



OTTAWA SENIOR
PRIDE NETWORK
RÉSEAU FIERTÉ DES
AÎNÉ(E)S D'OTTAWA

Ottawa Senior Pride Network (OSPN)

www.ospn-rfao.ca

Who we are: OSPN is a volunteer-run network of LGBT* seniors (50+) and allies, which was formed in 2008. Centretown Community Health Centre has been an active partner since our inception and we have received some United Way funding to help in our work.

What we do: We envision a world in which LGBT seniors are honoured and included in their communities and have access to appropriate services and facilities as they come to need them.

Through a network of LGBT community members and allies we work to create:

- A strong, connected, visible senior queer community, and
- LGBT culturally-appropriate and safe senior services and residential environments.

WE APPROACH OUR WORK FROM TWO ANGLES

SERVICE PERSPECTIVE: OSPN's **Training Team** has 15 senior volunteer trainers who organize and run workshops and professional development for the staff, volunteers, members, and clients within seniors' centres, service agencies, palliative care services, residential care facilities, and homecare agencies. We've trained a diverse group, including:

Algonquin College - Paramedics, Social Workers,
Practical Nurses

Alzheimer Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County
Bayshore HealthCare

Carefor Health & Community Services

Carleton Lodge

Hospice Care Ottawa

Extencicare Starwood

The Good Companions Seniors' Centre - Staff, Board,
Volunteers & Members

The Champlain Local Health Integration Network
(LHIN)

COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE: Our first engagement project was a very successful one-day conference in June of 2010 *Taking LGBT Aging Out of the Closet*. A number of sub-committees were established at the conference and new ones have been created as we've moved forward.

The Communications Committee is responsible for the OSPN web site, Facebook page and membership email distribution system and is, therefore, often the first point of contact for new members as well as for outside organizations.

The End of Life Care group's focus is on advocacy and education around the issues of physician-assisted death and palliative care. The group has organized film nights, panel discussions, and a three-part series of workshops called *On Dying*.

The Housing Committee addresses issues of affordable, LGBT-friendly housing in the National Capital Region. A survey of Ottawa LGBT seniors, in partnership with Ipsos Reid, provided useful data and insights to continue the work of this committee. You can read the results of that survey on our website.

The Social Spaces Committee organizes events for the senior LGBT community, including bowling, dances, film & pub nights, plus participation in the Capital Pride festivities.

The Inclusion Committee is dedicated to moving toward health equity for the Ottawa LGBT seniors' community by working for inclusive policy development and implementation in health services, social services, and long-term care facilities.

* Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender

