

QUEER ONTARIO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, November 5, 2011. From 8:30- 10:30 pm.

Room 106 at The 519 Community Centre; 519 Church Street, Toronto, Ontario.

Present:

Steering Committee Members: Nick Mule, Richard Hudler, Casey Oraa, Dwayne Shaw, Alana Boltwood, Martin Otarola, David Demchuk

Participating Members: David Di., John W., Dianne M., Davina H., Lisa D., Susan G., Gardenia F., Nicole B., Justin S., Rich R.,

Guests: Laura K., Anna E., Matthew L., Matthew B., Michelle S., Ashleigh Ingle (External Scrutineer), Katie Toth (Media)

Regrets: AJ L., Vince R., Rob T., Tom W.

Meeting Chair: Nick

Minute-Taker: Martin

INTRODUCTION

Nick introduces himself, welcomes everyone to our first Annual General Meeting, and introduces our ASL interpreters, Talah and Amanda. Welcome everyone!

Steering Committee Members introduce themselves to the floor.

David Demchuk is live-tweeting today's meeting. Our hashtag is #QO2011.

Dwayne will be timekeeper.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Nick briefly goes over the agenda.

Question from Susan: Who will chair the elections given that Nick is running for a position? Answer: Alana has kindly offered to do so.

There are no proposed amendments or objections.

The agenda is approved.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE BYLAW APPROVAL MEETING

There is a request from the floor to amend the recorded year of the Bylaw Approval Meeting from 2010 to 2011, given a mis-type. Request is noted.

Question from Nicole: If someone wants to motion a change to the bylaw, what is the procedure for that? Answer: This can be done in the next section, "Approval of Bylaw Revisions." Answer accepted.

Approve the minutes otherwise? There are no objections. There are no abstentions.

The minutes are approved pending the noted change.

3. APPROVAL OF BYLAW REVISIONS (CHAired BY CASEY)

Casey goes over each proposed bylaw revisions.

Revision 1: To revise bylaw 501 and remove the Supporting Membership category.

Vote: No objections. No abstentions. Unanimous approval. The amendment passes.

Revision 2: To add a clause regarding policies and procedures (insert into 801 as paragraph 2).

Vote: No objections. No abstentions. Unanimous approval. The amendment passes.

Revision 3: To add a new bylaw, numbered 505 – Discipline and Removal.

Question from Matthew B: What do you mean by "conflict of interest"?

Casey: It is vague and open to interpretation. In strictly legal terms it only refers to fiscal conflicts of interest, but there are other cases that may present themselves which result in a conflict of interest.

Example from Nicole: There are perceived conflict of interests if there is an individual who wants to be a Steering Committee Member at Queer Ontario while being on the Board of another opposing organization.

Casey: This is one example, but there are others. We have introduced these amendments without any particular references in mind. We are setting them up in case such an unforeseen incident does happen in the future. It is meant as a preventative measure.

Alana notes that the case where we might encounter a serious problem is online, if someone is being disruptive or abusive towards other members.

Matthew: Yes, but how do we know what constitutes a 'negative impact on the organization' that requires intervention? And what, exactly, constitutes a 'gathering' of Queer Ontario in the bylaws, as opposed to a 'meeting' or 'event'?

Lisa proposes a friendly amendment to accept the original amendment as-is with the understanding that the "conflict of interest" and "gathering" clause will be clarified by the Governance Committee; and that the Governance Committee will produce the clarifications for approval at a future General Meeting.

Susan notes that normally these things are fluid and that organizations often attempt to cover gaps by keeping them over-broad. Oftentimes it is best to develop a complementary policy or bylaw to address these gaps rather than to strike the bylaw amendment down entirely. There is general agreement about Susan's point.

Lisa repeats her motion. Susan seconds it.

Vote: No objections. No abstentions. Unanimous approval. Amendment passes provided the clarifications above.

Revision 4: To revise bylaw 801 – composition and authority of the steering committee.

Rich feels two consecutive terms is a bit short. If one person is doing particularly well in one position, it would be unfortunate to have to lose them.

