



## HEU recognizes International Day Against Homophobia – May 17

For the past 10 years, HEU's Pink Triangle Standing Committee has recognized the International Day Against Homophobia – May 17– as part of its member and community outreach.

The theme of this year's campaign is *I love my two moms/I love my two dads* – drawing attention to the diverse types of families we belong to. The awareness campaign aims to eradicate myths and prejudice towards families and children with same-sex parents.

As a social justice union, HEU's been a pioneer in advocating for LGBTQ2S rights, same-sex spousal benefits, and employment equality – even negotiating anti-discrimination language in our collective agreements.

At HEU's 1994 convention, four equity caucuses were established, including the Lesbian and Gay Standing Committee (now the Pink Triangle Standing Committee) to recognize the diversity of our membership, advance and protect the rights of equity-seeking workers, and advocate against discrimination based on gender, race, ethnic background, disability or sexual orientation.

And in 2008, delegates to the union's biennial convention passed a resolution making the Women's Committee a standing committee as well.

May 17 is a landmark date because the World Health Organization finally removed homosexuality as a mental illness from its list of diagnoses on that day 24 years ago.

Now, May 17 is an opportunity for us to draw attention to the harmful impact of homophobia, and to recognize our LGBTQ2S sisters and brothers in our workplaces.

HEU is once again sponsoring a table at the International Day Against Homophobia Breakfast – hosted by Qmunity and Vancity – today at Vancouver's Fairmont Hotel (7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.). This year's theme is *Gay & Grey*, raising awareness about being openly gay and aging. CBC's Kathryn Gretsinger is the emcee.

For more information, visit <<http://www.homophobiaday.org/>>.

May 16, 2014