

## Rainbow Nursing Interest Group Update

**Happy Holidays!**  
*And a special  
welcome to all  
new members*

### **EMERGING ISSUES**

*Health Equity Promotion* –  
Rainbow Nurses Interest  
Group has focused its  
efforts to see the RNAO

develop a Best Practice Guideline on Respectful Care and Environments for LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer) People. We are seeking funding sources to support this project and will request assistance from RNIG members as we delve into the development process.

### **ADVOCACY**

*Support for Gay-Straight Alliances and the Accepting Schools Act* – Spurred by a moving panel discussion at our annual meeting in April, RNIG advocated for the RNAO join the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) Coalition and to lobby the Ontario government to pass Bill 13/14 aimed at protecting students from bullying. RNIG executives attended a GSA



Coalition rally on Mother's Day, May 12, on behalf of the RNAO and a written submission was presented to the Standing Committee on Social Policy. The Accepting Schools Act was passed on June 5, 2012. The RNAO continues to work with the GSA Coalition.



*Support for trans rights* – RNIG alerted the RNAO that submissions were being accepted to speak to the Ontario Legislature regarding *Toby's Act*. CEO Doris Grinspun made a submission in support of Bill 33 and the addition of the terms “gender identity” and “gender expression” to the Ontario Human Rights Code to provide greater protection from discrimination against trans people. The Act was passed on June 13. Ontario is only the second jurisdiction in Canada to include gender identity and expression as protected grounds against discrimination in human rights legislation.

*Pride Toronto* – RNIG invited RNIG and other RNAO members to march in Toronto's Pride Parade on July 1st. About 20 members participated, including a large nursing student contingent.

**GET INVOLVED!** All RNIG members are invited to attend our meetings and events.

The **Rainbow Nursing Interest Group Executive Committee** for the coming year includes:

#### **Co-chairs:**

Leanne Powell, Jean Clipsham

#### **Executive Network Officers (ENO):**

Communication – Patrick Dator

Membership – Dianne Roedding [interim]

Policy/Political Action – Lisa Connolly, Judith MacDonnell

Finance – Elena Lonero

Student – Vikky Leung