

# WHAT IS THE SENIOR PRIDE NETWORK?

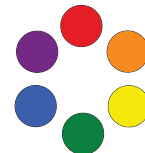
The Senior Pride Network (SPN) is an association of individuals, organizations and community groups sharing interest and commitment to expanding programs and services for 50+ lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer people in the City of Toronto. **Be an Ally!**

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## TIPS FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Develop your awareness of LGBTQ supportive networks and community resources
- Develop an organizational culture that is inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity in programs and services
- Create an empowering environment that celebrates the diversity and visibility of older LGBTQ people
- Provide training and educational opportunities for staff, volunteers, families and community members to learn about the lives and experiences of older LGBTQ people
- Create organizational policies and procedures that recognize and support both LGBTQ clients and staff
- Use inclusive language and images of older LGBTQ people in your program materials
- Include LGBTQ community networks, venues and events in your outreach activities
- Recognize and accommodate diversity among LGBTQ seniors.

**Senior Pride  
Network**

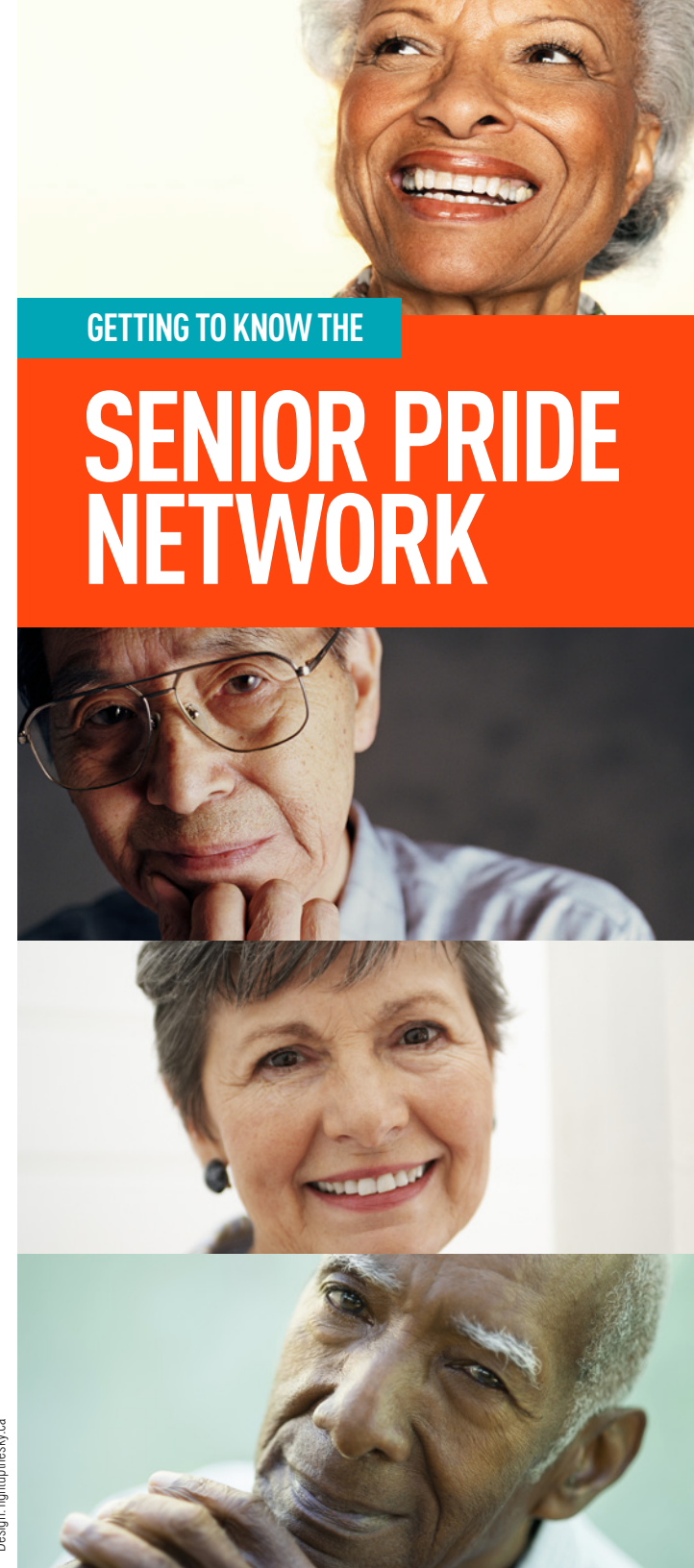


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GETTING TO KNOW THE

## SENIOR PRIDE NETWORK





# ISSUES FACING OLDER LGBTQ COMMUNITIES

## Stigma & Discrimination

- Many older LGBTQ people have had to cope with a lifetime of stigma, including the criminalization of homosexuality and Gender Identity Disorder
- Many older LGBTQ people have been imprisoned, had treatment imposed on them, and have experienced verbal and physical harassment or assault
- The partners of older LGBTQ people often face discriminatory treatment from medical and home care providers

## Housing

- Many older LGBTQ people lack access to LGBTQ-inclusive long-term care facilities and retirement homes
- Many older LGBTQ people experience discrimination and harassment from residents and staff in homes. To avoid this, may choose to conceal their sexuality.
- Many community members have reported a desire for LGBTQ-inclusive housing environments

## Health

- Many HIV Positive LGBTQ seniors survived the 1980's AIDS Crisis, and are now at high risk for HIV/AIDS-related co-morbidities and depression
- LGBTQ seniors fearing discrimination will often avoid seeking social services and healthcare support when they need them
- Many older LGBTQ people have experienced multiple losses and are coping with significant grief

## Social Isolation

- Opportunities to meet other older LGBTQ people for social and cultural interaction are limited, especially in rural areas
- Programs, activities and events geared toward LGBTQ seniors are rare
- Many LGBTQ seniors have experienced rejection from family, spouses and children, increasing reliance on chosen families

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## OUR STRENGTHS

### LGBTQ Seniors are resilient

The experiences of marginalization and oppression have led many older LGBTQ people to develop strengths and resiliencies that have enabled them to survive and thrive. These include creating families of choice to provide care and nurturing relationships, and building strong support networks.

### LGBTQ Seniors are diverse

Despite media and societal stereotypes, older LGBTQ people come from diverse cultural backgrounds including all genders, races, ethnicities, nationalities, abilities, ages, sexual orientations, religious and political affiliations. Older LGBTQ people are present in all occupational categories and live in all types of communities- rural, suburban and urban. Some LGBTQ seniors are newcomers to Canada and some have been here for generations.