



2013 ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT



Membership

If you are interested in becoming a member, you can sign up online, by phone, or by email. We encourage members to donate \$20 annually to help us accomplish our goals, but this is not mandatory. Membership is open to any resident of Nova Scotia who is at least 18 years of age and who supports the mission of NSRAP.

Contact NSRAP

- E-mail: nsrap@nsrap.ca
- Telephone: (902) 444-3206
- Mailing: Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project, 5675 Spring Garden Rd, P.O. Box 36082, Halifax, NS B3J 3S9
- Web: nsrap.ca
- Facebook: facebook.com/nsrap
- Twitter: twitter.com/nsrap

Table of Contents

Membership	2
Mission	3
Board of Directors 2013	3
Message from the Chair.....	4
Message from the Administrative Coordinator	5
Grant Project Manager.....	5
Administrative Support	5
Communications & Membership Committee	6
Communications	6
Membership	7
Finance & Fundraising Committee	7
Government Relations Committee	7
Health Committee.....	8
Outreach & Events Committee	9
Appendix: 2012-2013 Financial Statements	11



Mission

The Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) seeks equality for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

The Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) seeks to foster change in our communities and our society at large so that people of all sexual orientations and gender identities are valued and included. This report summarizes our activities and progress towards our goals, which we achieve through community development, networking, outreach, education, and political action. NSRAP is open to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities who are supportive of our mission and objectives.

Board of Directors 2013

NSRAP is a non-profit society, registered under the Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stocks. NSRAP has a volunteer Board of Directors elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. There are up to 15 seats on the Board and vacancies can be filled by the Board between AGMs. The Officers of the Board make up the Executive Committee. Listed below are the Board members as of June, 2013.

Executive Committee (Officers)

- Kevin Kindred (Chair)
- Lisa Buchanan (Vice-Chair)
- Kate Shewan (Treasurer)
- Nathaniel Lewis (Secretary)
- John Britton (Member-at-Large)

Directors

- Jake Feldman
- Kirk Furlotte
- Jim Gouthro
- Andrew Jantzen
- Kate Keough
- Brenda Merritt
- Alana Murray
- Rebecca Rose
- Lucas Thorne-Humphrey

Staff

- Chris Aucoin, Administrative Coordinator (September 2012 - Present)

Committee Chairs

- Lisa Buchanan, Communications & Membership
- Kate Shewan, Finance & Fundraising
- Kevin Kindred, Government Relations
- Lucas Thorne-Humphrey, Health
- Chris Aucoin, Outreach & Events



Message from the Chair

Submitted by Kevin Kindred

I am happy to report on the year's activities for NSRAP. As I said at last year's AGM, I was excited to come back for a short term as Chair, as I expected there would be a few major legal & government relations items on the agenda for the upcoming year, which I might be able to help out with. That has certainly turned out to be the case!

We began last year by kicking off a lobbying effort to amend the Human Rights Act to cover gender identity and gender expression. We drew a lot of attention to the issue through our petition and through our Pride activities in Halifax, Wolfville, and Sydney. Bill 140 was introduced on November 20th, coinciding with Trans Day of Remembrance. It was passed with a unanimous vote in the legislature, and by December was effective as law.

Our other main contribution to Halifax Pride was our annual timeOUT Lecture Series, which this year included a panel on "The State of Pride," a traditional Mi'kmaq talking circle on healing, a discussion on LGBTQ Women & Health Care, and a lecture on the Charter at 30. I was very pleased with the attendance and the quality of the program.

Our Annual Gala was a great success, with much thanks to Curtis Cartmill for organizing. We heard a keynote from Premier Darrel Dexter, and gave away our annual awards: a Corporate Stewardship Award to prideHealth, the first Raymond Taavel Media Award to Jesiah MacDonald, and the Rev. Darlene Young Community Hero Award to Karen Finnegan. In lieu of a speaker's gift, we presented the Premier with a folder of legislative reforms in other provinces related to trans rights.

