

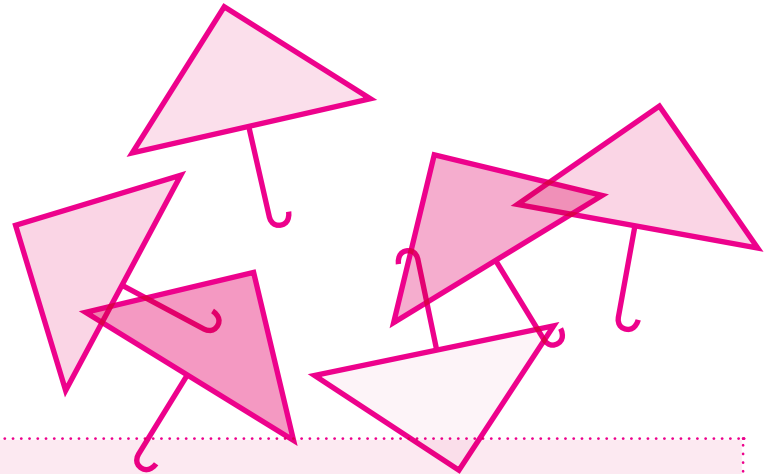


Pink Triangle umbrella embraces all

The Lesbian and Gay Men Standing Committee represents a diverse array of individuals and groups. Therefore, we are seeking to change our name to the Pink Triangle Standing Committee.

The Pink Triangle was a symbol that gay men were forced to wear in Nazi concentration camps: it has since become a symbol of LGBT pride, courage and resistance.

Often, you will see acronyms such as LGBTTI used in our writings and publications to be inclusive of our many constituents. Here is an explanation of some of the terms relating to those under the pink triangle umbrella.



BISEXUAL	Someone who is sexually attracted to both men and women.
GAY	A person who is sexually attracted to someone of the same gender. The term is most often used to refer to gay men.
INTERSEX	Someone born with a combination of male and female anatomy. Formerly called "hermaphrodite", intersex is now the preferred term. About four per cent of all newborns are intersex to some degree. Many are operated on shortly after birth and labeled either male or female. This surgery is not medically necessary; it reflects the dominant belief that there can only be two exclusive genders.
LESBIAN	A woman who is sexually attracted to other women.
LGBTTI	Acronym for lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transsexuals, transgendered and intersexed people.
QUEER	A word reclaimed by some gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered people to describe themselves. Originally, this word was used as a negative, homophobic slur. The term "queer" is often used as an umbrella term for all people who fall outside of the heterosexual or traditional "male" and "female" identities.
QUESTIONING	A self-label used by people who are exploring personal and social issues of sexual orientation and/or sexual and gender identity. They prefer this label to others.
TRANSGENDER(ED)	Someone whose gender identity, gender expression, and/or physical appearance do not fit into conventional expectations of male or female. Transgendered persons may be heterosexual, bisexual, gay or lesbian. The word "transgender" is used as an umbrella term for people who live as a gender other than the one they were given at birth; it includes cross-dressers (transvestites). Transgendered people may or may not transition via hormones and/or surgery. Some transsexuals do not wish to be included in the umbrella term "transgender" while others do.
TRANSSEXUAL	Someone who changes their anatomy as part of the transition to living as another gender. Surgery and/or hormone therapy are the two most common methods. Transsexuals may be straight, bisexual, gay or lesbian.
TWO-SPIRITED	Aboriginal peoples who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered.

Committee Report

HEU's Lesbian and Gay Men Standing Committee (LGSC) has new co-chairs, and proposes new name at union's November convention

During the last few months, the LGSC has been extremely busy with community outreach and educational activities. There have been some challenges and some successes.

Earlier this year, Brother Thom Marshall resigned as co-chair of the committee. We will miss his help and creativity. Thom was a long-standing member of the committee. And we will also miss Sister Darlene Bown, who resigned in August as co-chair. She was a strong leader and the one who got us involved in the International Day Against Homophobia.

Brother Bert Munn and I are now the co-chairs of the committee. We both have been involved in the committee for many years, and have lots of knowledge and experience.

Over the August long weekend, members of the LGSC and friends marched in the multi-union pride contingent of the Vancouver Pride Parade. Gretchen Dulmage was the liaison to the multi-union pride, the body that coordinates the unions' parade entry. Members of our caucus and the P.E. also attended the annual NDP Pride Brunch.



NDP Brunch: L-R: Lynne Taylor, Victor Elkins, Fred Muzin, Thom Marshall, Debbie Lawrance, Karen McVeigh, Linda Schultz



2008 AIDS Walk: back row L-R: Karen McVeigh, Linda Schultz, Lynne Taylor
front row L-R: John Yano, Bert Munn, Gretchen Dulmage

On September 19, the LGSC held our first AIDS fundraiser dance. All members of the committee pulled together to make this event a success, which included advertising in local publications and on the *Xtra West* website. Thanks to Gretchen for coordinating the dance, and Bert for coordinating the music. Those in attendance had a great time. Thank you to everyone who supported this good cause. That same weekend, committee members and friends also participated in Vancouver's AIDS WALK for LIFE 2008 as part of the HEU team. We raised about \$3,000 for the B.C. Persons with AIDS Society.

