



Mary Beth Wighton  
ODAG Board Member  
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February 10<sup>th</sup> 2016

Re: LGBTQ involvement in the Ontario Dementia Strategy

Mr. Steven Little  
The 519  
519 Church Street  
Toronto ON M4Y 2C9

Dear Mr. Little,

My name is Mary Beth Wighton. I am 49 years old and have a medical diagnosis of probable Frontotemporal Dementia. I am a Lesbian and live in Southampton, Ontario. Also, I am a Board Member of the Ontario Dementia Advisory Group (ODAG) <http://www.odag.ca/>

ODAG is busy working with the Ontario Government on the creation of a provincial dementia strategy. This strategy will impact over 200,000 people who currently have this disease. The numbers are still climbing. It is also worth noting that Canada is the only G7 country not to have a national dementia plan.

I am contacting you as I believe it is imperative that the LGBTQ community in Ontario has the opportunity to play a role in the shaping and implementation of an Ontario dementia strategy plan. People with dementia, regardless of sexual orientation, need to stand up and make our voices heard. This means we need to work together and reach out to anyone who may have dementia and help educate them about this disease. In addition, we need to provide a safe forum for us to participate in providing direct feedback into the development of the Ontario dementia plan.

Our work crosses many different types of companies and government agencies. For instance, we our partners with: Alzheimer Society of Canada; Alzheimer Society of Ontario, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care; Facebook Canada; University of Waterloo (MAREP), Mindset Centre for Living with Dementia, Zoom Canada, etc. These relationships are key in helping us stand up and have a voice. We are grateful for them.

The reason I am contacting you is to ask for your help in reaching out to the LGBTQ population in Toronto – and Ontario. ODAG has exclusive membership for those with dementia and I am hoping to add members to its group. We help in providing opportunities for people with dementia to be involved in different projects, initiatives, media events, and of course – feedback on the development of the Ontario Dementia Strategy.

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I have included our pamphlet for your perusal.

ODAG looks forward to your thoughts on this important topic and appreciates feedback you may have for us. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this on the telephone at your convenience.

Best Regards,

Mary Beth Wighton  
ODAG Board Member

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