

ANNUAL REPORT



2013 - 2014

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

We seek to foster change in our communities and society at large so that all people are valued and included.

NSRAP is a registered nonprofit. The volunteer Board of Directors is elected by NSRAP's membership.



Photo: Rebecca Rose

Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project Equality For All

2013-2014 Board of Directors

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Jacqueline Vincent

Staff

Chris Aucoin
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Message from the Chair

I am very glad to be able to report on what has been a busy and successful year for NSRAP.

We began the year by celebrating the outcome of years of lobbying by NSRAP — the government had announced they would remove the policy barriers to publicly funded gender confirming surgeries (GCS). Amid this celebration, we knew we would have our work cut out for us to ensure this policy change resulted in coverage that would meet the needs of those who require surgery as part of a positive, fulfilling transition.

I'm pleased to say that within months of that announcement, Nova Scotia now has some of the most comprehensive coverage of GCS in the country and transgender Nova Scotians are now scheduling appointments for publicly funded surgeries.

In addition to continued focus on trans health needs, next year will see a renewed focus on NSRAP's Elders Project, thanks to a grant from the Nova Scotia Department of Seniors' Positive Aging Fund. The second phase of this ongoing project will see *Real People, Real Needs* (a cultural competency toolkit for those working in continuing care) introduced into a rural continuing care facility. We will also continue our work making intergenerational connections in our community so that young activists are aware of what their elders struggled for and achieved.

With intergenerational dialogue in mind, our 2013 annual fundraising gala (organized by the tireless Hugo Dann) celebrated the past and future of LGBTQ activism in Nova Scotia. We were very excited to welcome Canada's pre-eminent queer journalist and founding member of the *Body Politic*, Gerald Hannon, as the keynote speaker. Mr. Hannon's speech and his remarks at a community forum the following day provided an opportunity to bridge the



Photo: Matt Hailstone

gap that often exists between generations in the LGBTQ community.

Of course, not every story was good news. Many of us spent Thanksgiving weekend processing the attack on Scott Jones in New Glasgow — a stark reminder that despite all our forward momentum, there still exists much fear and hatred in and toward our community. On such occasions, media outlets consistently seek out NSRAP for statements on behalf of our community and we take that responsibility very seriously. You can read a selection of the year's media coverage in our Annual Media Review.

NSRAP continued its education and outreach efforts by hosting and partnering on events, including our annual TimeOUT lecture series during Halifax Pride, and other public lectures and film screenings. NSRAP representatives attended Pride festivals in Wolfville, Sydney, and Halifax, spoke at the Halifax Dyke & Trans March, and participated in the AIDS Walk for Life. NSRAP Directors also sit on a variety of committees for external organizations, including prideHealth, Canadian Blood Services, the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, and the Department of Education.

"I would like to extend a huge thanks to our impressive group of dedicated volunteers, our Administrative Coordinator, Chris Aucoin, our community partners, and the members of Nova Scotia's vibrant LGBTQ community."

Lisa Buchanan
Chair

I would like to extend a huge thanks to our impressive group of dedicated volunteers, particularly those who served on the Board of Directors this year who, in addition to contributing many hundreds of hours of their time, provided thoughtful guidance to the organization.

Many thanks also to our Administrative Coordinator, Chris Aucoin. Along with providing day-to-day administrative support, Chris was the lead organizer of the rally for International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, and has been overseeing two of our grant projects.

And finally, thank you to the members of Nova Scotia's vibrant LGBTQ community for your support and to the many organizations we are honoured to consider community partners.

I can only hope that NSRAP's members are as proud of our accomplishments this year as I am.

Lisa Buchanan
Chair

Making Strides in Transgender Health

It got off to a bumpy start.

After years of mostly one-sided correspondence between NSRAP and the Department of Health and Wellness (DHW), in June 2013, NSRAP received a letter from then Minister David Wilson informing us that the government would not grant our request to remove section 4.8 from the MSI Physician's Manual, which prevented MSI coverage of surgeries related to gender transition.



“Gender confirming surgery is an important part of a successful transition for many transgender people. These medically necessary procedures have been proven to improve health, well-being and quality of life.”

Kate Shewan
Vice-Chair

Public outcry and media coverage caused the Minister to meet with NSRAP days later and announce an about face.

Shortly thereafter, an election was called. Expecting a change in government, NSRAP secured a campaign commitment from Stephen McNeil to follow through with this policy change and take the steps necessary to fund GCS. Minister of Health and Wellness Leo Glavine reaffirmed the government's commitment and promised during a radio interview to meet with community representatives.