At HEU's biennial convention in November, the LGSC is putting forward a constitutional amendment to change our name from the Lesbian and Gay Men Standing Committee to the Pink Triangle Standing Committee in order to reflect the diversity of our constituency. We are hoping for broad support from the delegates.

Have a great convention!

*Karen McVeigh
Co-chair*

*For the sake of brevity, LGBT is used throughout the Pride Pages as short-hand for the wider Pink Triangle community (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Two-Spirited, Intersex, Queer, Questioning).



Thank you, Brother Muzin!



The Lesbian and Gay Men Standing Committee would like to thank HEU President Fred Muzin for his strong support of equity groups over the years. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

Salt Spring's first pride parade a success



KAREN McVEIGH
Co-chair

I recently attended the fourth annual Salt Spring Island Pride festivities, which included a rally and dance.

This was the first year the pride celebrations also included a parade. There was a very good turnout by the town's people. And although the parade was not very big, everyone had a good time. The parade's centrepiece was a 125-foot rainbow flag – carried by many people, including a couple from England.

Members of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) also had a contingent in the parade. I was particularly touched by a mother who had lost her daughter in an accident. She carried a picture of her daughter and a sign reading: "I am the proud parent of a lesbian."

The parade was a great success. The only thing missing was a union contingent... maybe next year. It was one of the best times I've had at a pride event in years.



Editorial



TIM RATTEL
Editorial

The B.C. Ministry of Education has developed an exciting new course for high school students called Social Justice 12. What's not to love about a course that teaches young adults how to respect diverse cultures in their community, take civic responsibility and become social advocates?

Some would argue that with the selfish consumer-driven society created by the media, a little ethics and some moral values would be a good thing to teach. Unfortunately, at the beginning of this school year, a controversy erupted when the Abbotsford School Board refused to offer the optional Social Justice 12 course to its students.

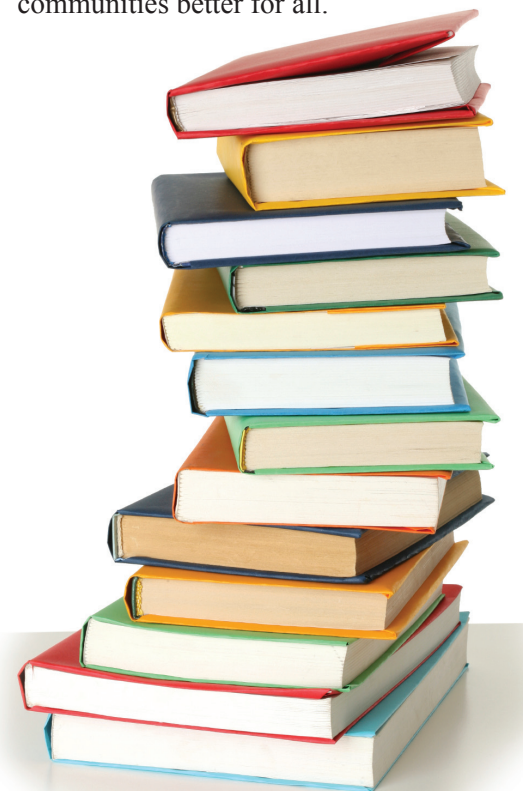
Excuses abound: "we want to review the material", "parents are concerned about their rights", and as one parent said, "there will be reverse discrimination against students who have traditional values." This last statement is the most ironic. Are people admitting that their beliefs are discriminatory, and now they don't want a backlash? Are ethics and respect not traditional values? The real criticism of this course is that one component includes discussions on homophobia.

Understanding is the first step in respecting people who are different from us. As the recent, unprovoked attack on a gay man in his West End neighbourhood shows, attacking minorities and those who are different is still a common occurrence.

"Coming out" in high school is a daunting challenge for lesbian and gay teens. Not many are willing to risk exposing themselves to the cruelty and harassment that disclosure can bring. Teaching students to recognize the impact of discrimination is imperative to building safe and respectful communities for everyone.

People are entitled to their religious beliefs; that is part of our multicultural society. People are not entitled to express their beliefs through violence and discrimination. The intro to the course material describes: "a progressive, democratic country values inherent differences in its society and the creation of a caring and fair community. This course encourages students to believe that the pursuit of social justice is an important responsibility for all and to develop a commitment and ability to work toward a more just society."

These seem like goals that we as trade unionists and social justice advocates should strive for in order to make our communities better for all.



LGSC ISSUES AND INFORMATION LINE

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! *Did you know that we have...?*

- a confidential HEU LGBT Issues and Information telephone line: **604-456-7192, ext. 3**, or toll-free **1-800-663-5813 ext. 7192**
- an HEU pride website – www.pridepages.org
- a quarterly newsletter, *Pride Pages*
- a Lesbian and Gay Standing Committee that meets three to four times a year to work on all types of things for you
- community events and campaigns that all are invited to attend or become involved in
- an equity conference every two years with registration open to all LGBT members

Email us at glesbian@heu.org, phone us at **604-456-7192, ext. 3** or call toll-free at **1-800-663-5813 ext. 7192**.

ALL CALLS ARE CONFIDENTIAL.