

Edmonton Pride Seniors Group

LBGTQ2S+ Seniors Housing Survey Results: Our Summary

Who Are We?

The Edmonton Pride Seniors Group (EPSG) is a self-organizing group for LBGTQ2S+ seniors working to ensure that all seniors' services, activity centres, and collective housing are welcoming, safe, and caring environments. In 2017, we formed a Housing Development Committee to investigate the housing needs and desires of seniors in the LBGTQ2S+ community.

Our Survey

Between February 28 and April 10, 2020, the Housing Development Committee of the Edmonton Pride Seniors Group distributed a survey to the community through Facebook, newsletter and network channels to understand the appetite for LBGTQ2S+-friendly seniors' housing in Edmonton.

Results

We received 199 responses, from people identifying as female (34%), male (62%) and other (5%). **52 respondents indicated they would be interested in moving into LBGTQ2S+ friendly seniors' housing within the next four to six years** – this level of support is a great starting place for us as we work to advance and advocate for this type of housing.

We learned that **one-bedroom plus den is the preferred type of apartment** (48%), follow by two-bedroom units (26%). Respondents felt our housing should be in the Oliver neighbourhood and be a gathering place for the LBGTQ2+ community. Features like recreation spaces, green space and access to home care are preferred so people can age in place in a supportive environment.

Survey respondents emphasized **rent affordability as a key issue** for them – roughly 60% of the respondents indicated they would be able to pay no more than \$1,400 per month. To meet this range of affordability, we will need to develop a mixed income model with subsidized rents. Most respondents (64%) indicated they would be interested in sharing a suite with a friend, partner or spouse.

Next Steps

With this survey, we've established that there is clear demand for safe and affordable LBGTQ2S+ seniors' housing.

With this knowledge in hand, the Housing Development Committee of EPSG will work to build support for this project, identify funding opportunities, and connect with more members of the LBGTQ2S+ community to identify opportunities to make the project inclusive, safe and welcoming for all people.

You can expect to hear regular updates from our team on social media and through our newsletter as we work to advance this project.