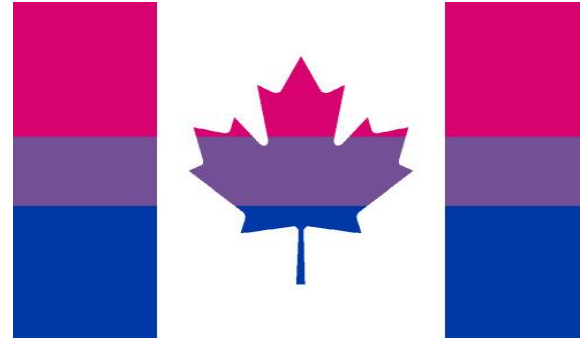


## First let us Honour the Flags



Pride Flag of Canada



Bi Flag of Canada



Transgender Flag of Canada



Two Spirit Flag of Canada

Approximate Population of Canada as of this writing is 36.7 million persons



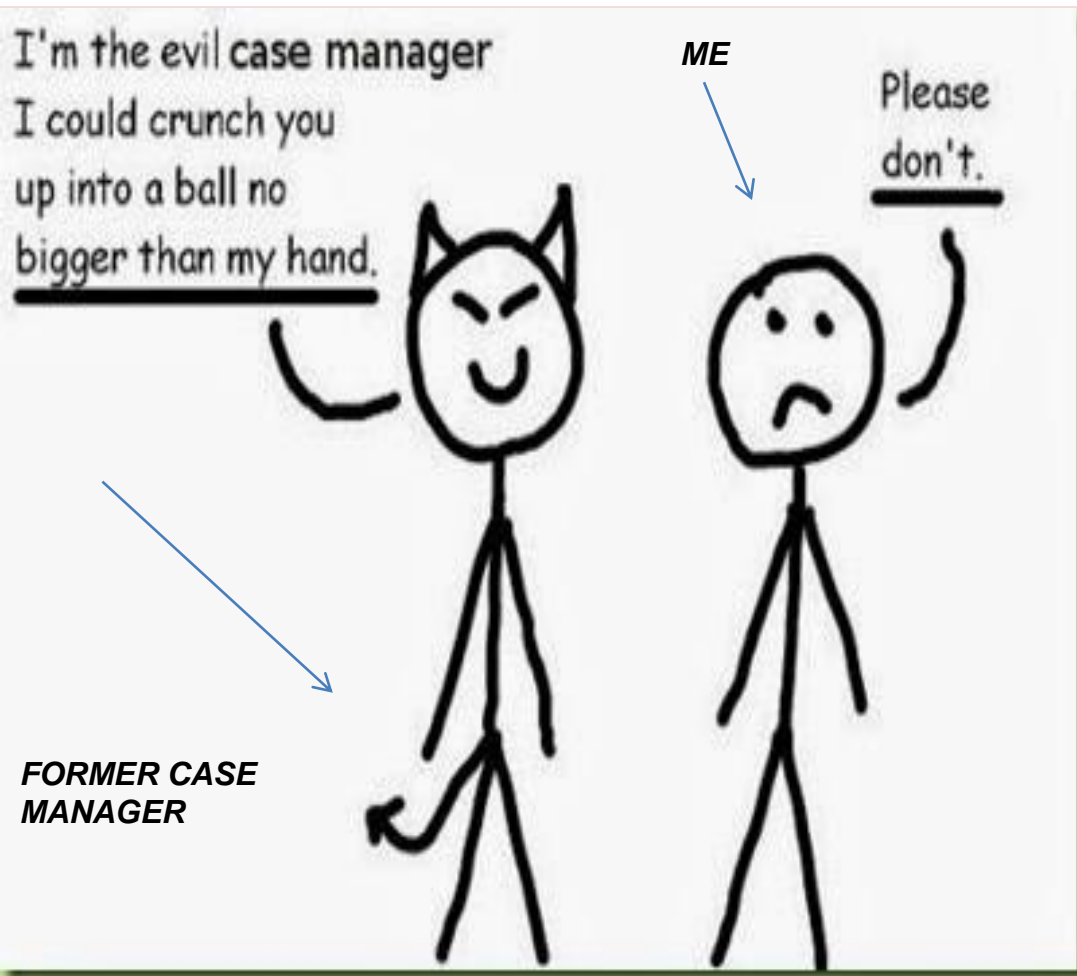
## Facts worth noting for this Presentation