A clarification: the bylaws state that a person's term on the Steering Committee ends after four years;

however, this does not mean that they will never be able to apply again. All we are asking is that they wait one year before applying for a Steering Committee position again.

There is also a motion in this revision to stagger the Steering Committee positions by having the first elected Chair and Secretary serve for two years, and the first Vice-Chair and Treasurer serve for one.

Lisa asks if we should also stagger the At-Large positions -- one for one term, and one for two terms.

Lisa proposes that we specify which Member-At-Large position is set for a one year position and which is set for a two year position.

This is definitely a possibility, and we can have each nominee specify which term they are interested in running for. Duly noted.

Point of Information from Nicole regarding the length of terms if the Vice-Chair and Treasurer decide to run for their positions again. Answer: After the one year positions, the Vice-Chair and Treasurer will need to continue on for two years if they decide to reapply, to keep all terms consistent. Answer accepted.

Also, to clarify about the Committee Chair positions: Committee Chairs also serve as members of the Steering Committee. They are automatically made Steering Committee members by virtue of their position.

Motion to pass the amendment as-is.

Vote: No objections. No abstentions. Unanimous approval. Amendment passes.

Revision 5: To add bylaw 812 -- resignation from the steering committee.

Vote: No Objections. No abstentions. Unanimous approval. Amendment passes.

Susan notes that it would be difficult to enforce this if someone needs to leave immediately. Response: This is true, but it is a good rule to have so people know what is expected of them if they ever decide to leave. It is more out of courteousness so that they give other Steering Committee members enough notice to find a replacement.

Revision 6: To revise bylaw 901 – composition and authority of senior coordinators.

Lisa proposes an amendment to paragraph 2: to insert between words 'elect' and 'two' the sentence, 'one of the two Members-At-Large and...' to ensure the staggering of At-Large position. Seconded by Susan.

Vote: No objections. No abstentions. Unanimous approval. Amendment passes.

Susan moves to strike "Senior" as a qualifying term for "Coordinators" since she feels it is ageist and hierarchical. Alana seconds this for reasons of hierarchy.

Casey explains that it was used in case we ever decided to incorporate as an organization. Usually the Incorporation Act requires an organization to have a "President" and a "Vice-President" and that seemed problematic to us because it is more authoritarian and hierarchical. "Senior" was an attempt to soften the language and make it less authoritative.

Rich wonders if we can change "Senior" to "Executive" instead. Casey notes that here are still qualms about this since it still denotes a stronger level of hierarchy and authority.

Susan asks: Is "Coordinators" used in another part of the organization or its by-laws? Answer: No, we use "Chairs" to refer to committee chairs. Therefore, co-ordinators COULD be used in and of itself.

Rich also suggests "Administrative Co-ordinators". Questions: Is there even a need to distinguish? Answer: Yes, to differentiate between those Steering Committee members who are elected in and those who become Steering Committee members by virtue of their committee chair position. Again, the idea was also to differentiate for Incorporation reasons.

Lisa reiterates Susan's amendment to strike "Senior" from the bylaws and to keep the word "Co-ordinator" to refer to so-called "Senior Coordinators."

Susan re-words that suggestion into a motion: To remove senior where it says co-ordinator throughout the proposed bylaw amendment AND throughout the rest of the bylaws. Rich seconds.

Vote: No objections. No abstentions. Unanimous approval. The amendment to the original amendment passes.

Motion to pass the original amendment provided the recent amendment. David Di seconds.

Vote: No objections. No abstentions. Unanimous approval. Amendment passes.

[Round of applause]

New Proposal From The Floor

Nicole proposes an amendment to Bylaw 803: an increase of Member-At-Large positions from two to four to allow for a greater representation and 'diversity' on the Steering Committee.

Alana points out that we have a diverse selection of individuals. There are approximately ten people now, given the Committee Chairs and the other Steering Committee positions.

Rich does not feel that is necessary since Committee Chairs provide 'diversity' and represent a wide selection of individuals i.e. the individuals in their committees.

Matthew B. says it is necessary because being a Committee Chairs is not the same as being a Member-At-Large, because Committee Chairs are not required to represent the membership per se. They are not elected.

Gardenia notes that she is unclear how two more positions will add greater 'diversity'.

