

## Study Introduction

**D**r. Tracey Rickards is an assistant professor with the Faculty of Nursing at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. She is conducting a study to better understand the perspective and concerns of lesbians about housing as they age.

If you are an English-speaking lesbian residing in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, or Prince Edward Island, you are eligible to participate in this study. Please see inside this brochure for more information or turn to the back for Dr. Rickard's contact information.



## Housing Needs of Aging Lesbians in the Maritimes

➤➤➤ NB, NS, and PEI

For more information or to express interest in participating in this study, please contact:

### **Dr. Tracey Rickards**



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*A research study by the UNB Faculty of Nursing*

## Background Information

Baby boomers are aging lesbian boomers are once again facing homophobia and heterosexism as they enter long-term care facilities. Many of today's lesbians have lived through a period of time when being gay was legally, medically, and socially censored. As a result, they may remain hesitant about disclosure of their sexual orientation, especially in the heteronormative environment of traditional senior's housing facilities. There is currently a need to understand this experience from a Canadian perspective, with the aim of improving services that are provided to this population. The focus of this study is on identifying and understanding the social and practical aspects of the aging process for lesbians in the Maritime provinces.



## Study Design & Process

This study has been approved by the UNB Research Ethics Board (#2015-013). It is qualitative and uses interviews conducted by Dr. Tracey Rickards to gather information. As a participant in this study, you would be asked to take part in 1-2 interviews in a location that is most comfortable for you. Your participation is voluntary and you may choose to withdraw at any time. As a thank-you for participating, you will receive a \$25 gift certificate to a local grocery store.

The interviews will be recorded, typed, and then analyzed. After 2-6 months, you would be contacted with preliminary results and asked to comment on whether they reflect your experience accurately. Finally, a research report detailing the findings will be written from the analysis of the interviews.

Every effort will be made to keep your personal information confidential throughout the course of this study and afterwards.

## Risks & Benefits



There are very few known health risks to taking part in this research study. There is a small risk that you may feel upset when talking about your concerns about the aging process. If this happens, Dr. Rickards will ensure you have the names and contact information of counselors in your area. In addition, Dr. Rickards can stay after the interview to address any immediate concerns.

There will likely be no direct personal benefits to you for taking part in this study; however, what you share will be used to help health care providers better understand the experience of older lesbians surrounding aging and therefore be able to provide better care to other older lesbians in the future. Your participation would be greatly appreciated.