

TORONTO PFLAG

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

November/December 2014 Newsletter #47

www.torontopflag.org

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.

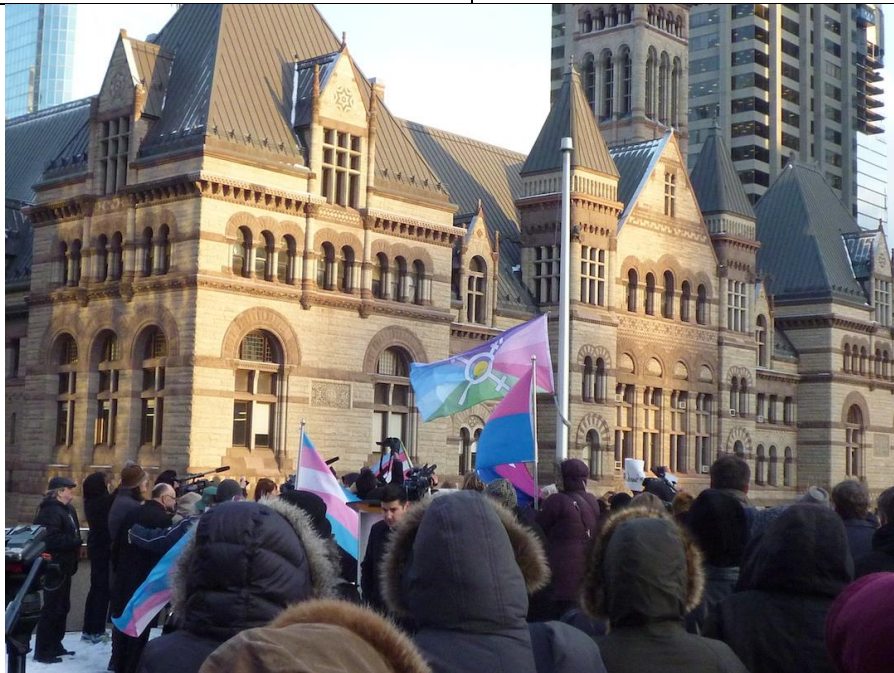
Toronto PFLAG actively assists in the recognition and growth of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersex, queer and questioning persons, and their families and friends, within their diverse cultures and societies.

NEXT SUPPORT MEETINGS

Wednesday
February 4, 2015
and
March 4, 2015

7:30 p.m.

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



Transgender Day of Remembrance Nov. 20, 2014

A message from your President

Looking Forward in 2015

Happy New Year everyone and all the best from our Toronto PFLAG family to yours.

The start of a new year holds all kinds of promise for most of us: for satisfying work, good health and warm friendships.

For those who are struggling with their identity or managing through the holidays pretending to be something they are not, it is a terribly stressful and depressing time. When hostile family attitudes seem entrenched, it is hard to feel hopeful.

This was brought home to us in stark horror as we read about [Leelah Alcorn](#) whose parents sent her to a Christian therapist and steadfastly refused to accept her true gender identity. She left two notes explaining her situation and walked in front of a transport truck just before Christmas.

Leelah's Facebook and Tumblr posts went around the world and inspired petitions, vigils and pleas for acceptance.

Teenage years are hard for everyone. But for teens that are dreading the advance of puberty and horrified at the prospect of secondary sexual characteristics that do not reflect their gender identity, teenage years are a nightmare.

With the puberty clock ticking the pressure is on to do something and this is when kids often tell their parents that they need help.

These kids need our love and support. They need good doctors: hello Sick Kids (416-813-5804) and Sherbourne Health Centre (416-867-3728). And they need loving accepting families who use the new name and pronoun as a sign of support.

If you know a family that is struggling, send them to us. We will help.

2015 will be a good year.

Anne Creighton

Toronto PFLAG Board of Directors announce two new directors

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of two new members to the Board of Directors of Toronto PFLAG.

Evan Dean has achieved tremendous success in both the public and not-for-profit sectors. He brings with him expertise in both governance and program delivery and design. He has acted as a consultant for numerous companies, and is currently employed full-time with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. He has also given freely of his time, working on many different Boards, including Pride Toronto.



Silvana Ho came to Toronto PFLAG as a supportive parent when one of her four children “came out” as gay. Happy with the help she received at the monthly meetings, Silvana decided to become a volunteer, and she’s been working for the organization ever since, most recently taking over the tracking and delivery of our school posters, which have been sent to locations throughout North America.



We welcome both Evan and Silvana onto the Board, and know that their work for the organization will benefit all of our families.

