



2007 ANNUAL ACTIVITY SUMMARY

The following outlines key activities and projects of the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project Society (NSRAP) during the past year (up to the June 2007 Annual General Meeting).

- **Organizational Development and Strategic Planning – Renewed Commitment and Vigour**

Members of the Board of Directors showed renewed commitment and vigour towards achieving strategic priorities identified during the 2005-2006 fiscal year, including:

- 1) Increasing outreach, both within and outside the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM):
 - NSRAP donated a total of \$1,500 to sponsor Pride groups and Pride celebrations situated outside of HRM; and
 - NSRAP sponsored and participated in the 2006 Halifax Pride celebrations.
- 2) Building a stronger, united Rainbow community:
 - NSRAP, in partnership with other LGBTTTQI associations, expressed interest in coordinating the establishment of a Rainbow Coalition, a discussion forum that would include representatives of various local and provincial LGBTTTQI organizations and groups; and
 - NSRAP was successful in obtaining a HRM Community Grant to examine the need for and the feasibility of a Rainbow community centre in HRM.
- 3) Building and sustaining healthy partnerships:
 - The local police consulted NSRAP during the investigation of the murders of Michael Knott and Trevor Brewster. Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to maintain a healthy working relationship;
 - The Society supported the rally held on the International Day Against Homophobia (May 17);
 - NSRAP has continued representation on the Halifax Regional Police Chief's Diversity Advisory Committee;
 - NSRAP offered its continued support to Capital Health's LGBTI Initiative;
 - NSRAP maintained open lines of communication between the national LGBTTTQI advocacy group Egale; and
 - NSRAP renewed its membership to the Canadian Rainbow Health Coalition.

- 4) The Board of Directors began work to create a charitable foundation.

To help the Society achieve its mandate, a full-time coordinator was hired. In addition, three new directors were elected, broadening the professional and regional representation of the Rainbow community on the Board of Directors.

- **Positive Media Relations and Sustained Public Relations Efforts**

NSRAP understands the importance of the media in raising public awareness and promoting advocacy on issues of interest to the Rainbow community of Nova Scotia. The Society collaborated with media to ensure that the community's opinions were reflected in their reports.

- NSRAP commented extensively on the progress of the investigation of the murders of Michael Knott and Trevor Brewster as well as the subsequent arrest of Glen Race.

NSRAP also used the media to voice its position on a variety of issues and topics, including:

- Negative reactions to a front page picture of Ashley MacIsaac and his new husband kissing (*Daily News* – February 2007); and
- Response to comments issued by the Roman Catholic Archbishop regarding same-sex marriage (*Daily News*, Global Television, and CTV Television - September 2006).

The Society actively pursued its public relations efforts through:

- Periodical articles published in *Wayves*;
- Updates and enhancements to its website –to be launched soon; and
- Initial production of a weekly radio show discussing LGBTTQI issues.

- **Trans Issues**

The Trans Committee identified the following issues as requiring increased focus:

- Promoting greater awareness and public education regarding trans issues (both within and outside the Rainbow community);
- Advocacy for publicly funded sexual reassignment surgery (SRS);
- Pre- and post-surgery trans health issues and access to health care; and
- Gender inconsistent identification.

The committee worked to develop strategies to address these issues.



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- **2006 Gala**

The 2006 Gala dinner, Coming Together, was an astounding success. Guests enjoyed an intimate evening of celebration amongst each other. Olympic medallist Mark Tewksbury gave the keynote address as well as a very generous prize for the silent auction – none other than the shirt off of his back!

NSRAP would like to thank all those who helped make this event a success, either through their help with the preparations or through their generous financial support.

A special thanks to the evening's corporate sponsors: Rosie Porter, Realtor – Royal LePage Atlantic and Laurie L. Stephenson, Chartered Financial Consultant – Freedom 55 Financial.

Thank You:

In fulfilling its mandate, the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project depends on the commitment of volunteers. The Board of Directors wishes to thank all individuals who, through their sustained interest and support, enable the Society to grow.

The Society also depends on its membership for financial support. The Directors are grateful to those who have contributed financially during the past fiscal year. Your funds help NSRAP work successfully towards achieving its mission.

If there is anyone you know who would like to become a member or just be on our mailing list, please advise.

If for any reason you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please let us know.

Please feel free to contact NSRAP for more details regarding the issues and items mentioned in this summary.

Respectfully submitted by,

Gaston R Saulnier
NSRAP Secretary
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Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project

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