(Approximate figures)

- 7% of Canada's Population identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered or Questioning
- Upon research I found that coincidentally 7% of Canada's homeless Population identify as LGBTQ (no 2S included)
- So approximately 16450 persons identify as LGBTQ adults and are homeless and approximately 2.570 million persons identify in the LGBTQ spectrum in all of Canada
- The average life expectancy of a homeless person is 39 yrs. of age
- There is no data on our Two Spirit population whether they are homeless or not
- No specific data on the Refugee Population who are homeless

# Thoughts worth Considering

- LGBTQ2S+ could presumably have issues with future Landlords who are Homophobic or Transphobic
- The Couch Surfing LGBTQ2S+ person could feel safer than that of a person in a Shelter, Encampment or on the streets
- Refugees who escape violence in their own country because of their sexuality **should** feel safer in a Shelter here in Canada...do they? For example: Chechnya <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/from-chechnya-to-canada-the-secret-escape-for-young-gay-men-1.4274544>
- Transgender and Two-Spirit will face more discrimination than Lesbian, Bi or Gay
- Lack of acknowledgement or awareness of LGBTQ2S has led to inappropriate responses by front-line workers, adding to the marginalization of this group.



I am the Client, a Lesbian in Trauma due to homelessness and searching for connection, conversation and engagement with like minded individuals due to extreme loneliness

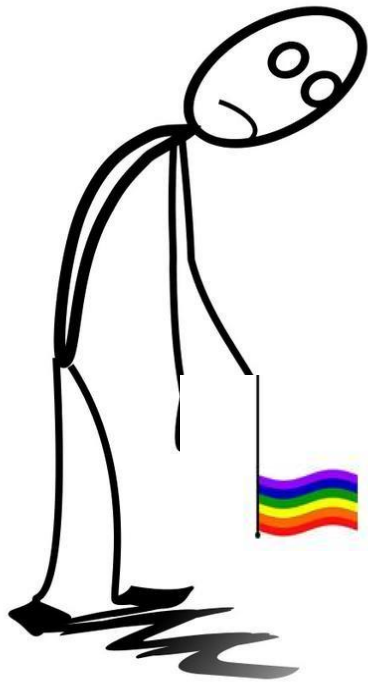
A former Case Manger informed me through the Housing Manager to stay away from her because I was getting too close and I was reprimanded. Was I hitting on her. NOT. I was looking for someone who understood me

## Incidents I occurred and observed while in the Shelter

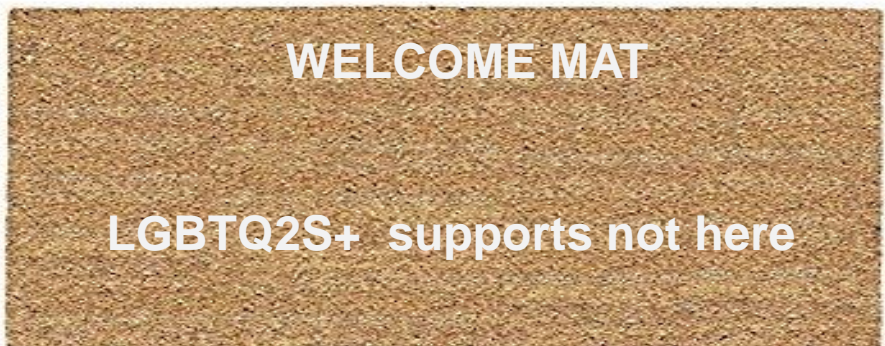
- When a Resident identifies as LGBTQ in a Shelter it is almost certain that other clients will discriminate based on fear of the unknown, over-sensitive because of Trauma.
- Resident will be accused of looking at other women (or men's) bodies in a sexual way
- Resident at first will not be included in Community dinners, watching the resident TV and other social events
- Resident will hibernate in their rooms for fear of being asked to move out and go back on the streets if too many unnecessary complaints or accusations are lodged
- A Transgendered Woman at the Shelter and I had coffee one day outside of the location and she told me that no other residents knew that she was Transgendered out of fear. She trusted me

