. (2001). Aging, sexuality, and HIV issues among older gay men. *Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality*, 10, 75-90.
- National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy. (2010). *Methods for Synthesizing Knowledge about Public Policies*. Quebec: National Collaborating Centre for Healthy Public Policy.
- National Institutes of Health (2011). *The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People: Building a Foundation for Better Understanding*. Washington (DC): National Academies Press.
- Nova Scotia Department of Health (2009). *Cultural Competence Assessment Tool for Provincial Program Clinical Guidelines*. Nova Scotia: Department of Health.

\*LGBT is used in this proposal as it is in keeping with the generational differences between older and younger members of the rainbow community and it not meant to be exclusionary.

Gahagan, J. January 20, 2019

- Nova Scotia Department of Health (2005). *A Cultural Competence Guide for Primary Health Care Professionals in Nova Scotia*. Nova Scotia: Department of Health.
- Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness (2012). *2012-13 Statement of Mandate*. Nova Scotia: DHW.
- Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness. (2011). *An Introduction to Cultural Competence in Health Care*. Nova Scotia: DHW.
- Nova Scotia Department of Seniors. (2017). *Shift: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population*. Nova Scotia: Department of Seniors.
- Oswald, R.F., Cuthbertson, C., Lazarevic, V., & Goldberg, A. (2010). New Developments in the Field: Measuring Community Climate. *Journal of GLBT Family Studies*, 6:214-228.
- Parish, R. (2010). Measuring population health outcomes. *Preventing Chronic Disease: Public Health Research, Practice, and Policy*. 7:1-11.
- Parish, R., McDonnell, S., & Remington, P. (2010). Surveillance for determinants of population health. In: L. Lee, S. Thacker, M. St. Louis, & S. Teutsch (Eds.) *Principles and practice of public health surveillance*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. New York: Oxford Press.
- Ramos, R., Davis, J., Ross, T., Grant, C., & Green, L. (2012). Measuring Health Disparities and Health Inequities: Do you have REGAL data? *Quality Management in Health Care*, 21:176-187.
- Raphael, D. (2010). "Public Policy and the Social Determinants of Health." In D. Raphael, *About Canada: Health and Illness* (pp123-142). Nova Scotia: Fernwood Press.
- Raphael, D. (2012). "The Importance of Tackling Health Inequalities". In D. Raphael (Ed.), *Tackling Health Inequalities* (pp.1-32). Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press, Inc.
- Raphael, D., & Curry-Stevens, A. (2009). "Surmounting the Barriers: Making Action on the Social Determinants of Health a Public Policy Priority". In D. Raphael (Ed.), *Social Determinants of Health* (pp. 362-377). 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press, Inc.
- Rounds, K., McGrath, B., Walsh, E. (2013). A Qualitative Study of Sexual and Gender Minorities. *Contemporary Nurse*, 12: 324-335.
- Statistics Canada. (2015). *Health in Canada: Health Profile*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.
- Tjepkema, M. (2008). *Health Care Use Among Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Canadians*. Statistics Canada, Health Reports, 19:1.

\*LGBT is used in this proposal as it is in keeping with the generational differences between older and younger members of the rainbow community and it not meant to be exclusionary.