



TRANSGENDER SENIORS & THEIR STRUGGLE FOR IDENTITY

LGBT Baby Boomers find themselves fighting homophobia, again

The challenges facing aging gay, lesbian and trans seniors

Emma Teitel

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Photo by Jimmy Jeong

When 52-year-old Fraser Doke underwent a liver transplant in Vancouver last year, he

FIRST THINGS FIRST

○ Sexual orientation



Gender identity!

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

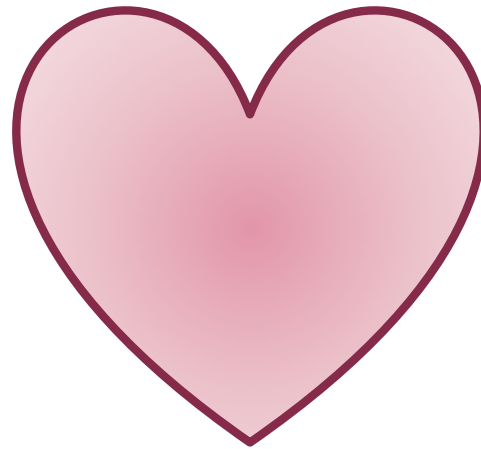
○ Who you love!

GENDER IDENTITY

◎ Who you are!

The internal sense of
maleness/femaleness

“The Heart”



GENDER EXPRESSION

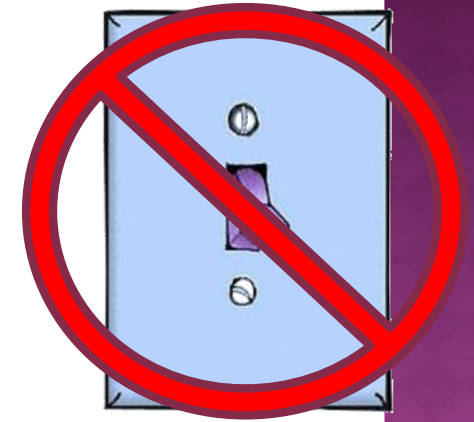
◎ How you look
and act!

(external presentation)

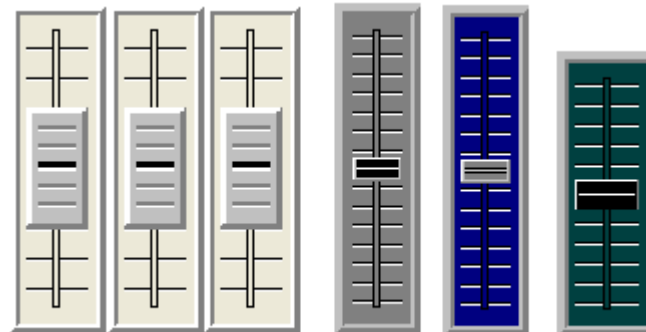
How we express
what is inside.

GENDER

Gender is NOT a BINARY
either / or thing



Gender is a continuum



KEY DEFINITIONS

◎ CIS Gendered

(“CIS” ... The same as...)

The plumbing and the brain match.

◎ Transgendered

The plumbing does NOT match the brain.

TRANSGENDERISM

- ⦿ It is NOT a Choice
- ⦿ It is NOT a Lifestyle
- ⦿ It is a deep fundamental core aspect of our personhood

LABELS

○ Lets make it simple....

The only label that truly matters.....

My Name

That is my label....

That is the label that matters to me...

THAT Name is my identity....

Please call me by my name...

DEPRESSION

- For Male to Female trans people the depression rate is **61%**.
- For Female to Male trans people the depression rate is **66%**.
- The suicide rate for Trans persons in Ontario is **43%**

DEPRESSION

Imagine what this must be like for a senior with the world closing in around them



TOBY'S ACT- JUNE 2012

BILL C-33

- Toby's Act was named in honour of **Toby Dancer**, a music producer and transsexual.
- The Bill amends the **Ontario Human Rights Code** to include **Gender Identity** and **Gender Expression**



TOBY'S ACT- JUNE 2012

**THE RIGHT TO BE FREE FROM
DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT
BECAUSE OF
GENDER IDENTITY OR GENDER EXPRESSION**

TOBY'S ACT- 2012

Empowers all of us to do
THE RIGHT THING
with confidence

TOBY'S ACT- 2012

The RIGHT to be treated

“THE SAME AS”

anyone else of the gender we identify with

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation means that the person is to be included and treated just like any other person of the gender they identify with.

Involuntary segregation of the person to provide the service **DOES NOT** meet the standard of accommodation.

BATHROOMS AND GENDER SPECIFIC FACILITIES

- ◉ A trans-person has the **RIGHT** to use the gender specific facility of the gender they identify with.
- ◉ **Bathrooms are a BARRIER to trans persons**
(our most feared place)
- ◉ Please do what you can to make this a safe place for trans persons.

