



# NEWSLETTER

queerontario.org

Action, development and queer liberation!

Fall 2017



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## Annual General Meeting

Queer Ontario held its Annual General Meeting on May 18, 2017. Thank you to those who participated or sent proxies enabling us to reach a quorum. We approved the minutes from the 2016 Annual General Meeting, and the reports presented by the treasurer and Chair. – Richard Hudler was re-elected as Chair for his second two-year term and Robert Teixeira was newly elected as Member-at-Large. He joins Dwayne Shaw as Vice Chair, John Wilson as Treasurer and Nick Mulé and Matthew P. Beeson as Members-at-Large, all of whom are beginning the second year of their two-year terms. The new Steering Committee appointed Brian De Matos as our acting Secretary. – We look forward to an active and productive new year.

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### Newsletter Contributors:

Richard Hudler, Nick Mulé, Dwayne Shaw, Rob Teixeira

Editor: Heather MacNaughton & Brian De Matos



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## Issues for Provincial Election 2018

In June Queer Ontario released a list of seven issues we're urging the provincial Liberal government to address in the year remaining before the next provincial election to take place in June 2018. The issues include defunding of the Catholic School Board System; updating policies on blood donations for gay men; decriminalization of HIV non disclosures; reforming the Special Investigations Unit (SIU); addressing the gender pay gap; reinstating employment equity legislation; a call for sustainability in the Ontario Basic Income Pilot. To learn more see <http://queerontario.org/qo-pre-election-lgbtq-issues/>

## Queer Ontario calls for End to Gender Pay Gap

Queer Ontario would like to see an end to the gender pay gap in this province, not only for the binary females and males, but for all varied genders and sexual orientations. Queer Ontario urges the provincial Liberal government to make movement on its gender wage gap initiative launched last fall at the Ministry of Labour and in doing so, to not limit its scope to the female/male gender binary. Queer Ontario calls upon the provincial government's Ministry of Labour to undertake its initiative to make the gender pay gap transparent in this province in a way that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code that recognizes sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. Read more at <http://queerontario.org/queer-ontario-supports-ending-gender-pay-gap/>



## Public Sex

Responding to the Fall 2016 arrests in Marie Curtis Park, Queer Ontario has joined a coalition of LGBTQ individuals and groups that is committed to raising awareness and providing a liberationist voice to men who have sex with men in parks and bathrooms. Queer Ontario has long recognized that gay, bisexual, trans-men and other men who self-identify as men and who desire sexual contact with other men (MSM) have long used parks, washrooms, and other designated 'public' spaces as a venue to meet for friendship, pleasure and sex. This practice is not solely confined to LGBTQ folks and is a practice that has a pride of place in heterosexual culture as well. QO has joined a coalition of queer individuals who are fighting back against these arrests. We have released a position paper dated Aug 11, 2017 on the issue of public sex which can be accessed here:

<http://queerontario.org/queer-ontarios-position-paper-on-public-sex/>

## Queer Liberation Theory Project Update

A major output for the Queer Liberation Theory (QLT) Project, a feature documentary entitled "QueerEdge: From Gay to Queer Liberation" has been completed. Plans are currently underway to have it screened either at a film festival or at a public forum. This community-based research project led by Queer Ontario member at large and academic Nick Mulé in collaboration with Queer Ontario has produced the pamphlet 'Queer Liberation in the 2010s' as well as a forthcoming version in infographic form. Plans are also underway to post all uncut interviews for the documentary online. More information to come.



Neither flooding nor rain can stop QO members from enjoying their 2017 barbeque on Hanlan's Point!

# QueerOntario

## Volunteer!

Are you interested in exploring Queer Ontario as a possible place to volunteer? Someone from Queer Ontario would be happy to meet up with you and they are always looking forward to talking about Queer Ontario. Plus tell you what we have been doing and what we dream of doing with the help from volunteers.  
Contact: [info@queerontario.org](mailto:info@queerontario.org)

## Queer Ontario takes a Stance on Pride, BLM-TO & Police

Much has been said since Pride Toronto decided to support Black Lives Matter – Toronto's (BLM-TO) demand to not have the Toronto Police Service (TPS) participate in the Pride Parade. Framing this as an act of 'exclusion' in a festival that celebrates 'inclusion' on the part of the TPS, mainstream society and some members of the LGBTQ communities is to distort the meaning of 'inclusion' in this circumstance.

Queer Ontario would like to see the day the TPS or any police service in the province can participate in the Pride Parade respecting the values of Pride Toronto and more importantly respecting all members of the LGBTQ communities all year round. Unfortunately, they are far from having earned this inclusion. For more details see

<http://queerontario.org/participation-of-toronto-police-service-in-pride-toronto-parade/>

## 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](http://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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