

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 2SLGBTQI+ elders, seniors and older people in the City of Toronto. **Be an Ally!**

Contact: spntoronto@gmail.com

TIPS FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS

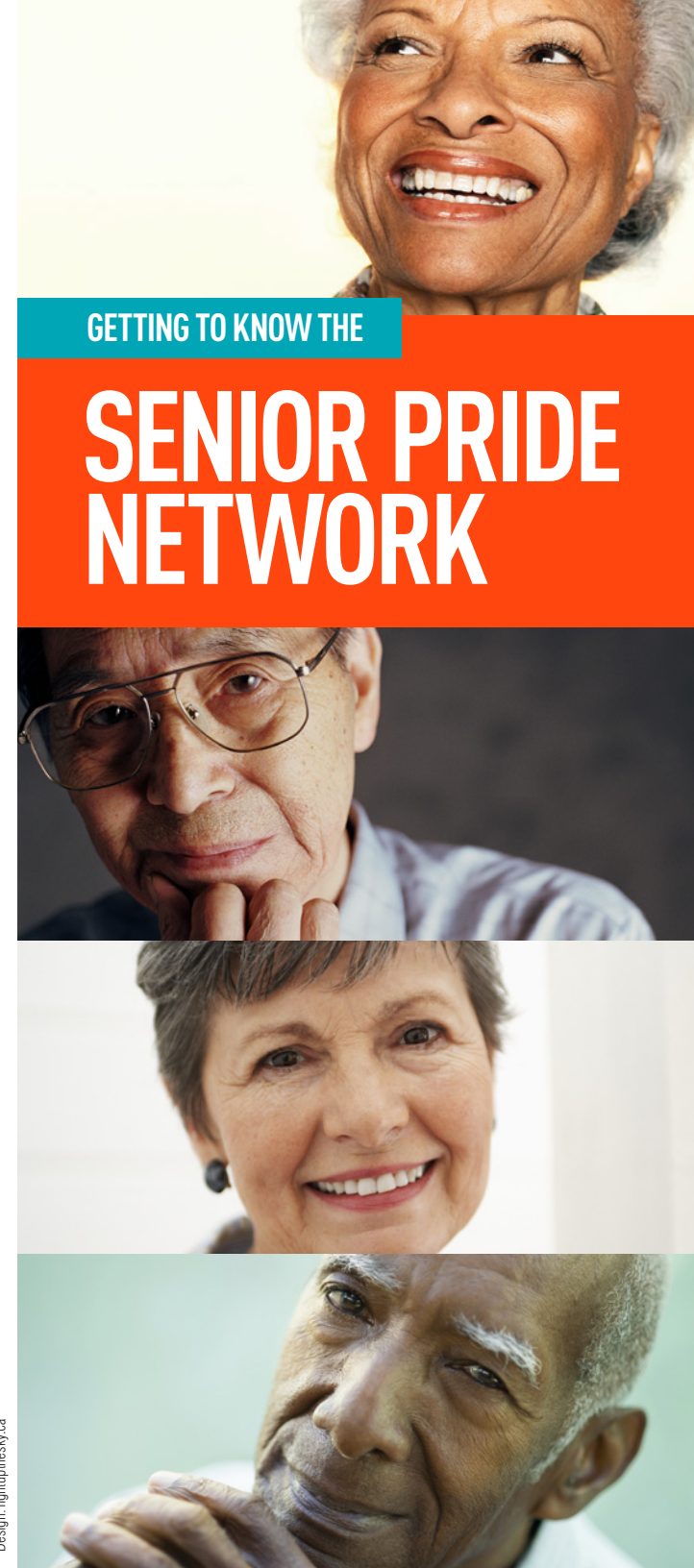
- Develop your awareness of 2SLGBTQI+ supportive networks and community resources
- Develop an organizational culture that is inclusive of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in programs and services
- Create an empowering environment that celebrates the diversity and visibility of older 2SLGBTQI+ people
- Provide training and educational opportunities for staff, volunteers, families and community members to learn about the lives and experiences of older 2SLGBTQI+ people
- Create organizational policies and procedures that recognize and support both 2SLGBTQI+ clients and staff
- Use inclusive language and images of older 2SLGBTQI+ people in your program materials
- Include 2SLGBTQI+ community networks, venues and events in your outreach activities
- Recognize and accommodate diversity among 2SLGBTQI+ seniors.



seniorpridenetwork.com

GETTING TO KNOW THE

SENIOR PRIDE NETWORK





ISSUES FACING OLDER 2SLGBTQI+ COMMUNITIES

Stigma & Discrimination

- Many older 2SLGBTQI+ people have had to cope with a lifetime of stigma, including the criminalization of homosexuality, imprisonment and police harassment
- Many older 2SLGBTQI+ people have been subjected to electroshock treatment or other therapies purported to cure, suppress or change their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression
- Many older 2SLGBTQI+ people have experienced verbal and physical harassment or assault

Housing

- Many older 2SLGBTQI+ people lack access to 2SLGBTQI+ inclusive long-term care facilities and retirement homes
- Many older 2SLGBTQI+ people experience discrimination and harassment from residents and staff in homes. To avoid this, they may choose to conceal their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression
- Many community members have reported a desire for 2SLGBTQI+ inclusive housing environments

Health

- Many older 2SLGBTQI+ people or their partners often face discriminatory treatment from medical and home care providers
- Many HIV positive 2SLGBTQI+ seniors survived the 1980's AIDS Crisis, and are now at high risk for HIV/AIDS-related co-morbidities and depression
- 2SLGBTQI+ seniors fearing discrimination will often avoid seeking social services and healthcare support when they need them
- Many older 2SLGBTQI+ people have experienced multiple losses and are coping with significant grief

Social Isolation & Poverty

- Opportunities to meet other older 2SLGBTQI+ people for social interaction are limited, especially in rural areas. Programs, activities and events geared toward 2SLGBTQI+ seniors are rare
- Many 2SLGBTQI+ seniors have experienced rejection from family, spouses and children, increasing reliance on chosen families
- Many 2SLGBTQI+ elders, seniors and older persons have experienced prolonged poverty, financial insecurity or homelessness

OUR STRENGTHS

2SLGBTQI+ seniors are resilient

The experiences of marginalization and oppression have led many older 2SLGBTQI+ 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.

2SLGBTQI+ seniors are diverse

Despite media and societal stereotypes, older 2SLGBTQI+ people come from diverse cultural backgrounds including all genders, races, ethnicities, nationalities, abilities, ages, sexual orientations, religious and political affiliations. Older 2SLGBTQI+ people are present in all occupational categories and live in all types of communities - rural, suburban and urban. Some 2SLGBTQI+ seniors are newcomers to Canada, some have been here for generations and some are Indigenous.