Outside of Pride activities and the Gala, we were seen in the community at the AIDS Walk in Halifax in September, in the ceremony marking Trans Day of Remembrance, at the Youth Project's Annual GSA conference, in February events marking Pink Triangle Day, in April events marking the first anniversary of Raymond Taavel's death, and in the rally marking International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia in May. This year we were honored to be voted as the Silver Medallist for "Best Activist Organization" by Coast readers, and to accept the "Making a Difference Awards" at the ISCANS annual awards ceremony.

One project begun this year which will carry forward is a renewed focus on the history of the queer communities in Nova Scotia. Chris Aucoin has begun to work on two history projects for us: one focusing on a early Prides and protest organizing, and the other focusing on bridging the generation gap and telling the stories of the eldest and youngest members of our communities.

As always, we strived to represent the community in the media this year as well. In addition to media attention around our lobbying efforts and events, we also responded to issues as they arose, such as the change to the ban on blood donations by gay men, and the family whose trans child was initially denied the right to play on a gender-appropriate soccer team. The year ended with a renewed focus on trans rights, with NSRAP beginning in May to work with a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to develop guidelines for



supporting transgender and gender non-conforming students and staff in Nova Scotia schools. And, most notably, our long-term lobbying efforts on the funding of SRS have shown some major progress this year with the government's removal of s.4.8 of the Physician's Manual, which begins a process for the eventual funding of SRS. While there is much work yet to be done on this file, it's a major step forward.

As Chair, and particularly as a Chair who will be handing off the reins after this AGM, I'd like to thank the Board members who served over the last year, and the volunteers who contributed so much to our work. In particular, I'd like to recognize that this has been a major year for the advancement of trans rights in Nova Scotia, and I would be remiss not to take special of the Board members and volunteers who, over the past decade, have worked hard to ensure that NSRAP has focused on gender identity and gender expression as much as it ever has on sexual orientation. When I first joined the organization nearly a decade ago, there was much less discussion of trans rights, either within NSRAP or within the broader movement.

I'm proud that, together, we've become the kind of organization that not only talks about trans rights in theory, but gets things done in reality.

Message from the Administrative Coordinator

Submitted by Chris Aucoin

Grant Project Manager

My work for NSRAP began in spring 2012 by writing two grants in the organization's name. Both these applications for funding came out of discussions I was having at the time with then NSRAP Chair Matt Numer. The first request was to get money from the Department of Culture and Heritage to do some local 'queer history' research about the organizing of early Prides and other early protests. This request was successful and the initial chunk of that research formed the content of the Hfx.Pride.88 exhibit that I was commissioned by Halifax Pride to design and build for Pride 2012 to mark Halifax's 25th annual Halifax Pride festival. This exhibit was also on display on two subsequent occasions: as part of NSRAP's Pink Triangle Day programming (see more about that below in the Admin. report), and again this spring at C.P. Allen High School in Bedford as part of their LGBTQ day. There is more research on this project yet to be undertaken.

A grant application to the NS Department of Seniors was also submitted and approved. This grant is for a cross-generational project to document oral history, and especially the lives of our local GLBTQ elders. The core of this project is that community youth and elders will videotape interviews with each other about their life experiences. This project has barely begun, so you'll be hearing more about it in the coming months (and if you are under 25 or over 55ish, and are potentially interested, contact NSRAP for more details).

Administrative Support

It hasn't been a full year since I took over the part-time Administrative Support position but it's been a hectic one none the less. Taking over from Kirk Furlotte in early September, I was immediately thrown into preparations (along with the Gala Committee)



for October's gala fundraiser, as well as getting up to speed with overseeing the day-to-day administration and communications. The day-to-day work has included incoming media requests for the Chair; info requests from the community and /or public; support for board meetings and committees; and updating and printing NSRAP pamphlets.

