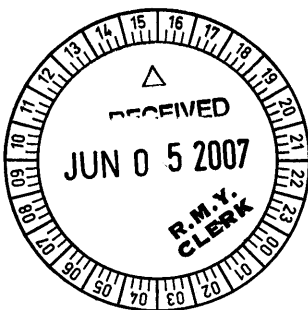


YORK REGION LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANS COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT

June 1, 2007

Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk
Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 6Z1



**REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE**

FILE No. -

*P03
Chair/CAO
J. Simmons*

RE: RECOGNITION OF YORK REGION PRIDE WEEK SEPTEMBER 3RD THROUGH 9TH, 2007

Dear Mr. Kelly:

As you know, York Region is one of the fastest growing and diverse regions in Canada and provides some of the most wonderful opportunities for community leaders to participate in the celebration of differences and protection of equity within their constituencies.

The *York Pride Fest Committee* is group of volunteer leaders who have assembled to organize York Region's Pride Week celebrations for 2007. The members represent a strong LGBT-Straight alliance of York Region service providers and community members dedicated to the creation and growth of **YORK PRIDE FEST** as one of the largest cultural events in York Region.

On behalf of the *York Pride Fest Committee*, we are writing to request participation and leadership from the Regional Municipality of York through the Recognition of Pride Week in York Region, September 3rd through September 9th, 2007. Your Recognition would be a valued acknowledgment of the lives and contributions of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities living in York Region.

This year marks the seventh annual celebration of Pride Week in York Region and we look forward to your positive response regarding the continuation of this important tradition. We thank you for your consideration of our request and look forward to welcoming you to some of the exciting activities happening throughout York Region the week of September 3rd, 2007.

Sincerely,

John O'Mara
Committee Co-Chair
Executive Director
Addictions Services for York Region

Barb Urman
Committee Co-Chair
Coordinator, York Region LGBT
Community Outreach Project

THE YORK REGION LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT

In January 2005, the Ontario Trillium Foundation agreed to fund the York Region Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Community Outreach Project. The Project which is a co-partnership between Addiction Services York Region and Family Services York Region is a four-year pilot project. The Project has specific funding to be distributed to agencies that have completed training and wish to begin LGBT-specific programs. Understanding the importance of policy setting, as well as developing awareness and sensitivity at the governance, management and front-line level will lay the groundwork for systemic change and setting an agenda that includes LGBT health and awareness.

The work is supported by an Advisory Committee, which includes the following agencies:

Addiction Services of York Region
AIDS Committee of York Region
Canadian Cancer Society
Family Services York Region
Gay and Lesbian Athlete's Association
Girls, Inc.
Krasman Centre
PFLAG York Region
Sandgate Women's Shelter
Southlake Regional Health Centre
Transitional and Supportive Housing Services of York Region
Women's Centre of York Region
Women's Support Network
Yellow Brick House
York Central Hospital
York Region Abuse Program (YRAP)
York Region Children's Aid Society
York Support Services Network
York Regional Police

The Committee meets six times over the course of the year and oversees the Trillium work plan. The aim of the Committee is to take a systemic and coordinated approach to eliminate discrimination and oppression on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

The following is taken from the Committee's Terms of Reference (Ratified January 26, 2006)

Mission

To develop and implement collaboratively designed training and education programs to support a comprehensive culturally appropriate and quality service delivery system to meet the needs of LGBT persons and their families in York Region.

Principles

Our aim is to take a systemic and coordinated approach to eliminate discrimination and oppression on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity within the human services sectors in York Region by supporting service sectors to increase their resources/capacity in the provision of anti-oppression services in York Region.

Goals

1. to evolve the Advisory Committee into an ongoing sustainable community coordinating committee
2. to support the coordinator in identifying alternative sources of funding
3. to ensure that the Project's work plan is adhered to
4. to provide systemic links that are necessary to ensure the success of the Trillium Project work plan
5. to support service sectors to increase their resources/capacity

Membership

1. all members must be committed to the principles, beliefs and visions of the Project
2. original stakeholders as identified in the Trillium proposal
3. members of the LGBT community (who represent a constituency)
4. other stakeholders as identified by the Coordinator and/or Committee
5. committee members must be committed to regular attendance

Accountability (i.e. decision making)

1. the Committee is an advisory committee that will meet 6 times per year to consult, monitor and evaluate the Trillium work plan
2. commitment to transparency in decision making with regard to the work plan
3. commitment to consensual decision making with regard to the work plan
4. where consensus cannot be achieved, the Project's sponsors (ASYR/ FSyr) reserve the right to make the decision

The Community Outreach Project is now into its third year. Beginning in the late Fall of 2006, the Project began to offer education and support to human service providers in the non-profit sector in York Region. There is no fee for training/consultation to organizations in the Region.

The training has been extremely well received. Feedback from participants includes:

"Thank you so much for the training... The feedback from staff has been outstanding. They are still talking about it. They not only loved the topic, the content and the interactive opportunities of the day, they are also praising you very highly for your group skills."

"This is one of the best training sessions I've ever experienced in my 20+ years at this agency."

"Excellent program. Everything presented was useful and thought provoking."

If your agency is interested in sitting on the Advisory Committee and/ or would like more information regarding training, please call Barb Urman at (905)841 - 0272.

THE YORK REGION LGBT COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT

The York Region LGBT Community Outreach Project offers training and education to non-profit social service agencies in York Region. The purpose of the training is to support a comprehensive, culturally appropriate and quality service delivery system to meet the needs of LGBT persons and their families in York Region. The goal of the training is to take a systemic and coordinated approach to eliminate discrimination and oppression on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity within the human service sector to increase their resources/build capacity in the provision of anti-oppression services.

The training is broken down into two components. Experiential exercises are focused on examining and challenging those values, attitudes and beliefs which might impact on the ways in which we view LGBT persons and thus affect our ability to work with them. Small group exercises are intended to build on the knowledge and skills of those working in the field. The training is based on the belief that adult learning is most successful when participants are actively engaged. Overall, the day will lead to safety and comfort in expanding discourses regarding assumed heterosexuality.

Training is free for agencies in York Region.

For more information, contact Barb Urman, MSW, RSW, Coordinator, York Region LGBT Community Outreach Project at (905)841-0272.