

## **CARP LGBT Poll Report July 14, 2015**

### **Key Findings**

**CARP members identify as being LGBT at about the same rate as the general population and the vast majority know someone who is LGBT, and more than half know someone in a same sex marriage. Most LGBT members are married. Very few know someone who is LGBT and is also in care.**

**One half think that LGBT seniors suffer from discrimination “sometimes” and just fewer think it occurs “frequently”, and both ageism and homophobia are seen as problems for these seniors. While most members think LGBT seniors will suffer the same problems as others as they age and in care, as many as one third of members think LGBT seniors are vulnerable to discrimination and bias by staff or residents in care.**

**It is agreed that LGBT seniors have a harder time than younger Canadians who come out in more accepting times, and it also agreed that these seniors must be free to express their identity in care. More acceptance in society at large is seen as the best route to integrating LGBT seniors in care facilities, followed by sensitizing staff and residents to the LGBT life experience and the ability to date and have relationships.**

**Inclusive and welcoming housing (and care facilities) are seen to be a problem for LGBT seniors and awareness building and support groups are recommended to mitigate this, as is a welcoming community of other LGBT seniors.**

**The three leading parties are now exactly tied in member preference with one third of the vote each. If no party wins a majority, members would like to see a Liberal/NDP coalition, followed by a Conservative minority, a Liberal minority or an NDP minority.**

## Detailed Findings

The vast majority of CARP members know someone who is LGBT (82%) and this incidence is steady since last year (83%). About as many CARP members themselves identify as LGBT (4%) as the incidence in the general population.

### ***Are you or is someone you know lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered (LGBT)?***

	<b>February 2014</b>	<b>June 2014</b>	<b>July 2015</b>
<b>YES</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>82%</b>
<b>Me</b>	2%	3%	4%
<b>Family member</b>	14%	17%	17%
<b>Friend</b>	16%	16%	17%
<b>Someone I know</b>	31%	28%	26%
<b>More than one of these</b>	17%	18%	19%
<b>No</b>	21%	17%	18%

More than one half of those who are LGBT (or are LGBT friends or relatives) are in same sex marriages (57%), and most members who are LGBT are married (3%).

### ***Do you know anyone who is in a same sex marriage?***

	<b>February 2014</b>	<b>June 2014</b>	<b>July 2015</b>
<b>YES</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>Me</b>	1%	1%	3%
<b>Family member</b>	6%	7%	7%
<b>Friend</b>	12%	15%	15%
<b>Someone I know</b>	21%	23%	20%
<b>More than one of these</b>	7%	9%	10%
<b>No</b>	55%	45%	43%

Just one twentieth know someone who is LGBT and in care (5%).

***Do you know anyone who is LGBT who is also in care or in assisted living?***

<b>YES</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Me</b>	-
<b>Family member</b>	-
<b>Friend</b>	1%
<b>Someone I know</b>	3%
<b>More than one of these</b>	1%
<b>No</b>	<b>95%</b>

The plurality thinks discrimination occurs “sometimes” (44%) but as many as 3-in-10 say it happens frequently (30%).

***Do LGBT Canadians suffer from discrimination because of their sexual identity?***

	<b>June 2014</b>	<b>July 2015</b>
<b>No, we’re past that</b>	7%	5%
<b>Sometimes, not completely past that</b>	49%	44%
<b>Frequently, many don’t accept LGBT lifestyle</b>	32%	30%
<b>All the time, homophobia is very common</b>	4%	6%
<b>OTHER/DON’T KNOW</b>	8%	15%

Homophobia is seen as somewhat more damaging (23%) than ageism (15%), but half see them as both equally pernicious (47%).

***Both ageism and homophobia are forms of discrimination and stereotyping. Which do you think is more personally damaging to individuals?***

	<b>June 2014</b>	<b>July 2015</b>
<b>Homophobia</b>	22%	23%
<b>Ageism</b>	19%	15%
<b>Both equally</b>	43%	47%
<b>Neither is a problem in Canada</b>	5%	4%
<b>DON’T KNOW</b>	10%	11%

Most say LGBT seniors will face all the same problems as others (39%), but discrimination (15%) and separation from partners (13%) are singled out.

***What are the most serious problems LGBT seniors will face as they age?***

	<b>June 2014</b>	<b>July 2015</b>
<b>Same problems as other seniors</b>	45%	39%
<b>Discrimination and ageism</b>	16%	15%
<b>Separation from partners in long term care</b>	14%	13%
<b>Isolation upon death of a partner</b>	6%	7%
<b>No/few close family for support</b>	6%	5%
<b>Lack of affordable/diverse housing</b>	4%	7%
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	9%	14%

Agreement that social services for seniors are inclusive of LGBT needs has declined since last year (from 41% to 32%).

***Do you agree or disagree that social services and health care for seniors in Canada are inclusive of LGBT seniors' needs?***

	<b>June 2014</b>	<b>July 2015</b>
<b>AGREE</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	5%	5%
<b>Agree</b>	36%	27%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	18%	20%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	3%	3%
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	39%	45%

Once again, seniors in care are mostly seen to suffer the same problems as others (30%), but discrimination by residents (18%) and staff (12%) are singled out.