Nicole believes that it will allow for more geographical representation since Committee Chair and Coordinators are all from Toronto. No rebuttal.

Lisa proposes a motion that the steering committee look at the issue of Member-At-Large with the intent investigating whether or not an increase in the number of At-Large positions will have a significant impact on the 'diversity' of the Steering Committee.

There are now two motions on the floor.

First motion: Motion to approve Nicole's amendment. David Di seconds.

Vote: Overwhelming votes against. 1 Abstention. 1 in favour. Motion fails.

Second motion: Motion to approve Lisa's motion:

Vote: No objections. No abstentions. Unanimous approval. Motion carries.

No other proposed amendments.

This concludes the bylaw portion of our meeting.

4. ELECTIONS.

Nick hands over chairing to Alana who will oversee Elections.

Alana goes over the electoral process. Introduces ballots and reads the names of the advanced nominees.

Alana asks if there are any nominations from the floor.

Nicole Borthwick nominates herself for a Member-at-Large position.

Susan Gapka nominates Davina Hader for a Member-at-Large. Davina accepts the nomination.

Alana makes another three calls for nominations.

No further nominations, therefore, NOMINATIONS ARE CLOSED.

Speeches (in the order in which they appear on the ballot):

-- Nick Mule

-- Casey Oraa

-- Richard Hudler

-- Martin Otarola

-- Lisa Duke

-- Nicole Borthwick

-- Davina Hader

Alana explains the voting method. Employs “the people’s mic.”

Ensures that there are no further questions regarding the voting process.

Alana introduces Ashleigh, our external Scrutineer. (Welcome Ashleigh!)

Alana calls for scrutineers. Dianne and David Di. volunteer to be scrutineers. (Thanks to both!)

Alana shows the ballot box, shows that it is empty, and seals it.

Alana opens the ballot box for voting. Voting begins.

Voting seems to have finished early, in 5 minutes. Alana makes 3 calls for final ballots.

There are no more ballots, therefore VOTING IS CLOSED.

Scrutineers venture into room 106 to count ballots.

5. REPORTS

(A) Chair’s Report (Full report appended to the minutes)

Nick gives a historical account of Queer Ontario, given that it is our first Annual General Meeting.

Nick gives an overview of Queer Ontario's structure.

Nick gives an overview of Queer Ontario's accomplishments.

Nick thanks a number of volunteers and activists.

Nick outlines some of Queer Ontario's challenges and acknowledges that it is still a work in progress. He invites others to join us in our quest to resist, protest and challenge in the name of queer liberation.

Motion: John moves to approve the Chair's Report. Rich seconds it.

Vote: No objections. No abstentions. Unanimous approval. The Chair's Report is approved.

(B) Treasurer's Report (Full report appended to the minutes)

Katie wonders if it is acceptable for Queer Ontario to have a surplus after the end of the fiscal year given that it is a not-for-profit organization. Richard notes that it is because this money is simply carried over into the new year and expended there. It does not become private money. Also, the surplus came about because of a donation at the end of the year, so we would not be penalized for such common occurrences.

Motion: Susan moves to accept Treasurer's Report. John seconds it.

Vote: No objections. 1 Abstention. Overwhelming majority in favour. Treasurer's Report is approved.

(C) Queer Liberation Theory Project Report (Full report appended to the minutes)

Nick presents a brief report on the Queer Liberation Theory project in AJ's absence.

The Queer Liberation Theory Project is a research project headed by Nick in his position as a York University Researcher. It is an attempt to get the concept of "Queer Liberation" articulated by a series of artists, academics, and activists who work within this framework or something that amounts of it. The idea is to produce a documentary.

Our research Assistant is AJ Lowick and our videographer is Davina Hader. They are both being paid through grants we have received from York University.

We are currently in our final shooting phase and will head into post-production over the holidays. Davina notes that we have conducted 33-34 interviews, and that interviews will be juxtaposed with archival and stock footage. The interviewees were filmed in front of a green screen.

No further questions from the floor.

Motion: David Di moves to accept the report. John seconds.

Vote: No objections. Overwhelming majority approval. Motion passes.

