

Rainbow Nursing Interest Group (RNIG)

Member Update

1 April 2009

RNIG AGM

25 April 2009

9 – 11 a.m.

Hilton Suites Toronto
8500 Warden Ave
Markham Ontario

One hour of the AGM will be a business meeting. On the agenda are

- revising our mission statement
- deciding on an advocacy issue for 2009/10
- discussing how to best meet members needs
- by-elections

There has been discussion that our mission statement appears to exclude non-LGBT nurses. This was never the intent. Two possible mission statements that better reflect allies' support: have been proposed: "To promote the health and professional practice of LGBTTTTIQQ nurses, clients and allies." and "To foster nursing practice and environments that support people of all sexual orientations and gender identities."

The executive has just learned that by-elections are needed for the following positions: Co-Communications ERO, Co-Policy and Political Action ERO and Student Representative. If you are interested, please submit your name, outlining your interest, by April 20, to rdianne@region.waterloo.on.ca. Nominations will also be taken from the floor. We will also be discussing the need for a social support person, and newsletter editor.

A reminder to use the RNAO AGM registration form to register, even if you are only attending the RNIG AGM.

www.rnao.org/Storage/53/4753_2009_AGM_Registration_Form.pdf

Registration Deadline: 6 April 2009

The other hour of the AGM will be a presentation by Anna Travers, Director of Rainbow Health Ontario (RHO). She will present an introduction/overview of RHO and facilitate a discussion on how RNIG and RHO can work together.

Here is information on RHO. Rainbow Health Ontario (RHO) is a province-wide program that works to improve the health and well-being of LGBT people in Ontario through education, research, outreach and public policy. Their mission is to improve access to services and to promote the health of Ontario's LGBT communities.

The RHO website has many resources for nurses and LGBTQ communities: listings of LGBT Provider Directory, Educators and Researchers involved with LGBTQ health, community events, research projects and findings and curriculum resources. There is a new toolkit available on the website for making long-term care queer friendly.

The LGBT Provider Directory features free listings of programs and services as well as individual service providers that have expressed a commitment to providing competent and welcoming care to LGBT

people . It is designed to facilitate and improve access to LGBT health and social services in Ontario by providing a central source of information.

If you are an individual LGBT-positive health or social service provider in Ontario or your organization provides an LGBT-positive program or service, we invite you to submit your listing for inclusion in the RHO LGBT Provider Directory.

We encourage you to share this information with your community members, friends and clients across Ontario.

To learn more, please visit:
www.rainbowhealthontario.ca

Of Interest:

International Day Against Homophobia is May 17, 2009. Posters and pamphlets will be available at the AGM, or order your own from www.homophobiaday.org.

February was Black History Month and Egale Canada launched a new initiative to recognize the creative dedication and achievements of Black, African and Caribbean queers in Canada. The recipients of the **2009 Queering Black History** initiative were announced: Trey Anthony, Alexis Musanganya, Angela Robertson, Douglas Stewart, Monica Forrester and Nik Redman. To order postcards featuring the recipients, please call 1.888.204.7777 or e-mail: akim_larcher@egale.ca.

Building Healthier Communities. The Second Annual LGBTQ Health Matters Week: April 13-19 presented by: Rainbow Health Ontario and the LGBT Program at Sherbourne Health Centre. A week of celebrating the health and well being of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, 2-spirited, genderqueer, intersex, queer and questioning communities across Ontario. www.sherbourne.on.ca/PDFs/lgbtqhealthmatters_general.pdf.

The Trans Health Lobby Group is organizing a Community Forum on Ontario Trans Human Rights Campaign scheduled for June 6 in Toronto. The forum will focus on their campaign to amend the Ontario Human Rights Code to include gender identity as a prohibited ground of discrimination. Contact Susan Gapka: 416 760 2776 (v); 647 882 2776 (m) www.transhumanrightscampaign.org.

Resources

www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teachers/RespectCulture.pdf The Safe Schools Action Team examined gender-based violence, homophobia, sexual harassment and inappropriate sexual behaviour in schools, as well as barriers to reporting these incidents. The team's report, Shaping a Culture of Respect in Our Schools, summarizes the findings and makes recommendations for action.

www.gires.org.uk/assets/Schools/TransphobicBullying.pdf Toolkit for British schools to combat transphobic bullying

www.2spirits.com A new resource created by and for Aboriginal Trans people.

www.sherbourne.on.ca Sherbourne Health Centre has many resources

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