



**AGING WITH PRIDE:  
SUPPORTING LGBTQ2S+  
SENIORS IN ALBERTA**

HEALTHY AGING

**CORE**

Collaborative Online  
Resources & Education

ALBERTA

DATE: August 20, 2020  
TIME: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

HOST: **Floyd Visser**  
Formerly with The SHARP  
Foundation

**CORE DISCUSSION FORUM**



# INTRODUCTIONS & AGENDA

- Forum background & purpose
- Aging with Pride: Guide
- Other work in Alberta
- Community conversation & information sharing
- Continuing collaboration: CORE Alberta

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ALBERTA

## CREATING A COORDINATED

Community-based seniors  
serving sector in Alberta

[corealberta.ca](http://corealberta.ca)



A joint initiative by:



# KEY ISSUES EMERGING

- Food security
- Home supports
- Social connection/mental health & wellness
- Business continuity & operations
- Transportation
- Financial Matters (tax filing)





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ALBERTA**

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# Introducing...

## **AGING WITH PRIDE**

The Government of Alberta launched Aging with Pride on June 1, 2020. It will empower organizations and businesses to ensure all seniors feel safe, welcome and supported in their communities.

The easy-to-use guide provides six strategies and multiple sample tools that groups can use to conduct a self-audit and address any gaps in service.

# Aging with Pride



A Guide to Creating Inclusive Services for LGBTQ2S+ Older Adults



There are an estimated **16,000 – 81,000**  
LGBTQ2S+ older adults in Alberta

Many of these individuals grew up when  
being LGBTQ2S+ was a **criminal offence,**  
**immoral and/or a mental health condition**

