

# TORONTO PFLAG

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

February 2013 Newsletter #28

[www.torontopflag.org](http://www.torontopflag.org)

[office@pflagtoronto.org](mailto:office@pflagtoronto.org)

## **TORONTO PFLAG VISION**

Toronto PFLAG is a charitable organization that speaks for a more accepting Canadian society by providing support, education and resources to all people who wish to grow in their understanding of sexual and gender diversity.

Toronto PFLAG actively assists in the recognition and growth of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersex, queer and questioning persons, and their families and friends, within their diverse cultures and societies.

## **Next Support Meeting**

Wednesday  
**March 6, 2013**  
7:30 p.m.

Kimbourne Park  
United Church  
200 Wolverleigh Blvd.,  
Toronto, ON M4C 1S2

## **TCDSB – Apple Programme**

Toronto PFLAG conducted a presentation to students at the Apple Programme, Toronto Catholic District School Board, on Thursday February 14<sup>th</sup>.

We extend our thanks to the staff and students who attended and joined in the discussions on diversity and respecting all individuals. It was a pleasure to be able to spend time with you

## **Stikeman, Elliot LLB – Lunch and Learn**

Toronto PFLAG was invited to conduct a Lunch and Learn on Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, at their Commerce Court West offices. Michael Ain and Irene Miller were warmly welcomed by almost one hundred employees who participated in the lunchtime presentation and discussion.

As important as the Sessions are, the opportunity to speak with attendees after the formal part of the workshop is over is always a highlight for us.

We want to thank those on the Diversity team who invited us in to present and created a forum for positive diversity discussions. We also thank Stikeman, Elliot LLB for their generous support of Toronto PFLAG, which is much appreciated.

## A message from your President

February 28, 2013

### Being Open ....

In January I wrote about Opening Doors and my joy at the opening of the door to the highest office at Ontario's Legislature to admit Kathleen Wynne as Leader of the Provincial Liberal Party and Ontario's Premier.

Today I am writing about **being open** and trying new things which is something we often encourage others to do when we talk about being open to diversity and in February I went two places I had not gone before and here's what I discovered.

**1) My First Professional Basketball Game:** Along with our partner Egale Canada, Toronto PFLAG participated in Proud to Play night at the ACC on February 12<sup>th</sup>, when the Denver Nuggets played the Toronto Raptors.

Whether we arrived in family groupings or singly, we came together and made an enthusiastic group of supporters on a fun night out wearing Toronto PFLAG T-shirts or with rainbow flags and banners. We were on the JumboTron twice and cheered throughout the exciting game which was evenly-matched and won by a play in the last 4 seconds of the game – with a win for the Raptors!

I became a fan! I will go again. I enjoyed the snack food (pulled pork sandwiches rock!), and entertainment between plays; found the game quick paced and exciting, and loved the camaraderie of being out with the group.



A bonus? We got to meet Amir Johnson – a great player and a lovely man, who graciously invited PFLAGers to have their picture taken with him before the game. We will go again next year and hope you join us. We guarantee it will be fun!



Proud Toronto PFLAG moms Jill, Anne, Marla & Irene

Happy smiles all round after the exciting win for Raptors. Michael Thorne of MLSE, Susan Gapka and her friend chat post-game with the Ain and Miller families.



### 2) MCC - Metropolitan Community Church:

I had never attended a service at MCC. I have watched online the live-streamed Sunday service and I have referred others to attend, but my first time was Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.

On that special occasion there were two guests, The Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, and The Right Rev. Gary Paterson, Moderator of the United Church of Canada, each of them the first openly gay individual to hold their important positions.

As soon as we stepped into MCC, my husband and I felt welcomed. The service was celebratory; the music stirring; the members of the congregation were friendly and welcoming. I was happily surprised

to meet so many people I knew, but even more so to be warmly greeted by many that I didn't previously know.

Seeing Premier Wynne with her partner Jane and family members alongside Rt. Rev. Paterson and his partner and hearing them both speak touched all of us.



Premier Wynne's words that years earlier she and Jane found solace and strength at MCC reminds me of the importance of making visitors feel welcomed, accepted and supported the moment they walk through our door, and that our Support Meetings can provide that 'place of solace' that Premier Wynne mentioned MCC afforded her.

*Dale Miller (Choir Director) with Premier Wynne, Jane Rounthwaite*



Read the Toronto Star article at [http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2013/02/17/wynne\\_thanks\\_his\\_toric\\_gaypositive\\_church.html](http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2013/02/17/wynne_thanks_his_toric_gaypositive_church.html)

I will go again.

Yours in Pride,

Irene



# IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE DIVERSITY!

TORONTO PFLAG recognizes **SHARON GLESS** and **THREE OUTSTANDING MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT** with **ALLY-OF-THE-YEAR AWARDS**



**SHARON GLESS**  
(Burn Notice, Queer as Folk, Cagney & Lacey)

Join us in honouring  
**Ms. Sharon Gless**

for her tireless contributions to the LGBTQ community, both on screen and off

along with

**Dr. Cheri DiNovo (MPP), Christine Elliott (MPP), & Hon. Yasir Naqvi (MPP, Minister of Labour)**  
for ensuring all-party support and passage of TOBY'S ACT, prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity and expression

## RECEPTION GALA

**MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2013, 6:00 - 8:00pm**  
**ED MIRVISH THEATRE**

WITH A VERY SPECIAL MESSAGE YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS FROM  
**ROSIE O'DONNELL**, multiple Emmy-Award winner



Tickets on sale March 15th at [torontopflag.org](http://torontopflag.org)  
Space is limited, buy your tickets early!

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer  
and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided.

If you are unable to attend, please make a donation to help fight homophobia and transphobia at [www.torontopflag.org](http://www.torontopflag.org)

## The future is in great hands...

Board member Anne Creighton visited Turner Fenton Secondary School in Brampton on Pink Day to speak with two assemblies about coming out and the importance of being an ally. "It was delightful. There was a lot of interest, several kids wanted to become allies and several more said they would check out PRIDE to see if they could volunteer," said Creighton. "It was such a validation for the work we do at PFLAG."

## THANK YOU

Toronto PFLAG wants to offer a heartfelt '**Thank You**' to the wonderful people who have recently made a donation to Toronto PFLAG. Your donations are allowing us to continue offering our 24/7 Telephone Support Line, our Monthly Support Meetings and our ongoing outreach and community support.

If you would like to help, you can make a donation through the secure servers at CanadaHelps.org (charitable donation receipts are issued automatically), and if you wish you can specify that your donation remain anonymous, or you can choose to honour someone or a special occasion.

Or you may send a cheque to

Toronto PFLAG, 200 Wolverleigh Blvd., Toronto, ON, M4C 1S2.  
(charitable donation receipts will be issued for amounts of \$20+)

**DONATE NOW**

<http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=s70090>

*Charitable Registration BN: 891493348RR0001*