

Most (58%) LGBT seniors said they would do everything they could to avoid going into a care facility because of issues of trust, affordability and fear of discrimination.

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Most (58%) Ottawa LGBT seniors surveyed said they would do everything they could to avoid going into a care facility because of issues of trust, affordability and fear of discrimination.

Ottawa, ON – Few members of the Ottawa LGBT Seniors community (10%) indicate that their family members are going to care for them in their own home should the need arise. Almost half (45%) currently live alone compared to one in five (21%) of seniors in a National survey.

Few members of the Ottawa LGBT Seniors community (10%) indicate that their family members are going to care for them in their own home should the need arise. Four times more (37%) Ottawa LGBT seniors compared to Ottawa residents (8%) indicate that they are single or never married. Similarly, fewer Ottawa LGBT seniors (55%) reported being in a relationship, married or living with a partner, as compared to Ottawa seniors (68%). As a result many have no children (67%). These factors have implications for income, social support, and later life care.

Most (82%) of Ottawa LGBT Seniors surveyed would rather live independently in their own home, rather than in a retirement community or care facility. The Ottawa Senior Pride Network (OSPN) and Ipsos conducted a survey to identify housing options for Ottawa area LGBT Seniors, understand their role in retirement and housing planning and understand any unique challenges faced by LGBT Seniors.

In-home care is increasingly a trend for seniors across the country. Most Ottawa LGBT Seniors surveyed (68%) would use paid in-home care if required, but many are concerned



about affordability (25%) and trust (21%). However, health deterioration, difficulty caring for self, cost, and house maintenance are the four top reasons Ottawa LGBT Seniors leave home.

In the event that they would need to move into an assisted living facility, less than half of Ottawa LGBT Seniors surveyed (45%) feel they would be accepted by retirement community and care facility staff and most (70%) of Ottawa LGBT Seniors surveyed would feel uncomfortable in a community that has not be designated as LGBT-friendly community.

Ottawa LGBT Seniors surveyed are less confident in senior care facilities being able to address their community's needs (23%) and the availability of services (27%). Most of Ottawa LGBT Seniors surveyed (86%) are more likely to use LGBT-friendly services, and three in five (57%) feel community LGBT-friendliness is very important when considering moving.

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos survey conducted between October 15th and March 31st, 2015 on behalf of the Ottawa Senior Pride Network. A sample of 395 seniors from the LGBT community in Ottawa was recruited through convenience sampling. Respondents were invited through community events and referrals to be interviewed online. No weighting was employed as demographic characteristics of this population are not available. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error.

National findings used as a point of comparison are taken from Ipsos regular polling information from May 2015 among n=1000 Canadians ages 45 and over.

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