TRANS SENIORS A NEW CHALLENGE
WE ARE COMING..... WE ARE HERE



OUR RIGHTS....

- ◉ **The right to our preferred name and pronouns regardless of what our legal identification indicates.**

OUR RIGHTS....

- ◉ The right to **express gender** in the way we choose.

OUR RIGHTS....

- ◎ **The right to accommodation and gender specific facilities based on the gender we identify with.**

Note: Segregation is **NOT** to be used as a method of accommodation.

OUR RIGHTS....

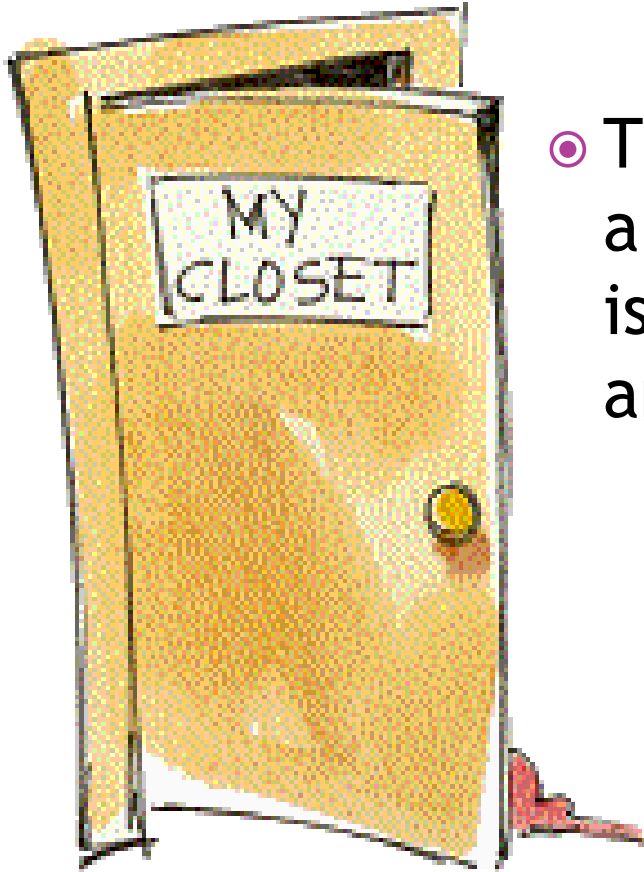
- ⦿ **The right to self determination.**
- ⦿a Power of Attorney (POA)
DOES NOT GIVE Absolute Power to the agents.....
- ⦿ The person has the **RIGHT** to make any decision the person is capable of making that does not negatively impact their health or safety.

FEAR

SENIOR TRANS PERSONS

- ◉ Most senior trans persons have carefully hidden for all of their lives.
- ◉ They are typically not OUT
They are usually in the CLOSET and do not want to be discovered.
- ◉ **Those that are OUT often face serious family challenges.**

BEING OUT VS THE CLOSET



- ◉ The only difference between a closet and a coffin is that one is standing up and the other is laying down.



CONFIDENTIALITY

- ⦿ **Confidentiality is so IMPORTANT!**
- ⦿ **DO NOT DISCLOSE** our status to anyone unless you have obtained our permission.
- ⦿ Beware of INADVERTENT disclosure
- ⦿ EVERY trans person has a RIGHT to confidentiality
- ⦿ You have an OBLIGATION to protect our privacy.
- ⦿ **Breaching confidentiality can have catastrophic consequences**

TRANS PERSONS AT HOME

- ◉ The person may not want to tell you because of fear of rejection.
- ◉ There may be telltale signs such as clothing of the other gender where it doesn't seem like it belongs.
- ◉ The person may be wearing underwear that is not consistent with the outerwear.
- ◉ The person may wish to dress in a way that family does not agree with.

DEMENTIA...

- ◉ We will waffle and there will be confusion and doubts as our mental condition changes.
- ◉ There is still the need to accommodate in a reasonable manner.
- ◉ This is going to be a most difficult challenge.

PLEASE...

Provide as much accommodation as possible in a compassionate manner.

POLICES AND PROCEDURES

- Please get ready **NOW**
- The Ontario Human Rights Code is the foundation.
EMPOWERMENT for the person and for you.
- Education combined with understanding is vital.
- **PLEASE** be ready to safeguard our Human Dignity.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

- ◉ Where are you going to put us?
- ◉ How are we going to be addressed?
- ◉ How are we going to be treated?
- ◉ What happens when our wishes conflict with what family wishes?
- ◉ What happens when dementia sets in?
- ◉ How are you going to **ACCOMMODATE** us?

THANK YOU!

- ⦿ Thank for caring and wanting to get to know us
- ⦿ Please be brave
Question time!!!