

# Webinar Series on Older LGBTQI2S People

## Addressing Inequalities of Older LGBTQI2S People in Canada

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# ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES OF OLDER LGBTQI2S PEOPLE IN CANADA

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# Format of presentation

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- Presentation goals
- Overview of legal and social change
- Discussion of my ethnographic research and Canadian-based literature on LGBTQI2S aging/older adults
- Opportunities

# Presentation aims

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- Gain further understanding of the legal and social landscape of LGBT rights in Canada over the past 60 years.
- Become acquainted with Canadian-based research and findings.

# Overview of legal and social change

- 1969: Homosexuality is decriminalized in Canada. It is removed as a mental disorder from the DSM in 1973.
- 1978: Canada gets a new Immigration Act. Under the act, homosexuals are removed from the list of inadmissible classes.
- 1980: Bill C-242, an act to prohibit discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, gets its first reading in the House of Commons. The bill, which would have inserted "sexual orientation" into the Canadian Human Rights Act, does not pass.
- 1981: More than 300 people are arrested following police raids at four gay bath houses in Toronto. The next night, about 3,000 people march in downtown Toronto to protest the arrests. This is considered to be Canada's "Stonewall".

# Overview of legal and social change

- 1992: The federal court lifts the country's ban on homosexuals in the military, allowing gays and lesbians to serve in the armed forces.
- 1995: An Ontario Court judge finds that the Child and Family Services Act of Ontario infringes Section 15 of the Charter by not allowing same-sex couples to bring a joint application for adoption. Ontario becomes the first province to make it legal for same-sex couples to adopt.
- 1996: The federal government passes Bill C-33 which adds "sexual orientation" to the Canadian Human Rights Act.

# Overview of legal and social change

- 2005: Canada becomes the fourth country to officially sanction gay marriage nationwide.
- 2016: All Families Equal Act passes in Ontario. Same-sex parents in Ontario and others who use assisted reproduction to conceive no longer have to adopt their own children. The Act ensure that couples who use sperm or egg donors or a surrogate are legally recognized as parents. A birth parent can enter into a pre-conception parent agreement with up to four people.
- June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017: Bill C-16 passes. The Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code are to include “gender identity” and “gender expression”. The legislation makes it illegal to discriminate on the basis of gender identity or expression.

# My research

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- My research explores the experiences of aging and care of LGBTQ people in Canada today.
- It is qualitative and ethnographic: daily lives > broader political, social, and economic processes

# Ethnographic vignette #1

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□ Bob

# Ethnographic vignette #2

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- Stella

# Key points

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- Impact of employment on economic security.
- Mixture of supports: importance of healthcare, housing, friendships.
- Opportunities and constraints in expressions of gender and sexuality.

# Opportunities

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- To connect with people of other generations and learn from them.
- To imagine and foster spaces where we can define and develop ways of life for ourselves, with a diversity of others.
- *To pose broader questions about the distribution of resources and care.*

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