

# QMUNITY

## Older Adults & Seniors Program

**The organization:** QMUNITY is BC's Queer, Trans and Two-Spirit Resource Centre which exists to improve queer, trans and Two-Spirit lives. We do this in three ways: by supporting individuals, by strengthening our communities, and by leading the way towards legal and lived equality.

**The program:** QMUNITY's Older Adults and Seniors program offers opportunities for community connection, social support, and personal development for folks 55+. To do this work well we need an amazing group of caring and committed volunteers able to offer consistent support to folks accessing QMUNITY programs and services.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Volunteers will be recruited in seasonal cohorts (up to) three times a year. These volunteers will be given speciality training in working with older adult and senior populations; building dementia friendly communities; and supporting queer, trans, and Two-Spirit communities.

While most volunteer opportunities with the Older Adults and Seniors Program will require competency in all three areas, volunteers can select which areas of support they are most interested in. The three types of Senior Program Volunteer Opportunities include:

**Outreach Support** – assist with promotion and outreach by phone, email/mail, in-person (canvassing or tabling), contacting older adult / senior populations and community partner organizations, etc.

**Activities Support** – assist in QMUNITY events, workshops, and drop-in activities (including hosting and engaging with older adult/ senior attendees)

**Social Support** – support seniors by phone, in person, and during QMUNITY events and/or connect with seniors in person during friendly visitor program visits, either one-on-one or in pairs. This may include social assistance with social and recreation activities, local short walks or coffee/tea at a coffee shop.

### **Responsibilities:**

- Contribute to QMUNITY efforts in a positive way and interact with QMUNITY stakeholders and the general community in a friendly, welcoming, and professional manner.
- Assist with hosting and supporting older adult and senior attendees at events, workshops, and drop-ins.
- Converse and engage with event attendees, facilitating introductions between seniors where appropriate. Including answering questions about QMUNITY and the services we offer.
- Provide referrals to staff where appropriate.
- Contribute to the set-up and take-down of events or program activities.
- Assist with calling older adults and seniors on QMUNITY's call list to inform them of upcoming social events, including checking in on priority seniors who may be experiencing loneliness or social isolation.
- Travel locally as needed within Metro Vancouver\* (relevant only for Friendly Visitors volunteers).
- Research and draft entries for the Queer Directory.
- Work collaboratively within a strong team culture.

**Time commitment:**

- Applicants must be able to commit to a volunteer period of 6 months (minimum).

**Qualifications:**

- 21 years of age or over.
- Priority will be given to folks with lived queer, trans, and/or Two Spirit experiences.
- Completion of a Criminal Record Check.
- Passionate about creating safer spaces for LGBTQ/2S folks.
- Experience working with marginalized communities, including older adults and seniors an asset.
- An understanding of and appreciation for QMUNITY's mission to improve queer, trans, and Two-Spirit lives through support, connection, and leadership.
- Strong communication skills.

**Benefits:**

- Mentorship in the workplace with the ability to learn about the community seniors services sector, event hosting, and working with community members.
- Experience working at a long-standing non-profit.
- An opportunity to give back to and support LGBTQ/2S folks, especially youth and seniors.
- Experience and training in the provision of peer and social support to members of queer, trans, and Two Spirit communities.
- Experience and training in the provision of competent older adults and seniors care and support.
- Ongoing professional development and training opportunities.
- Continued support from staff and other volunteers.
- Potential for letters of recommendation and references.

**Accountability:**

Evaluation and support is provided on an ongoing basis through regular check-ins with the Seniors' Coordinator.

**To apply:**

Please complete the intake form below and send it to Specialist, Engagement & Donor relations. [engagement@qmunity.ca](mailto:engagement@qmunity.ca).

Qmunity offers the option to conduct the intake via phone to minimize accessibility barriers. Please call 604 684 5307 ext 100 to schedule a time if you choose this option.

**Accessibility:**

Please note: QMUNITY's main office space is located on the second level of the building. Applicants should be aware that there is a flight of 23 stairs to reach the office. A second, accessible office space is available for meetings and is wheelchair-accessible with all-gender washroom access.

**Diversity:**

QMUNITY is committed to employment equity and prioritizes applications from underrepresented groups including trans and gender variant persons, Indigenous persons, persons of colour, and persons with disabilities.



## LGBTQ2S+ Older Adults & Seniors Program

### Volunteer Application

#### Contact Information

Please provide contact information that is safest for you.

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last First*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street Address Apartment/Unit #*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City Territory Postal Code*

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

What is your preferred method of communication?      Phone      Email  
     

Pronouns (Often in society, pronouns are assumed based on outward appearances but our gender expression may not match our gender identity.): \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation of 21 years or older?      YES      NO  
     

Please indicate your interest in the following volunteer opportunities (select all that apply):

Outreach      Activities      Social  
           

Volunteers will be given speciality training in working with older adult and senior populations; building dementia friendly communities; and supporting queer, trans, and Two-Spirit communities.

Please indicate your availability to attend training: \_\_\_\_\_

Availability for (minimum) 6-month commitment is required; approximately 2-3 hours per visit with 2-3 visits per month. What is your general availability in the week? \_\_\_\_\_

## Motivation, Community Involvement and Relevant Experience

It is important for Qmunity to have representation in volunteer roles and share lived experiences with the community they'll be supporting. Therefore, how would you describe yourself in relation to the LGBTQ2S+ identities?

Why would you like to volunteer with the Older Adults & Seniors Program?

The Older Adults & Seniors Program offers opportunities for community connection, social support, and personal development for folks 55+. What are some of the best ways to interact with and support older adults and seniors?

What experiences (volunteer, paid or otherwise) have you had that would relate to or help in this volunteer role?

Applications close on October 11, 2019 for the fall cohort of volunteers.