Along with Cybelle Rieber of prideHealth, Kate Shewan and Lisa Buchanan met with Minister Glavine early in the new year and left the meeting anticipating the April 1st announcement of the surgeries now covered by MSI and details regarding out-of-province referrals. Some concerns were raised following the announcement, particularly around top surgery for transmen, which have since been addressed.

Within weeks of the announcement, NSRAP was receiving reports from community members who have scheduled their appointments for surgery.

We do believe that additional consultation prior to the April announcement could have led to a smoother rollout, and we have stressed to the government that we are eager to be involved and share our knowledge in order to help achieve the best possible outcomes for the trans community.

Our work on this file will continue, as the health care system is ill-equipped to properly address the needs of the transgender population. Medical professionals lack knowledge and there is a severe shortage of practitioners providing counselling and assessment for transgender people or people questioning their gender identity. The DHW has recognized there are significant issues to address going forward and NSRAP will maintain an open dialogue with the department to ensure they meet their commitment to address the systemic barriers to health care for transgender people.

There may be more bumps along the way, but the developments of the past twelve months are certainly cause for celebration.

Community Forum on SRS Implementation and Trans Health Care

Following our meeting with Minister Glavine, NSRAP hosted a day-long community consultation to inquire into health care issues concerning Nova Scotia's trans community. The forum provided an opportunity for the community to voice their ideas and concerns so they might have an impact on policy development and that the community's needs are accurately reflected in NSRAP's advocacy work aimed at achieving the best possible health care for the transgender community.

The report produced from this event is available at <http://nsrap.ca> and has been sent to the Department of Health and Wellness.





Photo: Rebecca Rose

NSRAP's Events Calendar Highlights

TimeOUT Lectures

AIDS Walk for Life

Cancer's Margins: Dr. Mary Bryson

"We're Here! We're Queer!": Community Heroes Gala

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Trans Community Health Forum

Hfx.Pride88 Exhibit

Pride Talks: Queer Spiritual Paths II

International Day Against Homophobia & Transphobia

2013 TimeOUT Lectures

Queer Health Research

Cybelle Rieber, Lisa Goldberg & Jacqueline Gahagan

Queer Spiritual Paths

Brenda Hattie & Brenda Beagan

Talking Trans

Nolan Pike

Lies, Damned Lies...and Activism

Kevin Kindred



Photo: Michelle Malette



Photo: Rebecca Rose

2013 Community Hero Awards

Rev. Darlene Young Community Hero Award
Valley Youth Project

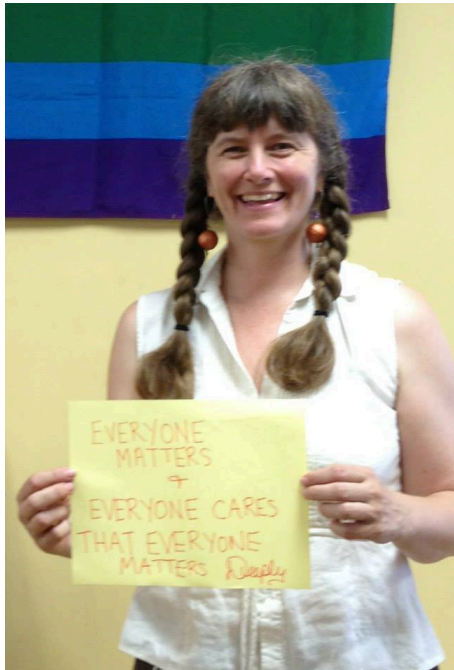
Raymond Taavel Media Award
Mainstreet & Maritime Magazine (CBC Radio One)

Turret Stewardship Award
AIDS Coalition of Cape Breton

Rising Star Award
Rad Pride Halifax

What Does Equality Look Like?

At Pride festivals across the province, NSRAP set up a photo booth and asked people to share their answers to this question. Here is a sample of responses.