Toronto PFLAG Board of Directors

Proud To Play Night at the Toronto Raptors game

COMING UP!! FEB 4TH, 2015 - Join Toronto PFLAG and Egale Canada for an LGBT Night "OUT" at the Toronto Raptors NBA Basketball Game.

Proud to Play is a sporting event for every LGBTQ Family, Straight Ally, LGBT athlete, B-Baller, Raptor's fan, or GSA Youth Leader.

In partnership with Toronto Police Services and Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment. COME WATCH the Toronto Raptors face off against the Brooklyn Nets, Feb.4th, 7pm.

That's right... Wear your best rainbow colours and support a great cause. A portion from each ticket purchase goes to both Toronto PFLAG and Egale.

To get tickets visit RAPTORS.com/ticketpass using the codeword: PROUD OR call Maple Leaf Sports directly at 416-815-2296 (ask for Chat Ouellette) OR email chad.ouellette@mlse.com

It's only \$28 to sit with the big group OR \$72 tickets to sit in the lowerbowl endzone for a more intimate night with the Raptors.





3RD ANNUAL PROUD TO PLAY NIGHT

FEBRUARY 4TH

TORONTO RAPTORS VS BROOKLYN NETS



-  UPPER BOWL
BALCONY 1 - \$28
-  LOWER BOWL
ENDZONES - \$72



SHOW YOUR PRIDE : [CLICK HERE](http://WWW.RAPTORS.COM/TICKETPASS) OR VISIT
WWW.RAPTORS.COM/TICKETPASS
 PROMO CODE: PROUD

FOR ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT:
CHAD OUELLETTE | 416-815-2296 | CHAD.OUELLETTE@MLSE.COM

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 [PrideHouseTO](#)  [@PrideHouseTO](#) [#PrideHouseTO](#)

Join the PrideHouseTO Team!

PrideHouseTO has great plans for the TO2015 Pan Am Games including the PrideHouseTO Pavilion and a space of celebration in the Church Wellesley village featuring sports activations, concerts, beer gardens, art installations and games viewing.

PrideHouseTO is always looking for fabulous volunteers interested in sport and inclusion to fill a variety of roles ranging from planning and development to games event volunteers.

How do I become a volunteer?

The first step in becoming a volunteer with PrideHouseTO is to attend one of our Volunteer Meet 'N' Greet sessions. Prospective volunteers can sign up to attend by filling out a profile and applying to the opportunity on [Kindness.Connect](#), our volunteer management system. If you cannot attend a session in person, we will be offering one-on-one meetings as per mutual availability.

What kind of volunteer positions exist?

There are two types of volunteers working with the project, and much diversity among the types of responsibilities they all carry out.

Team Leads

- Team Lead Volunteers sit on an internal committee, known as either a Working Group or Logistic Team.
- Working Groups are responsible for the programming of all PrideHouseTO events during and leading up to the TO2015 Games. Logistic Teams develop the steps to support these initiatives.
- Volunteers are requested to attend a monthly two hour meeting leading up to TO2015.
- They may also be required to complete up to ten hours of work per month completing discrete project tasks and participating in regular phone/email communication.

Games-Time volunteers

- Games-Time Volunteers will be activated during the TO2015 Games.
 - We expect that we will require about 700 volunteers for our diverse projects in roles including our street team, pavilion greeters, bartenders, family/youth zone, and sports leaders, among many more.
 - Volunteers can apply to participate now, and select their shifts according to their interests in Spring 2015.
 - We are asking that each event-volunteer contributes by selecting 3 shifts over the scope of The Games (at around 4 hours each, depending on the role).
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What are the benefits of volunteering with PrideHouseTO?

- > A front row experience to PrideHouseTO events to enjoy the spirit of The Games.
- > A once in a lifetime opportunity to be part of a world-wide movement that makes a positive difference in how the LGBTQ community is included in sport.
- > An opportunity to increase your personal network by connecting with other volunteers who share similar passions for inclusion and community involvement, while meeting visitors from around the world.
- > A welcome to an encouraging and accessible community that will help develop personal and transferable work skills in leadership, communication, and teamwork.
- > An invitation to attend special events including the Café Series and a Volunteer Celebration event after The Games.
- > A volunteer uniform t-shirt, as well as access to recognition letters and PrideHouseTO swag.

www.pridehouseto.ca



a place for all in sport



At the Proud to Play Raptors game in 2014

Tax Receipts Coming

"Thank you to all our generous donors! 2014 was a fantastic year.

Donation receipts will be mailed out in early February"

Nick Lanaro
Toronto PFLAG Treasurer

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