6. ENDING OF MEETING

(A) Election results.

A thank you goes out to our scrutineers. Diane will announce the results. She will simply announce the names of the individuals who have been elected.

Nick Mule.

Casey Oraa.

Richard Hudler.

Martin Otarola.

Lisa Duke.
Davina Hader.

Motion: Susan moves to accept election results and that we destroy the ballots after 14 days, as outlined in the bylaws. Rich seconds.

Vote: No objections. No abstentions. Unanimous approval. Motion passes.

(B) Final announcements.

Next General Meeting is Wednesday, November 16, 2011.

Queer Ontario will have a social night to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the inclusion of Sexual Orientation in the Ontario Human Rights Code on Sunday, December 4th at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre.

-- Susan brings an invitation from the organizers of the Slut Walk for their Town Hall Meeting on November 20th, 3:00-5:00 pm at the Gladstone Hotel.

-- Casey reminds everyone that we are looking for someone who would like to be the Chair of the Political Action Committee. There is no prescribed set of issues that need to be address, so the future Chair is free to set the program.

-- Also, we will be issuing our Trans Call of Action to encourage individuals to support Randall Garrison's Trans Rights Bill in the Provincial Government.

-- Laura wonders if we will post the reports online. Indeed we will!

-- Susan notes that she was concerned with female and women's representation on the Steering Committee but was amazed to see that the three Member-At-Large nominees were women and that the two At-Large members who were elected were women.

-- Alana points out that, as the only woman on the Steering Committee, she has not felt any systemic barriers. She notes that a lack of women on the Steering Committee may simply be because of a lack of interest or time commitment. So she encourages as many women to take part.

-- Justin announces that the first half of the meeting has been posted and archived for future access and that the second half of the meeting will be posted in a few minutes.

(C) Motion to Adjourn.

Motion: Nick moves. Nicole seconds.

Vote: Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Prepared by Nick Mulé, Founder and Chairperson of Queer Ontario

CONTEXT: Given that this is the first Annual General Meeting of Queer Ontario and that our group has been around for almost two and half years, I feel it would be appropriate to provide you with a bit of our history and how we got to this milestone in the organization's development.

HISTORY: Queer Ontario held its first meeting on June 2, 2009 exactly a month to the day following the dissolution of its predecessor group, the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Ontario (CLGRO) after 34 years and 3 and half months of being at the forefront of a progressive LGBT movement in this province. Out of concern that the province would be without an organized critical, radical and progressive queer voice I founded Queer Ontario with a vision that it would be a group that would carry forward the principles and tenets of a liberationist perspective, honouring the ethos of the first wave of the modern-day gay movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s. I also wanted to ensure it became a modernized version of what CLGRO had been, by embracing today's technology and using the talents of a diversity of people that make up our queer communities. Of great importance is for us to put forth a radical, progressive, critical queer perspective that counters the neo-liberal, mainstreaming direction the LGBT movement has sadly slid into over the past number of years.

Between June of 2009 and January of 2010 a group of a dozen to 15 active and dedicated individuals came together to create a foundation and skeletal structure for the new entity. This included settling on a name, creating a terms of reference, establishing definitions, facilitating the creation of a logo and developing a website. This founding group of individuals was also careful not to formalize a structure or governance procedure, choosing instead to allow new members to shape those important aspects of the organization post the launching of the group. This is not to mention that although a number of us knew each other, there were also others who were completely new and hence the unfolding of inter relational dynamics in getting to know varying personalities and learning to work with each other as a group. This preliminary phase of Queer Ontario's development culminated with its official launch at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre on January 30th, 2010 and also bid farewell to CLGRO on what would have been its 35th anniversary.

