



NEWSLETTER

queerontario.org

Action, development and queer liberation!

Fall 2015



Queer Ontario Resource Directory

Queer Ontario introduces our LGBTQ+ Resource Directory, which can instantly connect individuals with LGBTQ+ friendly organizations and services.

The next time you are in need of services or support and you are looking for an LGBTQ+ friendly organization in Ontario, look first at the Queer Ontario Resource Directory.

If you are an LGBTQ+ friendly organization, get listed, and harness the power of Queer Ontario's diverse and engaged individuals and members. Contact us by email at directory@queerontario.org.

Bill 77

A deputation supporting the Affirming Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Act was prepared by Queer Ontario and submitted in writing to the Provincial Standing Committee on Justice Policy on June 3, 2015. We also had a presence in the legislature the following day with MPP Cheri DiNovo, who introduced the Bill, and the other supporters when the Bill was passed

The last paragraph of the submission reads: "A queer liberationist perspective promotes the freedom of the individual to embrace the sexual orientation and gender identity that feels most appropriate for them and to have the freedom to express it without fear of prejudice, stigma, discrimination or oppression. We believe health care professionals have an ethical obligation to engage in sound practice that would uphold such principles, and that Bill 77 can be a tool to ensure ethical, principled, sensitive and respectful treatment of gender and sexually diverse people. To this end we call upon the Government of Ontario to pass Bill 77, and to do so quickly, gender and sexually diverse children in the province need this protection."

The full submission with recommendations can be found at: <http://queerontario.org/bill77/>.

Annual General Meeting

Held on May 2, 2015, Queer Ontario's fifth Annual General Meeting resulted in the election of our new Steering Committee: Richard Hudler, Chair, elected to two-year term; John Wilson, Treasurer, remaining in office for the second of a two-year term; and Members-at-Large (Toronto Area), Nick Mulé and Dwayne Shaw, elected for two-year terms. Other orders of business included a minor amendment to the bylaws to make it easier to reach a quorum, Chair and Treasurer Reports, and a budget for the upcoming year. A Special General Meeting is planned for September 2015 to try to fill steering committee vacancies: Vice Chair (1-year term), Secretary (2-year term), Member-at-Large (Toronto Area) and three Members-at-Large (outside the Toronto area).

We expressed our tremendous appreciation to our founder and past chair, Nick Mulé, who has completed his second two-year term and is not eligible to run for that position in this election. We also appreciate his willingness to continue to help us along in the position of Member-at-Large. Below is an excerpt from Nick's outgoing Chair report:

Queer liberation is a particular kind of politic, one that pushes the envelope. Because of such positioning, we are not a populist group. Being in the forefront calls for leadership skills and abilities that include pushing the boundaries, so much so that by the time the others catch up, we're already on to the next thing. Queer Ontario has achieved some great successes that are true to the queer liberation politic, fueled by the passion, commitment and devotion of so many over the years. Some have had short stays but left indelible marks, others have been toiling consistently in our ongoing work. I want to thank each of you and the many that have contributed and are not with us today for such contributions to this very important mission. I've learned a lot from all of you and I am sincerely grateful you answered the call.

The report can be read in full on our website.



Susan Koenig (1944-2014)

A 20-year friendship began when Sue and husband Bernie rented the Homophile Association of London Ontario (HALO) for a pro-choice rally. They also arranged for openly gay MP Svend Robinson to come to a special HALO event. Retired in 2008, Sue volunteered for the AIDS Committee of London (ACOL) and the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Ontario (CLGRO), among others. She wrote for the ACOL newsletter and edited a hepatitis C newsletter. She also worried about the criminalization of HIV.

This quote from one of Sue's e-mails may give a glimpse into her personality: "Could you please clarify the reasons for the demise of HALO? I have my own opinions but as a 'breeder' (that still giggles me up) I may be off base. We both – Bernie and I – still remember HALO very fondly as you guys made us feel more than welcome."