***What do you think are the most serious problems LGBT seniors in care facilities could face?***

	<b>June 2014</b>	<b>July 2015</b>
<b>Same problems as other seniors</b>	32%	30%
<b>Discrimination by residents</b>	18%	18%
<b>Discrimination by staff</b>	12%	12%
<b>Stereotyping</b>	11%	9%
<b>Abuse/neglect by staff</b>	7%	8%
<b>Isolation from other residents</b>	7%	8%
<b>Abuse by residents</b>	1%	1%
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	13%	12%

Half don't know whether care is affected by homophobia (54%), but the plurality say it is (36%).

***Does unspoken bigotry and homophobia affect the quality of care LGBT seniors receive in Canada?***

	<b>June 2014</b>	<b>July 2015</b>
<b>Yes</b>	38%	36%
<b>No</b>	11%	9%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	50%	54%

Most members don't have an answer to this question (40%) but the plurality agree some LGBT seniors may have to "go back in the closet" as they age (37%).

***Do you agree or disagree some LGBT seniors may have to abandon their identity and go back in the closet as they age?***

	<b>June 2014</b>	<b>July 2015</b>
<b>AGREE</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	3%	4%
<b>Agree</b>	31%	33%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	26%	19%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	4%	4%
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	37%	40%

The majority agree seniors who are LGBT had a more difficult time than younger LGBT Canadians today (54%)

***Do older LGBT Canadians who came of age when society was less accepting face greater obstacles than younger LGBT Canadians today?***

<b>YES</b>	<b>54%</b>
Legacy of hiding remains	31%
More acculturation needed	23%
<b>NO</b>	<b>21%</b>
Society completely accepts diversity	2%
Society mostly accepts diversity	19%
<b>DON'T KNOW/OTHER</b>	<b>25%</b>

The wide majority sees it as important that LGBT seniors can express their identity while in care (71%).

***How important is that LGBT seniors be allowed to express their identity in care facilities?***

<b>IMPORTANT</b>	<b>71%</b>
Very important	44%
Somewhat important	27%
<b>NOT IMPORTANT</b>	<b>18%</b>
Not very important	11%
Not at all important	7%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>11%</b>

Acceptance of diversity in society in general is seen as the best solution to integrating LGBT seniors into care (40%), followed by sensitizing staff (23%) and residents (11%) to the LGBT life experience.

***What is the best solution to integrating LGBT seniors into a care environment?***

<b>More acceptance diversity in society at large</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Sensitize care staff to LGBT experience</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Sensitize residents to LGBT experience</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Separate care facilities for LGBT seniors</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>LGBT oriented community centres and services</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>16%</b>

Two thirds believe it important LGBT seniors are free to have relationships in care (64%).

***As far as you know, how important is it that LGBT seniors in care facilities are free to have relationships with other LGBT seniors?***

<b>IMPORTANT</b>	<b>64%</b>
Very important	35%
Somewhat important	29%
<b>NOT IMPORTANT</b>	<b>14%</b>
Not very important	8%
Not at all important	6%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>23%</b>

Two thirds of members don't know how inclusive care facilities are to LGBT seniors (62%), but the larger group thinks they are not (28%).

***How inclusive are care facilities to the needs of LGBT seniors?***

<b>INCLUSIVE</b>	<b>10%</b>
Very inclusive	2%
Somewhat inclusive	8%
<b>NOT INCLUSIVE</b>	<b>28%</b>
Not very inclusive	24%
Not at all inclusive	4%
<b>DON'T KNOW/OTHER</b>	<b>62%</b>

Close to half think it difficult for LGBT seniors to find inclusive housing (45%), although a similar proportion don't have any idea on the issue (44%).

***How easy do you think it is for LGBT seniors to access inclusive housing, where they are accepted and valued?***

<b>EASY</b>	<b>12%</b>
Very easy	3%
Somewhat easy	9%
<b>DIFFICULT</b>	<b>45%</b>
Somewhat difficult	31%
Very difficult	14%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>44%</b>

The wide majority agree LGBT seniors must be able to find inclusive housing or care facilities as they age (79%).

***Do you agree or disagree that LGBT seniors who have to move out of their chosen community because of health or financial reasons need to be able to find inclusive and accepting housing or care facilities?***

<b>AGREE</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>Agree strongly</b>	33%
<b>Agree</b>	46%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	5%
<b>Disagree strongly</b>	3%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	13%

Awareness building (27%) and support groups (24%) are seen as solutions to finding inclusive housing for seniors, and building more inclusive housing (14%). A similar proportion doesn't think the problem needs a public solution (12%).

***What is the best solution for helping LGBT seniors to find inclusive housing?***

<b>Awareness building to promote inclusive housing</b>	27%
<b>Support programs to help find inclusive housing</b>	24%
<b>Build more inclusive housing</b>	14%
<b>LGBT wings in care facilities</b>	2%
<b>More study required</b>	5%
<b>THIS PROBLEM DOESN'T REQUIRE PUBLIC SOLUTION</b>	13%
<b>OTHER/DON'T KNOW</b>	15%



Virtually all members agree it is important LGBT seniors have access to inclusive housing and care facilities (93%), and as many as 8-in-10 say it is “very important” (80%).