## Let's talk Suicide

- It has been well-documented that the LGBT community has a higher rate of suicide than the general population.
- Approximately 30% of suicide deaths and 28% of suicide attempts in Canada involve lesbian, gay or bisexual individuals. (LGB; Banks, 2003) The LGB population was estimated by Statistics Canada (2015c) at approximately 2%, though this is likely an underestimate.
- The trans suicide rate is dramatically higher than the LGBQ rate. Between 20 and 40% of transgender individuals report suicide attempts, while a study of trans youth in Ontario reported that 35% had suicidal thoughts and 11% had a suicide attempt in the previous year. (Bauer, 2015)
- There was no stats on LBGTQ+ homeless suicides that I could find



Will I be welcome here because of who I am?



**You get the Point. Most Case Managers and Shelters supports us but some do not have any idea on LGBTQ supports in our Community. This must change.**





Now this is what we like to see

# My Suggestion for Case Managers, Intake Workers, Counsellors Peer Support Workers and Agencies

Page 1

- Anti-discrimination policies should be implemented within organizations to prevent discrimination based on sexual or gender identity/expression and allow LGBTQ2S+ individuals to feel welcome within institutions
- Intake forms should include more than binary options; and staff should use inclusive language, such as asking for pronoun preferences
- Programs and facilities should be more inclusive and not be segregated in binary genders
- Organizations should hire LGBTQ2S+ identifying individuals, or those who have experience working with LGBTQ 2S+ individuals, to create more inclusive environments
- LGBTQ 2S+ competent organizations should identify themselves as safe spaces

# My Suggestion for Case Mangers, Intake Workers, Counsellors Peer Support Workers and Agencies

## Page 2

- Organizations should show solidarity by supporting and mainstreaming LGBTQ 2S+ programs through participation in, and support for LGBTQ2S+ initiatives in the community
- Images advertised by organizations should be representative of diverse sexual/gender/ethnic/cultural identities, including representations of diverse family models. •
- Service agencies should provide evaluation forms to anyone who uses their service so that LGBTQ2S + individuals can provide feedback on whether their experience was inclusive and sensitive to their needs
- Collaboration with all Service Providers, Shelters and System of Care Agencies to promote these values

# My Challenge to ALL Homeless and LGBTQ2S+ Researchers in Canada

- Please concentrate on more research, Qualitative and Quantitative on this issue as it is vitally important for the data to be there so our Colleagues can do their work effectively and save lives
- There is many research documents out there in relation to LGBTQ+ youth homelessness which is a good thing. But to my knowledge, there is none on Two Spirit homelessness and very little on LGBTQ+ Adult Homelessness
- The solution to help our friends is Data, we need more data
- I do not claim to be a Researcher or Data Specialist but I am a Person of Lived Experience Expertise and I am also a very proud and out Lesbian of 34 years who is dismayed over the lack of research in this area
- Can we fix this and help our friends – yes
- Please help us to help them – we need you

# Thank you

- I know I should quote my sources of information on this presentation but I slipped up.
- To my last Case Manager, Intake Worker and Counsellor at the Shelter I stayed at, thank you for your support and love
- To my friends and Colleagues in all the Organizations I volunteer and work with, you guys rock
- To Dr. John Ecker, Dr. Alex Abramovich and Kristin Johnston, thank you for supporting me in this Workshop
- To my Colleagues and Friends at the Calgary Homeless Foundation and the one and only Dr. Nick Falvo for putting yourself out there 100% and believing in my work and my passion
- I am Hilary L. Chapple, Community Advocate and Ally and the Alberta Representative for the Canadian Lived Experience Advisory Council