



Prime Timers Calgary

Frequently Asked Questions

Why was Prime Timers formed?

It was formed by Woody Baldwin in 1987. He felt that a wide gap existed in today's society, which caters almost exclusively to youth. He observed this to be equally true of the gay community and decided to establish an organization whose primary purpose was to foster social and cultural interaction among mature gay and bisexual men. Many such men often find themselves marginalized within the larger society and as we age this process can even occur within the gay community itself. The goal of Prime Timers is to help reverse this tendency by offering a supportive social environment through a variety of activities for older gay and bisexual men.

Are there Prime Timer groups in most major cities?

Yes. Currently there are over 50 Chapters of Prime Timers located in major cities around the world with most being located in North America.

Who can join Prime Timers?

Any gay or bisexual male who is 40 years of age or older can join a Chapter. Many groups allow younger men to join if they are sponsored by a member.

What is the main function of Prime Timers in cities which have a Chapter?

The main function of each Chapter is to foster supportive social interaction for its members through social, recreational and educational activities. The activities are completely driven by member interest.

Which members of the gay community are likely to find joining a Prime Timers group worthwhile?

Likely all members of the gay and bisexual community are likely to find joining Prime Timers to be worthwhile. Each Chapter usually publishes a **monthly activities calendar** which outlines the functions that have been arranged for members for that time period. The activities are completely driven by member interest. Some members may choose to participate in one or two activities while others choose to participate in virtually all of the activities, with other members somewhere in between.

What does it cost to join Prime Timers Calgary?

Currently our annual membership fee is \$30 per person. This entitles each member to participate in any activity sponsored by the group.

How varied are your activities?

Our activities are completely member driven and needless-to-say, the larger the group, the more varied the activities. If a member is interested in an activity that is not offered, it is not unusual for that member to offer to host/organize the activity and invite other members to participate. The way others are invited to participate is to ask them to sign up on the appropriate sign-up sheet at our monthly meeting. If each member decides to host/organize at least one event each year (does not have to be monthly as some activities are), it helps to ensure a great number of activities for members to choose from throughout the year. The heart and soul of Prime Timers Calgary (as in any Chapter) is the variety and number of activities it offers to its members through the monthly calendar.

What kinds of activities can Prime Timers Calgary arrange?

Activities are limited only by the size of the Chapter along with the ingenuity and energy level of members. Member interests could include any of the following activities:

Arts and Crafts	Antiques	Ballet
Bicycling	Bowling	Bridge
Concerts	Card Games	Cooking
Computers	Boat Cruises	Dancing
Dining In – Potlucks	Dining Out	Erotica
Flea Markets (Yard Sales)	Gay Bars	Games Night
Hiking	Jogging	Mall – Shopping
Music – listening	Nudism	Opera
Photography	Reading/Discussion	Singing
Skiing	Sports	Swimming
Sex Events	Talk – Discussion	Theatre
Travel	Volunteering – Community	Volunteering –P.T.
Walking	Weekly Coffee	Other (Depending on Member Interest)

How often do the members of Prime Timers Calgary (PTC) meet?

Members of Prime Timers Calgary meet on the first Sunday of every month (except for summer break). We try to keep the business part of our meeting short and the meeting is often followed by a guest speaker and socializing. Members find that the monthly meetings are the easiest way to sign up for upcoming activities that are of interest to them.

What kinds of men join Prime Timers Calgary?

For the most part they are gay or bisexual men over forty. They come from all walks of life and all income levels. Our members are men who choose to have their social lives enriched by the diverse activities in which our members engage. Prime Timers can be fathers and care givers. They can be businessmen and entrepreneurs. They are workers and they are retired. Some are always on the go, and some enjoy the quiet company of others at home. But one thing is true of all Prime Timers: they enjoy the opportunities and friendships that develop with other Prime Timers in the greater Calgary area (and throughout the world if they choose to travel). **No mature gay or bisexual man need be alone or lonely if he chooses not to be!**

How can I become a member of Prime Timers Calgary?

It is easy to become a member of Prime Timers Calgary. Just follow the next few steps:

- 1) Send a copy of the membership application/form located in this web site to your printer.
- 2) Complete the membership form.
- 3) Bring it to our monthly meeting along with a cheque (made out to Prime Timers Calgary) or \$30 cash (a receipt will be issued for cash) and give it to the treasurer or a member of the executive.

How can I find out more information about Prime Timers Calgary?

You can e-mail: primetimerscalgary@telus.net

You can call Don at (403) 612-2430

Is it possible to participate in one or two activities before joining Prime Timers?

Yes, it possible to come to some of our activities to see if Prime Timers Calgary is a group that you would like to join. If you e-mail us or call we can let you know the current month's activities and you can choose accordingly. However, if you do choose to participate in one or two activities you should then be able to decide if our group will meet your needs. After one or two activities, we would expect you to make a decision about joining.

How does Prime Timers Calgary deal with a member's right to privacy?

As one would expect, we have members who range from those that are completely out to those that are completely not out. We treat each member's right to privacy very seriously and respect the wishes of any member who chooses to maintain complete anonymity. If a member chooses to maintain complete anonymity, we will not publish anything with his personal information on it. We will even agree to the use of an alias, if a member so desires.

Does Prime Timers Calgary ever arrange social events with other Prime Timer Groups?

Yes. We are currently working on sponsoring at least one joint social function with Prime Timers Edmonton, likely to take place in the summer. We hope that one or two joint social activities will quickly become part of our annual event tradition. And as part of an international organization, we will occasionally be expected to show members from other cities around Calgary, just as some of their members will likely show us around if notified that some of our members will be visiting their city.

Does PTC get involved in political issues, especially those dealing with gay rights?

No we do not. The purpose of PTC is to foster social interaction for its members. It is not a political organization. However, if one of our members wants to become politically active, there are other organizations that are set up for that purpose. Or, as an individual, a member is free to become as involved as he wants in any issue that is of importance to him.

Does PTC have a constitution or operating guidelines?

Yes. We have chosen to adapt the guidelines from Edmonton Prime Timers to our needs for the duration of our first year. However, those guidelines will be reviewed near the end of the current year to see if further changes are required to better meet our needs.