Sue remembered Queer Ontario (CLGRO's successor) and ACOL in her will, along with Dying with Dignity and Canada Without Poverty. Our condolences go out to Bernie, another true ally of our communities.



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Queer Ontario



QueerOntario

N E W S L E T T E R

Action, development and queer liberation!

6 years of queer activism

Volunteer Orientation

On June 15, 2015, Queer Ontario hosted a Volunteer Orientation Night for individuals interested in being a volunteer/activist to further the work of QO. We had a handful of individuals come out and we look forward to working with them in the future. There is plenty of opportunity to get involved in the political work of QO (see our mission statement). Contact us at info@queerontario.org expressing how you can get involved and we'll be happy to work with you.

PinQ PotluQ PikniQ

From climbing the tree to get the Queer Ontario banner up, to the conversations had by all, it looks like the annual PinQ PotluQ PikniQ, held August 15 on Hanlan's Point, was a success again this year.



Pride 2015

Although Queer Ontario chose not to participate in the Community Fair or the Pride Parade this year, we were out there in supportive force marching in the Night March, Trans March and attending the Dyke March and Pride Parade. Despite the very wet weekend, it was great to see the community make the best of it.

OUR GOALS

- To provide a queer liberationist voice in Ontario and beyond
- To critically examine, deconstruct, analyze and provide alternative solutions to issues and laws affecting queer populations
- To provide public education to the general public on issues of importance to queer communities and the queer movement through a queer liberationist lens
- To undertake political actions of various means to advocate for changes that will benefit the lives of queer people
- To engage in coalition building with other groups involved in anti-oppression work towards social justice

OUR MISSION

Queer Ontario is a provincial network of gender and sexually diverse individuals—and their allies—who are committed to questioning, challenging, and reforming the laws, institutional practices, and social norms that regulate queer people. Operating under liberationist and sex-positive principles, we fight for accessibility, recognition, and pluralism, using social media and other tactics to engage in political action, public education, and coalition-building.



OUR OBJECTIVES

- To host a virtual think tank via the Queer Ontario website that promotes a queer liberationist discourse
- To preserve the legacy of Queer Ontario's predecessor, the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Ontario (CLGRO), as an archive on the website
- To create a network of queer liberationists across Ontario as individuals or local chapters
- To engage in advocacy, lobbying and political action efforts to address legal and social justice issues affecting queer Ontarians
- To collaborate with other anti-oppression groups to support mutual social justice goals

POSITION STATEMENTS

Non-Monogamy

Queer Ontario's work towards queer liberation includes advocating for people in non-monogamous romantic and sexual relationships. We call upon all supporters of non-monogamous relationships to join Queer Ontario in creating a freer and more pluralistic society.

Visit our website to read more on our Position Statements: queerontario.org

Sexual Violations

Queer Ontario's values include the recognition and affirmation of gender and sexual diversity. We support everyone's freedom to have feelings, including love for, desire for and fantasy about, anyone or anything. We support sexual activity where everyone involved gives informed consent. Queer Ontario unequivocally opposes sexual violations (sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, sexual abuse, sexual coercion and sexual exploitation).

OUR USE OF THE TERM 'QUEER'

We use the term "queer" both as a way to critique foundational norms pertaining to identities and in a more popular usage as inclusive of a wide range of varying and fluid gender and erotic expression. Queer people, as members of the gender and sexually diverse populations, include but are not limited to, 2-spirited, agender, ambigender, androgyne, asexual, bigender, bisexual, cross-dresser, drag queen, drag king, fluid, gay, gender fluid, genderqueer, intergender, intersex, intrasex, kink, lesbian, non-gendered, omnisexual, pangender, pansexual, polysexual, transgender, transsexual, and transvestite.

Support us at <http://queerontario.org/donate/>



DONATE & SUPPORT OUR WORK!

Queer Ontario is a not-for-profit organization operating on funds provided to us by our generous and capable supporters. Your donation will be channeled directly into our projects and operations, which will help us to continue our educational and reformist work.



<http://queerontario.org/>

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