***How important is it that all seniors have access to inclusive and welcoming care and housing, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation?***

<b>IMPORTANT</b>	<b>93%</b>
Very important	80%
Somewhat important	13%
<b>NOT IMPORTANT</b>	<b>4%</b>
Not very important	2%
Not at all important	2%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>4%</b>

Two thirds of members say a close community of LGBT seniors is important to LGBT seniors as they age (64%).

***How important is a close community of other LGBT people to LGBT seniors as they age?***

<b>IMPORTANT</b>	<b>64%</b>
Very important	29%
Somewhat important	35%
<b>NOT IMPORTANT</b>	<b>11%</b>
Not very important	6%
Not at all important	5%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>25%</b>

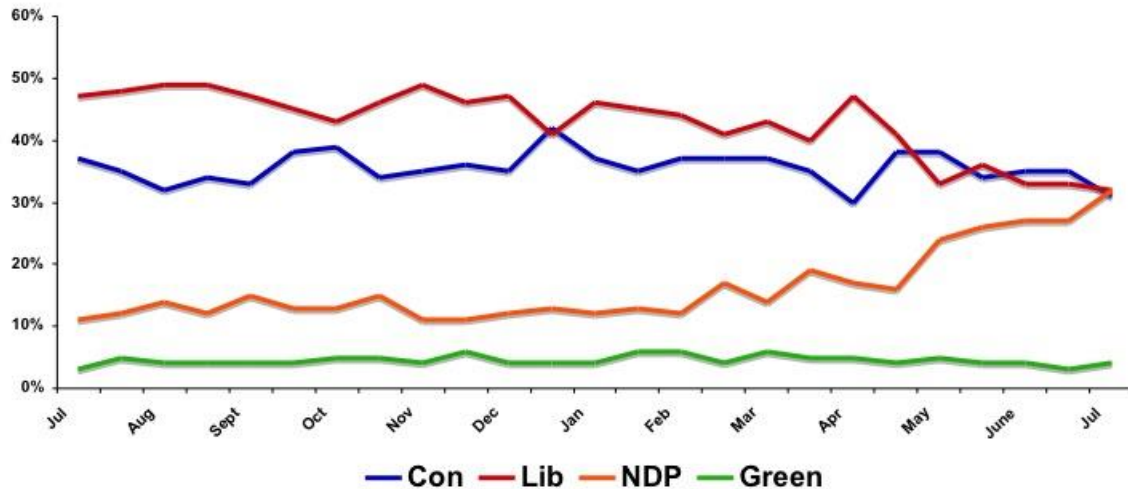
Three quarters agree it is important LGBT seniors be allowed to date in care (77%).

***Is it important for LGBT seniors who are single or who have lost a partner to have the same rights to relationships and dating in care?***

<b>IMPORTANT</b>	<b>77%</b>
Very important	52%
Somewhat important	25%
<b>NOT IMPORTANT</b>	<b>10%</b>
Not very important	6%
Not at all important	4%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>14%</b>

## Electoral Preference

The three parties have achieved exact parity (Liberals - 32%, NDP - 32%, Conservatives - 31%)..



Most members expect the Conservatives to win the next election (44%), followed by the NDP (32%) and the Liberals (23%). The NDP is rapidly increasing their performance on this measure and will soon overtake the Conservatives.

### *Which party do you EXPECT to win the next election?*

	<b>Apr 27</b>	<b>May 19</b>	<b>June 4</b>	<b>June 16</b>	<b>June 30</b>	<b>July 14</b>
<b>Liberals</b>	37%	34%	32%	30%	26%	23%
<b>Conservatives</b>	56%	54%	48%	51%	46%	44%
<b>NDP</b>	5%	11%	17%	18%	27%	32%
<b>Green</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*

Members are most likely to prefer a centre/left coalition (31%) followed by a Conservative minority (23%) if no party has a majority in the election. After that a Liberal (11%) or NDP minority is preferred (12%).

***If no party wins a majority in the next federal election, which type of government are you most likely to support?***

	<b>June 30</b>	<b>July 14</b>
<b>Liberal/NDP coalition</b>	29%	31%
<b>Conservative minority</b>	26%	23%
<b>Liberal minority</b>	11%	11%
<b>NDP minority</b>	9%	12%
<b>Party that has confidence of the house</b>	5%	5%
<b>Conservative/NDP coalition</b>	5%	4%
<b>Party with the most seats</b>	4%	4%
<b>Conservative/Liberal coalition</b>	2%	2%
<b>OTHER</b>	1%	1%
<b>DON'T KNOW</b>	8%	8%

***More than 1700 CARP Poll™ online panel members responded to this poll between June 30 and July 4, 2015. The margin of error for a probability sample this size is about plus or minus 2%, 19 times out of 20***