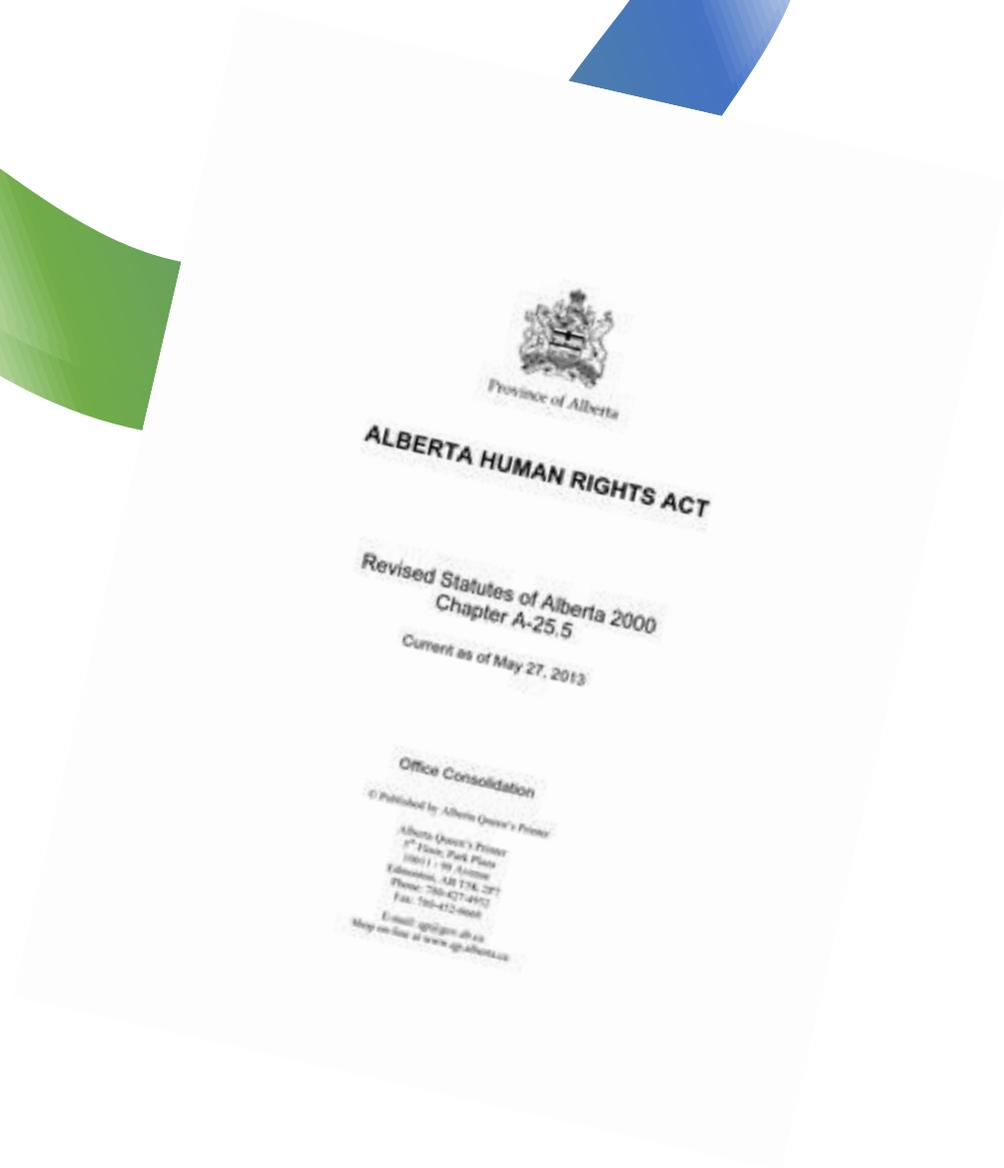


## RESULTS OF SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATION

- More likely to experience mental and physical **illnesses**
- More concerned about “being **lonely** and growing old alone”
- Smaller **support** networks over time
- More likely to live in **poverty**
- Less likely to **access** seniors’ centers and service providers
- Fear **re-closeting** and **bullying** in seniors’ housing

## UNIQUE DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS

- Twice as likely to **live alone**
- Twice as likely to be **single**
- Four times less likely to have **children**
- Three times more likely to have provided **care to friends**



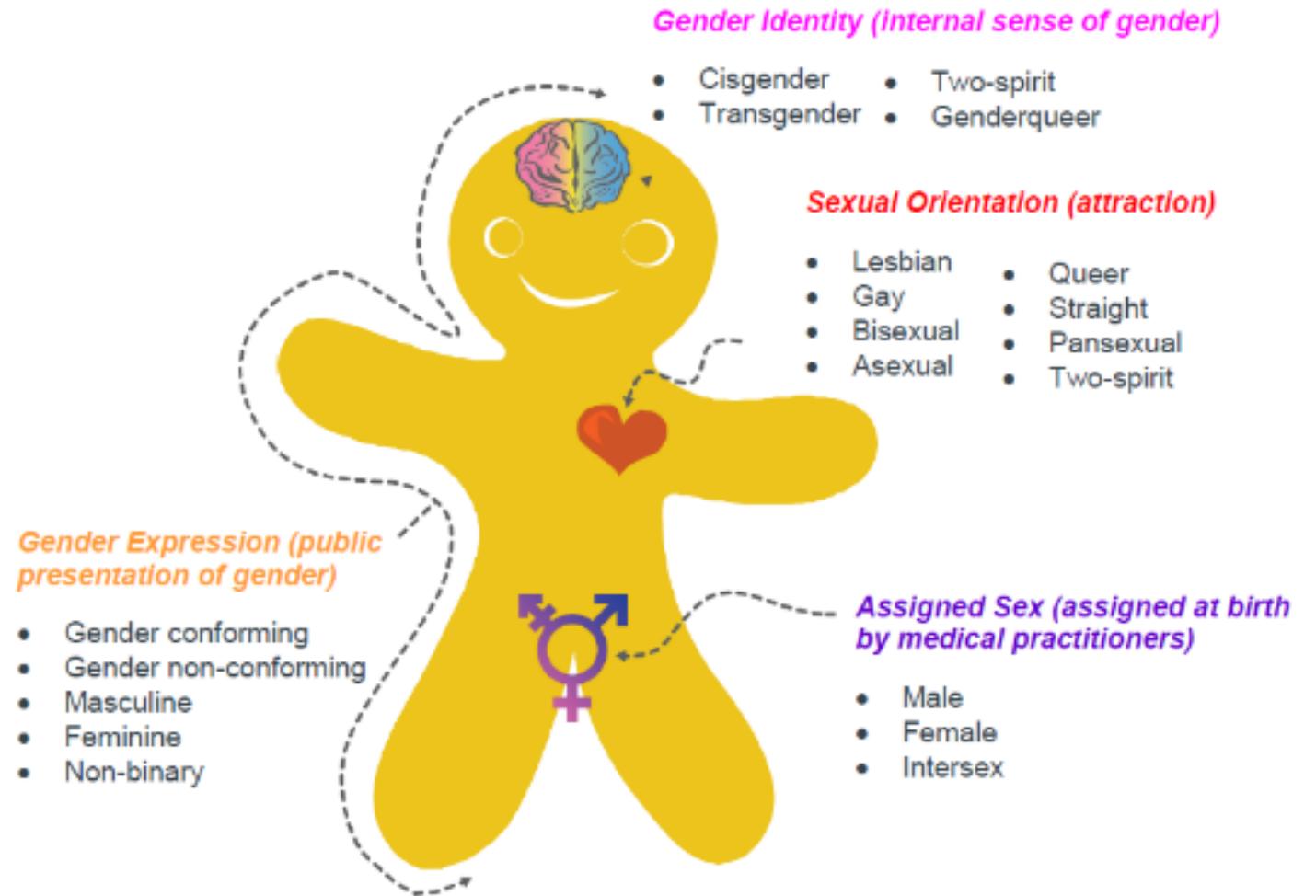
Legal and social expectation that programs and services are inclusive and non-discriminatory

