


Radical Inclusivity in Policy Work: Public Policy & Social Movements

Nick Mulé, PhD

Rainbow Health Ontario
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Presentation Outline

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Radicalism & Public Policy

- ▶ Radicalism in the public policy realm is to hold a perspective that encompasses both breadth and depth
- ▶ The radical critically questions the status quo, has an alternative vision and importantly a solution to offer
- ▶ Radical analysis focuses on fundamental root problems of a social issue (cause of the causes) and not merely the symptoms (individualization)
- ▶ The radical position on the surface seeks what is considered 'extreme' change

The 3 'I's: Imagination, Innovation & Ingenuity

- ▶ **Imagination:** The ability to think outside the box by questioning the status quo and envisioning a different reality
- ▶ **Innovation:** The ability to follow up on an imagined alternative by introducing a new or different perspective
- ▶ **Ingenuity:** The ability to cleverly and skillfully implement the new alternative social design

Radical Strategizing within the Public Policy Complex

- ▶ Radical strategic approaches to public policy can be reactive (existing policy) or proactive (new policy)
- ▶ Research an issue, undertake a benefits analysis, define, articulate and provide alternatives
- ▶ Know who to target (why and how), and express how not only LGBTQs but society in general will benefit

4 LGBTQ Public Policy Examples

- ▶ Funding of Rainbow Health Ontario
- ▶ *Bill 13: Accepting Schools Act, 2012*
- ▶ *Bill 33: Toby's Act: (Right to be Free from Discrimination and Harassment Because of Gender Identity or Gender Expression), 2012*
- ▶ *Vital Statistics Act, 2012*

Example 1:

Funding of Rainbow Health Ontario:

- ▶ Innovative idea to create a province-wide resource centre to address LGBTQ health and wellness issues
- ▶ Desperately needed for LGBTQ communities (evidence based), yet risky to government
- ▶ Careful strategic funding, indirect policy implications
- ▶ Precedent setting nationally

Example 2:

Bill 13: Accepting Schools Act, 2012:

- ▶ Anti-bullying bill that protects LGBTQs in the public school system regardless of whether students are enrolled in secular, Catholic, English or French boards (including setting up GSAs)
- ▶ The *Act* was brought in to divert from an existing policy the Liberal government refused to implement (PPM 145)
- ▶ Liberal Government proposed *Bill 13* riddled with problems
- ▶ Queer Ontario amendments adopted by opposition NDP and used to revise the *Act*

Example 3:

Bill 33: Toby's Act: (Right to be Free from Discrimination and Harassment Because of Gender Identity or Gender Expression), 2012:


- ▶ Recognizing trans communities as an enumerated group for human rights protections in the OHRC
- ▶ Queer Ontario worked in collaboration with the Trans Lobby Group
- ▶ Deputed emphasizing the importance of both gender identity and expression
- ▶ First province in Canada to extend such protections

Example 4:

Vital Statistics Act, 2012:

- ▶ The right of trans people to change their gender status on their birth certificates regardless of whether they have undergone SRS
- ▶ Celebrated by Trans Lobby Group as a victory
- ▶ Challenged by Queer Ontario as not going far enough

Radical Policy Change Outcome Realities

- ▶ Radicals recognize that our ultimate goals are rarely reached
 - ▶ Compromise is essential and an incremental approach tolerated
 - ▶ Yet, the alternative vision is never lost
 - ▶ Build on past successes, push for new gains
 - ▶ Winning or losing a public policy battle, it is imperative that a radical perspective be posited that challenges mainstream thinking
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Contacts

Nick Mulé, PhD

Associate Professor
School of Social Work
Faculty of Liberal Arts
and Professional
Studies

York University

nickmule@yorku.ca

Queer Ontario

Website:

<http://queerontario.org/>

E-Mail:

info@queerontario.org

Facebook:

[Queer Ontario](#)

Twitter:

[@queerontario](#)