

“Housing Needs of Older Lesbians” Research Study:
Letter of Information

My name is Dr. Tracey Rickards and I am an assistant professor with the Faculty of Nursing at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton.

The housing needs of older lesbians and gay men have not had very much attention, especially in Canada. Many long-term care facilities and their employees tend to be heterosexist in nature and do not feel equipped to care for members of LGBT communities. This frequently causes many older gay men and lesbians to go back into the closet, denying their sexual identity in the final years. This research will seek to determine what older lesbians and gay men are concerned about in the senior years and what they are looking for in seniors’ housing and end of life care. The findings of this research will help to better inform healthcare providers as to how to provide the most appropriate end-of-life care for older lesbians and gay men.

I am seeking to interview English-speaking lesbians from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, or Prince Edward Island who are 55 years of age or older about their thoughts and concerns about ageing during a recorded interview lasting 1-2 hours. I may also need to conduct a second, shorter interview with them (30-60 minutes) to explore ideas and themes that were not discussed during the first interview. As a thank you for taking part in this research, participants will receive a \$25 gift card to a local grocery store.

This project has been reviewed by the University of New Brunswick Research Ethics Board and is on file as REB: #2015-013. If you have any ethical concerns about the project or questions about your rights as a participant please contact Dr. Loretta Secco, Assistant Dean of Research at the UNB Faculty of Nursing (loretta@unb.ca).

If you are interested in being part of this study or would like more information please contact me, Dr. Tracey Rickards, by phone: (506) 447-3412, or email: srickar1@unb.ca.

Thank you for your interest in this research.

Sincerely,
Tracey Rickards RN, PhD