

Egale Canada receives funding from Slaight Family Foundation on International Day of Older Persons to support LGBTQI2S Seniors

– [Egale](#) is Canada's national LGBTQI2S organization –
– LGBTQI2S stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, intersex and Two Spirit –
– #SlaightSeniorsInitiative –

Oct. 1, 2019 (Toronto) – Today, on International Day of Older Persons, [Egale Canada](#) received funding from the **Slaight Family Foundation's** #SlaightSeniorsInitiative which has allocated \$30M to more than a dozen organizations in the healthcare and charitable sectors. Egale has long worked to support the growing and unique needs of [LGBTQI2S seniors](#) through our National Seniors Advisory Council, advocacy, national research, as well as training and education for care providers across the country.

“Older LGBTQI2S people in Canada are even further marginalized than their non-LGBTQI2S peers, and in addition to facing all of the same issues, must deal with the many unique challenges that come with ageing as an LGBTQI2S person,” said **Helen Kennedy, Executive Director at Egale Canada**. *“With the generous support from the Slaight Family Foundation, we will be able to better ensure that the unique needs of LGBTQI2S seniors are identified, and together we can begin to create lasting solutions.”*

LGBTQI2S older and ageing people face unique issues across the board:

- **Housing:** Almost **80%** of LGBTQI2S seniors are interested in LGBTQI2S-friendly housing
- **Poverty:** LGBTQI2S seniors (**51%**) are more concerned about their finances as they age than heterosexual seniors (36%)
- **Social Isolation:** **53%** of older LGBTQI2S seniors feel isolated and 40% have reported that their support networks have become smaller over time.
- **Barriers to Accessing Care:** **40%** of LGBTQI2S seniors, 60 years and older, have not disclosed their sexual orientation or gender identity to their primary healthcare provider because of the fear of discrimination

Even with these statistics, there is still so much that we do not know about the marginalized experiences of LGBTQI2S older and ageing people. Through the funding from the Slaight Family Foundation, Egale will:

- **Undertake additional national research** to determine the greatest areas of need for LGBTQI2S older and ageing people in Canada
- **Develop an innovative, accessible online training module**, to increase the cultural competency of frontline care providers and ensure that community services are better able to meet the needs of LGBTQI2S seniors.
- **Create a resource hub** for service providers aimed at improving the quality of services and supports offered to LGBTQI2S older adults.

“Seniors are Canada's fastest growing demographic, yet a very under-supported and vulnerable population. Finding new ways of assisting seniors, particularly those who have trouble accessing our health and social services due to poverty or other barriers, is essential to helping keep people healthier longer and in their own communities,” said **Gary Slaight of The Slaight Family Foundation**. *“This gift is only possible due to our father Allan Slaight's foresight, business acumen and philanthropic leadership. We hope these new models and programs will serve as change agents in moving support and care for our seniors forward for years to come.”*

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[Egale](#) works to improve the lives of LGBTQI2S people in Canada and to enhance the global response to LGBTQI2S issues. Egale achieves this by informing policy, inspiring cultural change and promoting human rights and inclusion through research, education and community engagement. Egale's vision is a Canada, and ultimately a world, without homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and all other forms of oppression so that every person can achieve their full potential, free from hatred and bias.

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