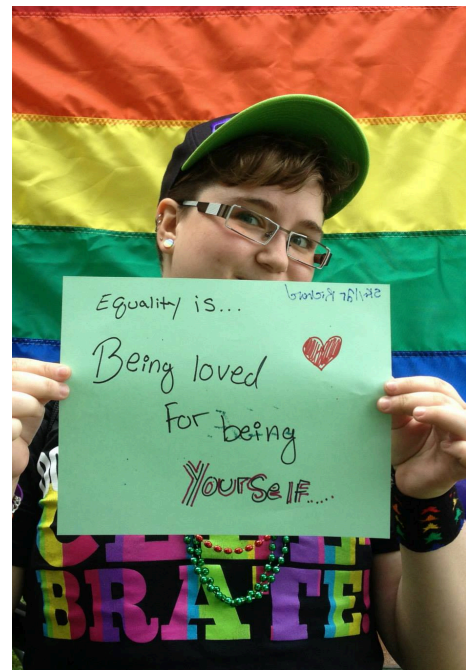
“Everyone matters & everyone cares that everyone matters deeply.”

- Kelly Marie in Wolfville



“Being accepted for who you are, not who you love.”

- in Sydney



“Equality is ... being loved for being yourself.”

- Skylar in Halifax

Media Coverage

This year, NSRAP received news coverage around a variety of issues, including the syphilis outbreak, HRM's rejection of the Spirit Place proposal, publicly funded gender confirming surgeries, and the brutal attack on Scott Jones in New Glasgow.

A selection of local reporting can be found in NSRAP's Annual Media Review.



Treasurer's Report

It has been an exciting year for NSRAP! In regards to our overall financial position, NSRAP has remained very consistent with last year. The one major change from last year is that NSRAP received two \$10,000 grants from the Department of Seniors' Positive Aging Fund.

At year-end, we have over \$26.5k in our bank accounts, but \$19k of this amount is restricted funds, which can only be used on projects specified by government funders or individual donors. Restricted funds do not cover any of NSRAP's general operations.

NSRAP is still very dependent on the gala to provide funding for the organization. The gala provides funding for our administrative expenses, phone bills, and any additional invoices that may arise. Our 2013 gala rose over \$6,000 dollars. A big thank you is owed to everyone who made this event successful!

In the coming year, we will have to look at additional ways to raise funds for NSRAP and become less dependent on the gala to raise all of the unrestricted funds.

Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project
Statement of Income and Expenditure.
(Unaudited)



| | <u>April 1, 2014</u> | <u>April 1, 2013</u> |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>INCOME</u> | | |
| Gala Revenues | 17,428 | 24,443 |
| Government Grant | - | 5,000 |
| Project Grant | 20,000 | - |
| Deferred Revenue | (18,475) | - |
| Membership & personal donations | 1,875 | 3,190 |
| Aids Walk | - | 346 |
| Consulting and speaker fees | 530 | 1,000 |
| | <u>21,358</u> | <u>33,979</u> |
| <u>EXPENSES</u> | | |
| Gala Expenses | 11,073 | 14,222 |
| Salary, Wages | 7,476 | 11,681 |
| Positive Ageing Expenses (Camera and Admin Fees) | 1,525 | |
| Project Expenditures | 300 | 2,482 |
| Rent | - | 1,480 |
| Events: Pride | 192 | 788 |
| Events: IDAHoT | 421 | 110 |
| Events: TDOR | 161 | 200 |
| Trans education: Transmasculine camp / TDOC | 261 | 100 |
| Mailbox Fee | 198 | 689 |
| Website/Advertising | 169 | 252 |
| Bank Charge | 537 | 422 |
| Supplies | 62 | 34 |
| Telephone | 816 | 936 |
| Halifax Pride Gala Donation | 1,000 | - |
| MISC/Donations | 254 | - |
| | <u>24,443</u> | <u>33,396</u> |
| EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE | <u><u>(3,086)</u></u> | <u><u>583</u></u> |

Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project
Balance Sheet
(Unaudited)



| | <u>April 1, 2014</u> | <u>April 1, 2013</u> |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ASSETS: | | |
| Cash and bank accounts | 5,491 | 4,446 |
| Savings | 1,768 | 483 |
| Restricted Cash: Trans Education, and Postive Ageing | 19,339 | 1,285 |
| Total Cash | 26,598 | 6,214 |
| Accounts Receivable | - | 3,750 |
| Prepaid expenses | - | 325 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 26,598 | 10,289 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts Payable | 1,300 | 380 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 1,300 | 380 |
| MEMBERS EQUITY | | |
| Opening Equity | 9,909 | 9,326 |
| Current Deficit | 15,389 | 583 |
| TOTAL MEMBERS EQUITY | 25,298 | 9,909 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | 26,598 | 10,289 |