**Canadian and Alberta Human Rights Acts** protect people from discrimination based on:

- Gender
- Gender identity
- Gender expression
- Sexual Orientation

# TERMINOLOGY

**LGBTQ2S+** refers to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and two-spirit. The “plus” refers to other identities that are not captured in the LGBTQ2S acronym.



# INCLUSIVE & AFFIRMING: DEFINED

## LGBTQ2S+ older adults:

- Can access programs and services that are **appropriate and sensitive** to their needs
- Can safely access programs and services **without fear** of discrimination, bullying, or having to hide any aspect of their identities
- Are **recognized and celebrated** as a vital part of the broader community



# Aging with Pride



A Guide to Creating Inclusive Services for LGBTQ2S+  
Older Adults

Alberta

## STRATEGIES FOR INCLUSION

1. Champions and Leadership
2. LGBTQ2S+ Community Engagement
3. Formalized Policies
4. Environment and Experience
5. Education and Training
6. Program Implementation

# EDMONTON COMMUNITY WORK

Edmonton Pride Seniors Network

## **Into The Closet Again (2015)**

*“[We want housing options] that are safe, inclusive, [where people are] not vulnerable, and do not have to go back in the closet ... I do not want to live a life of deceit, denial, obligation, or risk if I live in this type of [intentional] community. I want to be free. It has to be a happy zone.”*

## **Creating Inclusive Spaces for LGBTQ Elders (2016)**

Training Guide for Seniors Serving Organizations on how to create services that are more inclusive.

## **LGBTQ2S+ Seniors' Housing Survey (2019)**

199 responses, from people identifying as female (34%), male (62%) and other (5%). 52 respondents indicated they would be interested in moving into LGBTQ2S+ friendly seniors' housing within the next four to six years – this level of support is a great starting place for us as we work to advance and advocate for this type of housing.