With October's fundraiser over, November saw the organizing of a "Trans 101" session given by Sheena Jamieson from The Youth Project for the NSRAP board. This was in response to board members indicating that they wanted to be better informed about trans issues in light of the ongoing work of NSRAP on human rights protections re gender identity and gender expression, as well as SRS funding.

Also begun in November were details of events to mark Pink Triangle Day, including the booking of Robin Metcalf to do his Pink Triangle Day Talk (and slide show) on Feb 12th at the Spring Garden Road Memorial Library. Also arranged for PTD was a 3-week showing in February of the Hfx.Pride88 history exhibit (also at the library), including a guided talk on the exhibit given on Feb 15th by myself (as the researcher / designer of the exhibit).

As the 2012-2013 fiscal year was closing I was working at establishing and chairing the community organizing committee for the 2013 rally to mark *International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia*, and making initial arrangements for this year's timeOUT Lecture Series for Halifax Pride.

Communications & Membership Committee

Submitted by Lisa Buchanan

As in past years, the NSRAP Communications and Membership Committee (now merged into one unified committee) was very active throughout the 2012-2013 year.

Communications

The committee primarily oversees NSRAP's external communications. Thanks to staff and volunteers, we have been able to provide timely responses to inquiries from the public and the media. Also, efforts have been made this year to be more proactive when we know an issue will make news.

NSRAP has an ever-increasing presence on social media. Over 775 Facebook users "like" NSRAP and we have over 875 followers on Twitter. Those who follow NSRAP online receive notifications about news stories, event across the province, and calls to action. Our posts are well-viewed and often shared by others, and we have been able to engage in dialogue with the public using these communications tools.

Our online presence has reached a point where our network is large enough that we have attracted media attention solely through the use of social media and without the need for a traditional press release and direct follow-up calls to media outlets. This happened recently when the letter we received from the Minister of Health and Wellness was posted online and received significant response from those who follow us.



The full extent of this year's media coverage can be found in the 2012-13 Media Report.

Membership

Membership provides NSRAP with a small revenue stream. While there is no fee for membership, we do encourage donations when members sign up. The committee distributes a semi-monthly electronic newsletter to our members with updates related to NSRAP's work and other activities of interest across the province.

The committee is currently exploring opportunities for membership "perks" and a membership option for businesses and other organizations.

Finance & Fundraising Committee

Submitted by Kate Shewan

Our annual gala remains the primary fundraising event for NSRAP and is the key event in providing the general operating funds to allow NSRAP to continue to do the work we have been doing. Given the importance of this fundraiser, I would encourage the community to continue your great support of this event.

Net proceeds from the 2012 gala were \$10,221 (down from the record 2011 result of over \$15,000). Revenues of \$24,443 were down by \$2,800 as a result of lower silent auction proceeds. Attendance and ticket sales were consistent with last year. Expenses of \$14,222 were up by \$2,464 from the prior year.

The committee created a first draft of a budget for the 2013/2014 year; this will be completed and submitted for approval of the new board. The objective is to improve the financial stability of the organization through improved financial control, tracking and accountability.

A goal for the upcoming year is to generate additional fundraising opportunities, particularly through events and activities that can be both community building and provide fundraising opportunities. The committee also believes that there is room to grow the membership base and membership-based donations.

Government Relations Committee

Submitted by Kevin Kindred

Government Relations (formerly NSRAP's Legal and Law Reform Committee) activities in the past year largely focused on amending the Human Rights Act, and together with the Health Committee, lobbying around SRS funding.

I would like to note that law reform efforts will continue into next year, including a focus on the upcoming regulations under the Change of Name Act, which will impact trans Nova Scotians, and also beginning a process to lobbying for changes to the procedure for changing sex designation in provincial records.



The Committee's other major activity is to handle inquiries from members and the public seeking legal advice or support. NSRAP does not directly provide legal advice but is sometimes able to give basic guidance and information. While individual cases are considered confidential, I would particularly note an increase in the number of trans people who are inquiring about discrimination claims.