STRUCTURE: Since our launch, Queer Ontario has reviewed and updated its terms of reference and struck a series of committees that have in essence developed the organization into an active, committed and involved segment of the broader LGBT movement. The Governance Committee developed a governance structure and created a set of bylaws, in the process, becoming the moral conscience of QO in that they ensure our ongoing work is guided by honesty, fairness and integrity. The Research & Education Committee can be considered the brain trust of QO for their careful oversight of the multitude of issues that QO takes on, delving deeply into each with a queer critical analysis that is always prepared to challenge mainstream society, the broad LGBT movement and we ourselves. The Political Action Committee, in essence, is QO's raison d'être representing the fire in the belly of the organization being the face and voice of contestation by resisting, protesting and challenging homophobia, heterosexism and cisgenderism wherever we find it. The Media Committee is increasingly becoming the voice box of QO ensuring ongoing development of the website, having set up a number of listservs, Facebook and Twitter accounts along with a You Tube channel, to ensure we in fact do have an organized voice in this province. Finally our Events & Fundraising Committee takes on the double duty of ensuring we raise the funds needed to sustain ourselves and to ensure that an essential part of doing the political involves doing the social. All of these committees are overseen by QO's Steering Committee made up of the respective chairs, headed by the executive positions of chairperson, treasurer and secretary.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: These developments and ongoing work happened and continue to happen simultaneously with QO's activism in the province. In just under two years since our launch, Queer

Ontario has attracted 234 QO newsgroup subscribers, 604 fans on Facebook and 870 followers on Twitter for an unscientific total of 1,708 people who support our mission, vision and values. Unscientific as there is most definitely overlap therein, but no less, an indication that our presence is beginning to be felt. And our presence has been staked out by numerous statements on external issues from police actions at the G20 Summit in Toronto to the Catholic School Boards and provincial government's handling of the request for GSAs in Ontario, as well as internal concerns regarding the direction that Pride Toronto has taken over the past number of years. We have signed on to numerous petitions such as the call to decriminalize HIV and supported important campaigns such as No One is Illegal and trans rights legislation at both the provincial and federal levels. We have worked in collaboration with groups such as Pride Coalition for Free Speech (PCFS), Blockorama and Stonewall T.O. We have acknowledged our history by commemorating important events such as the 30th anniversary of the bathhouse raids, the 40th anniversary of the 1st pride picnic and 'We Demand' demonstration and we will soon be celebrating the 25th anniversary of 'sexual orientation' being included in the Ontario Human Rights Code.

ODE TO VOLUNTEERS / ACTIVISTS: Of course all of these activities didn't simply happen on their own, but through the hard work of a small group of highly committed, dedicated and compassionate activists almost all of whom do this as volunteers. The only exception being, a couple of members who are meagerly paid for their work on the Queer Liberation Theory Project, that you will be hearing more about. Queer Ontario is a living, breathing entity brought to life by an outstanding set of highly skilled and intelligent individuals who bring a powerful liberationist sensibility to their work making Queer Ontario the progressive, radical, critical queer voice it is. Time does not permit me to recognize each of these individuals, but at minimum I owe it to the members of Queer Ontario's Steering Committee to acknowledge their incredible commitment to the development and growth of our organization. Alana Bolten, who chairs the Research & Education Committee is a highly skilled strategist, with amazing streamlining talents at making complicated issues and concepts understandable in clear language without compromising her in-depth analysis. David Demchuck, who chairs both the Governance and Media Committees, is at once professional, principled to the core on social justice issues, highly logical in his thinking and holds high standards with a wonderful sense of humour to boot. Casey Oraa, the past chair of the Political Action Committee, is a mover and a shaker, task oriented backed up with a highly politicized perspective ensconced in critical analysis matched by his quick wittedness. The Media Committee is Co-Chaired by Vince Rozas, a warm, creative and talented team player with much patience. Dwayne Shaw, chair of the Events & Fundraising Committee is a committed organizer with a clear sense of how things get done with a healthy sense of quirky humour camping matters up to remind us not to take ourselves or others too seriously. Queer Ontario's Treasurer Richard Hudler, is a highly trustworthy and quiet man whose few words are packed with wisdom and whose sense of detail is impeccable. Last, but definitely not least is Queer Ontario's Secretary, Martin Otarola, another who is highly detailed, with remarkable research skills, in-depth critical analysis and an incredibly talented writer. They are the heart and soul of Queer Ontario.

