Using a web-based platform to foster community and advance care planning among Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) older adults

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Fostering End-of-Life Conversations, Community & Care Among LGBT Older Adults

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Funded by: TVN-NCE (Technology Evaluation in the Elderly)
Start Date: April 2014 End Date: May 2015
Project details

Three-part national project
• Focus groups with LGBT older adults and care providers in Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax to understand issues/extent of end-of-life (EoL) planning (e.g. document completion, care planning, discussions)
• Townhall meetings to raise awareness of need for EoL planning & local resources
• Create proof-of-concept pilot web-based platform to provide supportive environment for information sharing and community building:
  http://www.sfu.ca/lgbteol.html
Rationale for the project

• An estimated 4-6% of older adult population are LGBT persons

• Compared to heterosexual age mates they:
  o have higher rates of depression, suicidal ideology, exposure to violence, cancer and HIV
  o are 3X more likely to live alone, 1/3 less likely to be partnered, 5X less likely to have children

• Some evidence LGBT older adults have greater online presence
Unique challenges to aging among LGBT persons

1. Effects of stigma, past and present

2. Need to rely upon “families of choice” for care and support

3. Unequal treatment under laws, programs and services for older adults
WELCOME TO THE LGBT END-OF-LIFE CONVERSATIONS WEBSITE
Our website was designed to foster community among LGBT older adults as well as provide information to LGBT seniors, service providers and researchers.
How these foster community:

Discussion Forum

LGBT News Feed

Calendar
Fostering Advance Care Planning

• Reports of Focus Group Findings
• Resource Inventories
• “Conversations with Robert”
Initial results: April 2015

Sessions: 792
Users: 606
Pageviews: 1,638

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Sessions</th>
<th>% Sessions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Canada</td>
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<td>4.17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Russia</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Japan</td>
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<td>1.01%</td>
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Traffic tends to be passive on site

Website Promotion and future: Personal Stories:

e.g. “I recently moved to Toronto from Oshawa - paid movers to move 93 large boxes of "stuff" and furniture that has subsequently gone into 4 dumpsters - full! Furniture and all - things I thought were important but had no meaning to me at this time of my life. Lift the veil - you will be surprised how open, free and unencumbered you feel” (Toronto Town Hall Participant)
Thank you and please visit:

www.sfu.ca/lgbteol.html