



NEWSLETTER

queerontario.org

Action, development and queer liberation!

Fall 2016



Annual General Meeting

Queer Ontario held its Annual General Meeting on May 19, 2016. Thank you to those who participated or sent proxies, enabling us to reach a quorum. We approved the minutes from the 2015 Annual General Meeting, and the reports presented by the Treasurer and Chair.

Dwayne Shaw was re-elected as Vice Chair and John Wilson was re-elected as Treasurer, joining Richard Hudler as Chair and Nick Mulé as Member-at-Large. Matthew P. Beeson was newly elected as Member-at-Large. The new Steering Committee appointed Brian De Matos as our acting Secretary.

We look forward to an active and productive new year.

Newsletter Contributors:
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Moss Park

In coalition with the Queer Trans Community Defense, the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty and other groups, Queer Ontario continues to fight back against the gentrification of the Downtown East Side (DTE) in Toronto.

Partnering with private donors and supported by the City of Toronto, The 519 is pushing to turn Moss Park and John Innes Community Centre into an LGBTQ-focused Sport and Recreation Centre. It is likely that the Fudger House, a long-term care facility at the forefront in implementing LGBTQ-positive support programs for its residents, would also be slated for redevelopment.

We strongly oppose development that would adversely affect the lives of the poor and homeless, and the services they rely on. This is an area that has long been where the poor, working class, the homeless, sex workers, and drug users reside, including a high proportion of queer and trans folk. An area where there has been a concentration of shelter beds, residences, and other crucial services needed by the residents.

Although we hear reassurances that one of the guiding principles for redevelopment is "[To] promote and preserve partnerships, including ethno cultural, volunteer, and community linkages," suspicion still lingers. QO believes any project should benefit all stakeholders involved, not one group over another. Anything less would not be revitalization but re-victimization of the displaced. Queer Ontario is concerned that the poor and powerless that rely on area services will be pushed out as property values rise. We stand with those fighting back against the half-truths trumpeted by supporters of this redevelopment. There is **No Pride in Gentrification.**

Bill C-16

In May, Queer Ontario released a statement to applaud the Federal Government's proposed Bill C-16, an Act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code to include both gender identity and gender expression in human rights and criminal code legislation. The language of the bill is encouragingly broad and non-binary, and seeks to ensure protection of transsexual, transgender and intersex people, regardless of where they place themselves on the gender spectrum.

Such human rights and criminal code protections are long overdue; some of the worst cases of discrimination and harassment are experienced by the trans and intersex populations. Passage of Bill C-16 in the House of Commons, and similar action by the Senate, would extend these much-needed rights and protections for people who have long felt excluded from Canadian society. We urge MPs to vote in favour of Bill C-16 becoming legislation.

Furthermore we urge the government to undertake responsible implementation by addressing ID issues, establishing gender-neutral washrooms, providing education at airports and other border crossings, instituting protections for trans and intersex individuals in federal prisons, and including non-binary options in the national census.

Providing rights and protections for trans and intersex people by implementing this legislation in a way that improves the quality of their lives is only the first critical step towards providing these vulnerable communities a real sense of inclusion and acceptance in Canadian society.

QueerOntario



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7 years of queer activism

TAVIS

In June the Transformation Task Force called for the disbanding of the Toronto Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy (TAVIS), citing grievous errors made, and that black youth felt unfairly targeted.

Set up in 2006, TAVIS units have been criticized for targeted policing, racial profiling and "carding". Concerned specifically with queer and trans racialized sex-workers, the homeless, drug users and others forming part of

Toronto's LGBTQ queer and trans communities, QO joined with other groups calling TAVIS to account during 2014 World Pride and the 2015 Pan Am Games.

QO will continue to call for expanded services and social justice, and will continue to monitor the relationship between police and the LGBTQ communities. Toronto Police Services is having community consultations leading up to the final report expected out in December.

PinQ PotluQ PikniQ

There was no climbing of trees this year, though the conversations had by all were entertaining and informative. It looks like the annual PinQ PotluQ PikniQ, held Saturday, August 6 on Hanlan's Point, was a success again this year. Queer Ontario will see everyone next year again and we look forward to it.

Stay tuned later next year for details about our PinQ PotluQ PikniQ.

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.



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