My hope is that this indicates not more discrimination against trans people, but a new understanding that such discrimination is illegal and a new willingness to stand up against it. One individual making such an inquiry told me that she may not have stood up for herself if it weren't for the recent changes to the Human Rights Act; that gave me a lot of hope that changing the law is about more than just legal rights, but leads to real empowerment and social change.

Health Committee

Submitted by Lucas Thorne-Humphrey

In 2012-2013, NSRAP's Health Committee continued working towards health equality for the LGBT population in Nova Scotia through our mandate of community development, networking, outreach, education, and political action. Summarized below briefly are some of our more notable endeavors this year. Other activities such as guest speaking, participation in the AIDS Walk for Life and involvement in many committees and panels have been omitted for the sake of brevity. Please contact a committee member or the chair for more details regarding any of our activities and to get involved.

This year NSRAP has again been heavily involved in consulting with Canadian Blood Services (CBS) about changing the indefinite deferral for men who have had sex with men. Although only a first step, we have been successful in helping end the lifetime ban for blood donation against many of our community members. NSRAP has consistently advocated for a behavioural-based gender-neutral questionnaire but after meeting with CBS, other ending the ban groups and patient advocacy groups, compromises were clearly shown to be necessary. To this end we supported the recently approved request from CBS to Health Canada to create a five year deferral period for anyone deemed "MSM." Although clearly only a first step and an achievement that is more symbolic to some than useful, it is progress we support and NSRAP will continue to work with the aforementioned groups to further our goal of a genderless behaviourally-based questionnaire for blood donation.

NSRAP has continued to be represented on Capital Health's prideHealth Advisory Committee this year. This committee has provided invaluable information sharing opportunities, and NSRAP has worked directly with prideHealth and public health in a campaign to address the ongoing syphilis outbreak facing our community. This year we have worked toward a persuasive awareness campaign by giving input every step of the way. We have met with local businesses for consultation, and with the help of Pride Health and Venus Envy held a focus group to make for a more effective messaging strategy. This home grown campaign to reverse the tide of a very serious illness affecting too many our community was launched just this past week. As always, we implore you to get regular STI testing if you are sexually active.



Although syphilis is not the only risk out there is easily detectible with a blood test, can be transmitted despite the use of condoms, and can be easily treated if caught early.

We have continued to advocate the removal of the inherently discriminatory section of the MSI document prohibiting public funding for any medically necessary procedures relating to trans health. NSRAP will continue to encourage the government to expunge this clause and improve health care access to this severely disadvantaged part of our vibrant community through this measure and others. To date this year, we have begun a petition to increase support for this issue and provide more opportunities for media exposure to ensure the public in Nova Scotia is aware of this example of unacceptable institutionalized discrimination.

NSRAP has continued to advocate for the Minister of Health to approve HPV vaccine funding to high risk groups within our community. Despite growing evidence and our country's most well-respected advisory committee on vaccination fully supporting this public health issue, we have received a delayed and negative response from the Department of Health. We will continue to advocate for this position in the coming year.

Still in relative infancy, and growing in numbers and engagements, the Health Committee is encouraged by the progress in the 2012-2013 year and expects further progress in the coming year!

Outreach & Events Committee

Submitted by Kirk Furlotte

How best to reach an entire province? NSRAP can't be everywhere all the time, but has made a concerted effort in the past year to reach out to communities across the province. In July, the Wolfville Farmers' Market held its first-ever Pride night and we were there. Brenda Merritt, one of our Board of Directors, and local volunteer Megan distributed information about NSRAP and collected signatures for our trans rights petition. In August, Board members Rebecca Rose and I carried the NSRAP banner in the Pride Cape Breton Parade and set up a booth at their community fair. Kevin Kindred, Chair, and I presented at the Youth Project's GSA Conference in December, educating high school students from across the province about the work of activism. In May of this year, I continued this work as part of the Youth Project's GSA Road Show, where I did a soft launch of the petition to the provincial government to amend the Physician's Manual.