CHALLENGES: Apart from all these accomplishments and the richness of talents we are fortunate to have, as founder I am well aware we have yet to achieve the original vision of this organization on a number of fronts. We are overwhelmingly a white, middle class, gay male organization with smatterings of diversity that most definitely needs to be expanded upon if we are to truly take up the multivariate issues of our communities. Basing ourselves in Toronto where all major decisions are made constantly puts us at risk of being Toronto centric. Although we have members in 36 locations across the province (not to mention outside the province in Quebec, BC and PEI and outside the country in Michigan and Indiana), we need to further explore and develop our technological abilities to become more accessible to those outside Toronto who want to contribute more actively. Additionally, such technology also needs to be utilized as tools that will assist us in streamlining the numerous meetings QO hosts. We also need to up our fundraising efforts as a non-profit organization without charitable status. Hence, there is much work to be done, both internally in our development and externally in promoting a queer liberation perspective

across Ontario.

CALL FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS/ACTIVISTS: In acknowledging the work that needs to be done, this also creates opportunities. Opportunities for those of you present tonight or others you may know of, to join QO, if you haven't already, and to become an active member. Those of us currently active in QO would more than welcome you and appreciate new contributions as so few of us have taken on these important, yet heavy tasks and we could use more help. Please give it consideration as we would love to have you.

CONCLUSION: In closing, Queer Ontario is a work in progress. Tonight in holding our first AGM we have reached an important milestone in our development. With all sincerity I thank each and every one of you who have contributed to getting us to this point. I am so grateful for that. In particular, I would like to thank David Demchuck, Davina Hader and Dwayne Shaw for their major efforts in putting tonight's event together along with the assistance of numerous other volunteers. I look forward to continuing the work and doing so with any others willing to resist, protest and challenge in the name of queer liberation.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared by Richard Hudler, Queer Ontario Treasurer

1. Books have been kept since we opened our chequing account at Alterna Savings in November of 2009.
2. Subsequently we opened a Pay Pal Account and a Savings Account.
3. The Savings Account is earmarked for the GSA Defense Fund.
4. Spreadsheets were originally kept on a calendar year basis but have been changed to coincide with the later established fiscal year from April 1st to March 31st.
5. We are therefore already seven months into this fiscal year.
6. I would recommend in the future that Annual General Meetings be held in May to make the annual financial report and budget more consistent with the fiscal year.
7. I have the detailed spreadsheets here for anyone who wants to look at them.
8. Since this our first Annual General Meeting, I have set up the 2011/2012 Budget so it shows our income and expenses since we first started operations.
9. Future budgets should reflect only the budget for the previous year, actual income and expenses for the previous year, and the budget for the New Year.
10. I would also remind members that the Queer Liberation Theory Project, in which Queer Ontario is a community-based partner on this academic research study, has been financed primarily by two internal grants from York University (\$4,000 and \$2,000 for a total of \$6,000) and those funds did not go through the Queer Ontario books.
11. In terms of the Annual Review of the Books, I suggest that we not incur the expense of auditors at this time and simply ask a volunteer from the membership, who has not been involved with the bookkeeping, to review the books at the fiscal year end.
12. I think this would only involve looking at the books for any discrepancies or clarifications and randomly selecting several income and disbursement entries to see if the receipts and match up with the entries.
13. Budget:

QO PROPOSED BUDGET **November 5, 2011**

Fiscal year April 1 – March 31

ACCOUNTS	Beginning 09/10	Beginning 10/11	Beginning 11/12	YTD 11/12# As of October 21, 2011#
Chequing	0	3,764.80	3,120.81	3,954.82
Savings (GSA fund)	0	0	0	434.70
Pay Pal	0	120.77	80.36	142.16
TOTAL	0	3,885.57	3,201.17	4,531.68

INCOME	Actual 09/10	Actual 10/11	YTD 11/12	Budget 11/12
Donations	6,631.80# Primarily from CLGRO Donation#	882.52	4,079.25# 3,544.64, chequing, 100 pay pal, 434.61 savings#	4,500# I added \$400 figuring if we made 900 last year and have five months to go this year we might make it#
Workshops	0	0	0	0
Bank	1.86	21.74	1.06	2.00
Grants/projects	0	0	1,150.00	1,150.00
Grant seed money	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	1,015.68# Mostly bank error and voided cheque previously deducted#	100.00# Stale dated cheque#	93.22# RHN for postal box #	100.00
TOTAL	7,649.34	1,004.26	5,323.53	5,752.00