# CALGARY COMMUNITY WORK

## **Calgary LGBTQ Elders Group established in 2015**

- Committed to promoting appropriate services and a positive, caring environment for older lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people in Calgary and throughout Alberta and Canada

## **Rainbow Elders Calgary established in 2016**

- Support network for people aging in the LGBTQ2S+ community supported by Calgary Outlink and Catholic Social Services
- Provide guest speakers and peer researchers
- Regular meetings held at the Kerby Centre prior to Covid-19
- Key partner on the LGBTQ2S+ Advisory Team



# THE SHARP FOUNDATION

- Registered as a Society on October 4th, 1990
- Cared for people dying of AIDS who did not have a home
- Currently operates five programs in Calgary from 24/7 supports to independent living for people living with or at risk of contracting HIV
- An environmental scan conducted by an external consultant recommended that SHARP, together with the LGBTQ2S+ sector, address the increasing demand for services by people aging with HIV



**hope | dignity | compassion**

# THE SHARP FOUNDATION

Leading the Calgary LGBTQ2S+ Seniors Housing & Supports Work

## **Aging In the LGBT+ Community Housing and Supports Needs Assessment (2019)**

Key Findings:

- While there is no one size fits all approach, there is strong interest in LGBT+ focused housing as an option to ensure safety and inclusion
- Readiness for action
- Reciprocal knowledge exchange
- Strategies to identify and include LGBT+ persons require sensitivity to the complexity of 'openness', safety, and previous trauma



# THE SHARP FOUNDATION

- Developing three eLearning modules to create more inclusive and respectful communities for people aging in the LGBTQ2S+ community, as well as assist them in becoming more resilient.
- Funded by Alberta Seniors and Housing.
- Modules include:

**Building Respectful and Inclusive Communities**  
(targeted to service providers)

**Building Resiliency**  
(targeted to people in the LGBTQ2S+ Community)  
**Impact of COVID-19 interviews**

**HIV and Aging**



**THE SHARP  
FOUNDATION**  
other initiatives

1. **“Capturing the Trauma” digital storytelling research project**
2. **Partner on national studies led by Dr. Jacqueline Gahagan, Dalhousie University**
  - LGBT+ Housing Matters: Addressing the knowledge gaps in meeting the housing needs of older LGBT Canadians
  - SSHRC Engage Grant: Impacts of COVID-19 on the housing experiences of older LGBT Canadians
3. **Collaborating with Calgary housing** providers on future developments targeted to be safe, inclusive, and respectful



The image features two large, thick, curved lines that sweep across the top and bottom edges. The top line starts on the left, curves upwards and to the right, and then downwards. The bottom line starts on the right, curves downwards and to the left, and then upwards. Both lines have a color gradient from a vibrant green on the left to a deep blue on the right. The text is centered in the white space between these lines.

**SHARING OUR COLLECTIVE  
EXPERIENCES &  
KNOWLEDGE**

hope | dignity | compassion

*Celebrating  
Our Diversity  
With Pride!*



**RAINBOW  
ELDER'S Club**

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## WE NOW HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO

Collaborate online through the  
CORE platform

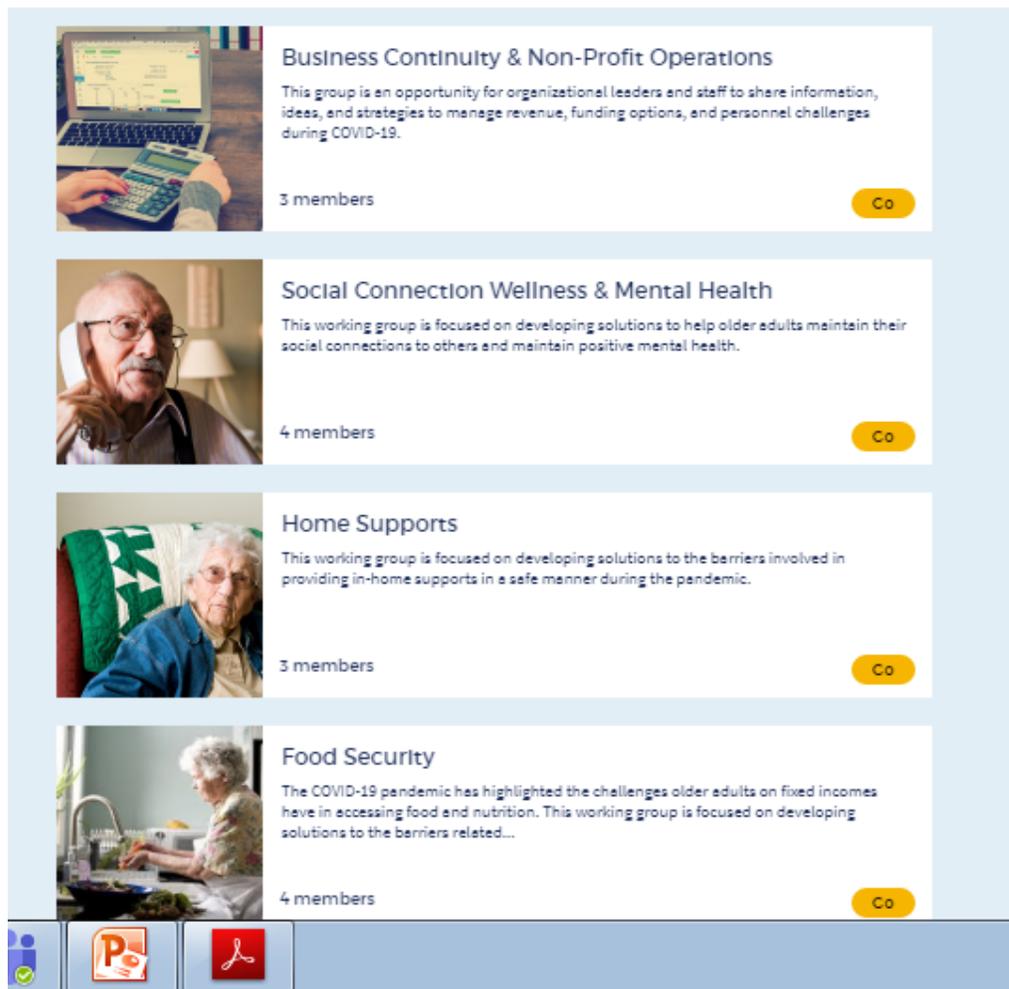
Share your resources and  
learn from others

Connect local work to develop a  
provincial approach

[corealberta.ca](https://corealberta.ca)