Several events were held or supported throughout the year to educate and raise awareness of issues important to the LGBTQ communities. During Halifax Pride, the annual timeOUT lecture series hosted a diverse group of presenters and issues. In November, NSRAP supported the Transgender Day of Remembrance service (TDOR) with funding and promotion as we did last year. November also saw NSRAP teaming with the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia and prideHealth to present a panel on the impact of HIV stigma on gay/bi men. Continuing the tradition for the last several years, NSRAP was the lead organizer of the Halifax rally for the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia.




There were also moments of celebration. At our Gala on October 20th, we recognized the following for their contributions to Nova Scotia’s rainbow community: Karen Finnigan - Rev. Darlene Young Community Hero Award; Jesiah MacDonald - Raymond Taavel Media Award; and prideHealth - Corporate Stewardship Award. On November 30th, we held a celebration for the passing of Bill 140 which amended the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act to include gender identity and gender expression.

Online communication continues to be a major source of outreach to communities and issues across the province. Several “days of awareness” were highlighted through our social media; such as Celebrate Bisexuality Day, Coming Out Day, Intersex Awareness Day, and International Human Rights Day. Through the promotion of local events and stories, NSRAP hopes to give the rainbow community a better understanding of the diversity within Nova Scotia. Much of this work is done by proactive contact from the Communication & Membership Committee.



Appendix: 2012-2013 Financial Statements

Submitted by Kate Shewan, Treasurer

Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project Statement of Income and Expenditure. (Unaudited)		
	For the twelve months ended:	
	<u>March 31, 2013</u>	<u>March 31, 2012</u>
<u>INCOME</u>		
Gala Revenues	24,443	27,206
Government Grant: Communities, Culture and Heritage	5,000	-
Membership & personal donations	2,190	630
Organizational Donations.	1,000	1,550
Aids Walk	346	418
Consulting and speaker fees	1,000	3,300
	33,979	33,104
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Gala Expenses	14,222	11,758
Salary, Wages	11,681	17,340
Project Expenditures	2,482	1,678
Rent	1,480	1,700
Events: Pride	788	(39)
Events: IDAHoT	110	245
Events: TDOR	200	150
Trans education: Transmasculine camp / TDOC	100	135
Printing, Reproduction, Banners	689	272
Advertising	252	-
Bank Charge	422	363
Supplies	34	29
Telephone	936	976
	33,396	34,607
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	583	(1,503)
Notes:		
1. Nature of the Organization		
The Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) was established in 1995 and incorporated under the N.S. Societies Act in 2000. NSRAP is a non-profit entity exempt from income tax, but is not a registered charity and cannot itself accept "charitable dona		
2. Restatement of prior period results		
2012 Comparative figures were reviewed and corrected subsequent to the 2012 year end and these figures differ from amounts reported at the 2012 AGM.		



Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project Balance Sheet (Unaudited)



	As at March 31st:	
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
ASSETS:		
Cash and bank accounts	4,446	1,027
Savings	483	7,864
Restricted Cash: Trans* Education (Safe Harbour)	1,285	1,385
Total Cash	<u>6,214</u>	<u>10,276</u>
Accounts Receivable	3,750	250
Prepaid expenses	325	-
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>10,289</u></u>	<u><u>10,526</u></u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	380	1,200
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u><u>380</u></u>	<u><u>1,200</u></u>
NET ASSETS		
Opening Net Assets	9,326	10,829
Current Surplus / (Deficit)	583	(1,503)
Total Net Assets	<u><u>9,909</u></u>	<u><u>9,326</u></u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u><u>10,289</u></u>	<u><u>10,526</u></u>

Notes:

1. Restatement of prior period results

2012 Comparative figures were reviewed and corrected subsequent to the 2012 year end and these figures differ from amounts reported at the 2012 AGM.