EXPENSES	Actual 09/10	Actual 10/11	YTD 11/12	Budget 11/12
Meeting Expenses				150.00
Office Supplies			109.26	150.00
Printing/Copying		39.98	34.58	50.00
Transportation			0	0
Postage		186.45# PO Box#	0	250.00# We will need to pay for the PO Box in Feb. and may have a mailing.#
Grants			0	0
Projects	2,276.47# Primarily for Launch#	1,288.03	3,660.98	4,000.00
Bank	132.30# Coop membership and cheques & Pay Pal#	0	0	0
Promotion/Advertising	342.72	100.00	150.00	150.00
Web	496.95	74.20	38.20	150.00
Misc.	515.33# Bank error #	0	0	0
TOTAL	-3,763.77	-1,688.66	-3,993.02	-4,900.00
Less Income	7,649.34	1,004.26	5,323.53	5,752.00
Balance	3,885.57	(684.40)	1,330.51	852.00

At the beginning of the 2011/2012 year we had \$3,201.17. Per the budget, if we make \$5,752.00 (of which we have already made \$5,323.53) and spend \$4,900.00 (of which we have already spent \$3,993.02) we will end up with \$4,053.17 at the beginning of 2012/2013.

The Queer Liberation Theory Project

Prepared by AJ Lowick, QLT Researcher

The Queer Liberation Theory Project is a community-based research study that partners Queer Ontario's Media and Research and Education Committees with Dr. Nick Mulé in his academic capacity as an Associate Professor in Social Work at York University.

The project aims to disrupt the forces of a neo-liberal agenda that has infiltrated the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and transgender (LGBT) communities over the last two decades. A queer contingent of the LGBT communities has become more and more dissatisfied with the direction of the LGBT movement, feeling that our countercultural voices are being increasingly drowned out by heteronormative, assimilationist, capitalistic and corporatizing powers at the expense of diversity and queer social justice. In response, this research project will resurrect the principles of the historical gay liberation movement, re-contextualize them within a contemporary discourse, iterate the findings in theoretical terms and disseminate them via multimedia approaches to further the aims of modern queer liberation movements, including community development and public education. Ontario-based activists, academics and artists who engage in queer liberation theory and activism are currently being interviewed and a documentary created.

This project is funded by two internal York University grants, totalling \$6,000.00 and these funds have been used to pay the Research Team which includes myself, A.J. Lowick, as the Research Assistant, and Davina Hader, as the videographer.

In preparation for the project, I compiled a Queer Liberation Theory resource list, with the help of the Research and Education Committee; the resource list contains 206 items and is now posted on Queer Ontario's website. Using information and insight gained from compiling this resource list, we are drafting a pamphlet entitled "Queer Liberation in the 2010s," as an update to the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Ontario's pamphlet "Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Liberation in the 2000s." This pamphlet is currently being finalized by the Research and Education Committee.

Members of the Research Team and the Research and Education Committee met as a "Video Project Team" and discussed the research study. We short-listed potential candidates to interview, formulated a list of research questions from which participants are able to select a number of questions they are comfortable answering as well as the option to write in their own questions. At the beginning of August, the short-listed candidates were contacted, and in early September the Research Team began conducting interviews. To date, we have conducted twenty-nine interviews, with more scheduled throughout November. Eleven of the short-listed candidates will not be interviewed; they either did not respond or chose not to participate. There will be a total of 34 interviews, each ranging from 30 minutes to over an hour. Most interviews took place at the 519 Community Centre, and three were conducted in Ottawa.

A Video Project Team meeting is currently being scheduled to consider both the challenges and strengths of the project to date and the praise and critiques received from participating and non-participating short-listed interview candidates. Additionally, Davina has been collecting and filming stock footage that will appear in the documentary, and we welcome suggestions of stock footage from personal or archival sources that we could add.

I welcome any questions you might have, provided we have the time on the agenda. Alternatively, you can send me an e-mail at ajlowik@yorku.ca.