# CONNECT WITH YOUR PEERS

Visit CORE groups



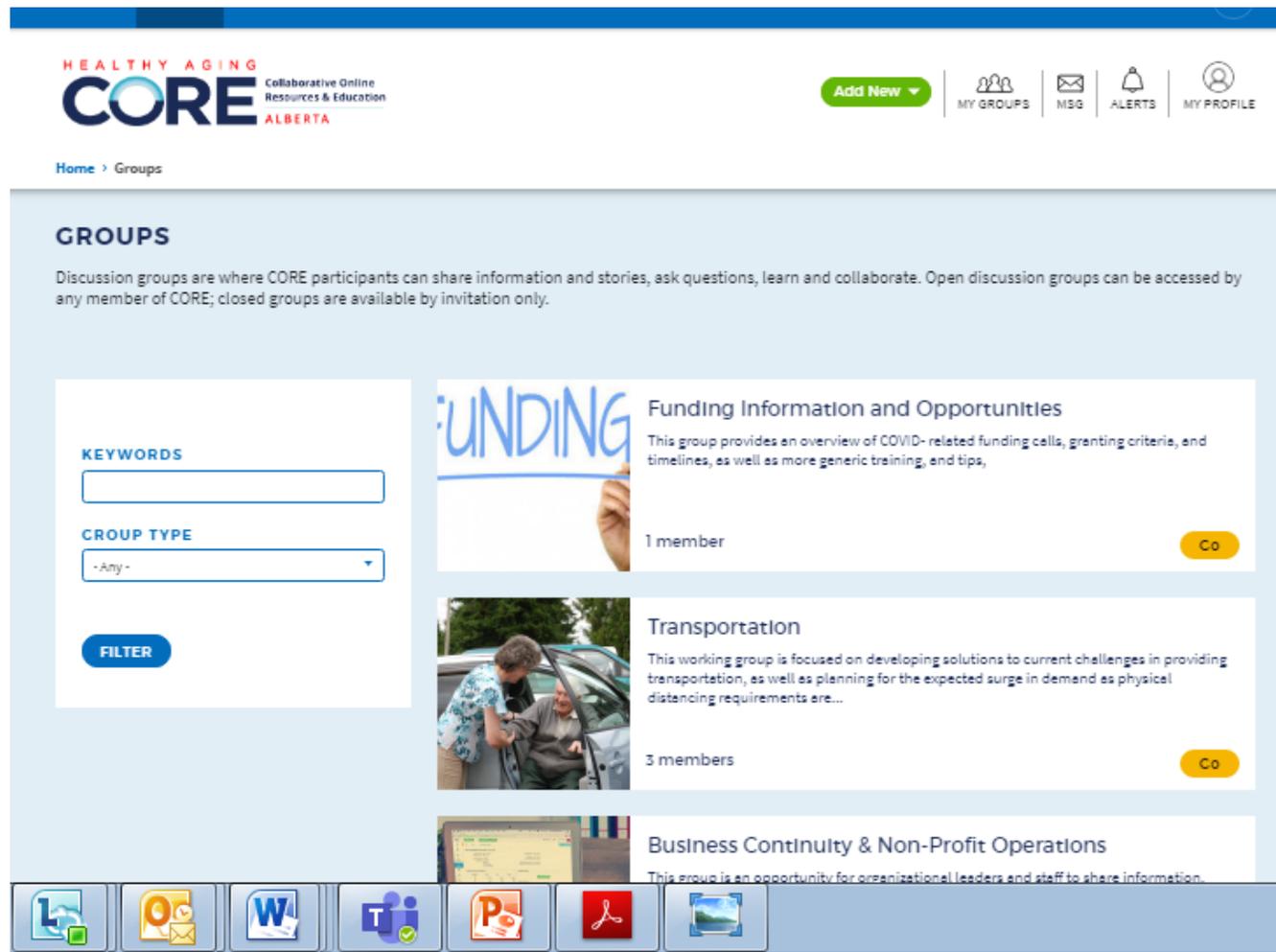
**Business Continuity & Non-Profit Operations**  
This group is an opportunity for organizational leaders and staff to share information, ideas, and strategies to manage revenue, funding options, and personnel challenges during COVID-19.  
3 members Co

**Social Connection Wellness & Mental Health**  
This working group is focused on developing solutions to help older adults maintain their social connections to others and maintain positive mental health.  
4 members Co

**Home Supports**  
This working group is focused on developing solutions to the barriers involved in providing in-home supports in a safe manner during the pandemic.  
3 members Co

**Food Security**  
The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the challenges older adults on fixed incomes have in accessing food and nutrition. This working group is focused on developing solutions to the barriers related...  
4 members Co

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## GROUPS

Discussion groups are where CORE participants can share information and stories, ask questions, learn and collaborate. Open discussion groups can be accessed by any member of CORE; closed groups are available by invitation only.

**KEYWORDS**

**GROUP TYPE**

- Any -

**FILTER**

**FUNDING** Funding Information and Opportunities  
This group provides an overview of COVID-related funding calls, granting criteria, and timelines, as well as more generic training, and tips.  
1 member Co

**Transportation**  
This working group is focused on developing solutions to current challenges in providing transportation, as well as planning for the expected surge in demand as physical distancing requirements are...  
3 members Co

**Business Continuity & Non-Profit Operations**  
This group is an opportunity for organizational leaders and staff to share information...

Navigation bar: Home, Profile, Post, PDF, Home

# QUESTIONS?

Thank you for participating & sharing your expertise!

## SEE YOU ON CORE!

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*Remember to update your info on 211*

[healthyaging@calgaryunitedway.org](mailto:healthyaging@calgaryunitedway.org)



Healthy Aging  
by United Way At home. In community