

# RAINBOW

# HEALTH

# NETWORK

## OUR OBJECTIVES

- **Networking:** Create and sustain an accessible, inclusive network of volunteers committed to promoting health and wellness for people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, through the Rainbow Health Network (RHN) listserv and website. Create opportunities for exchange of information and resources, and for collaboration.
- **Education:** Create educational resources and provide public education and health professional education. Act as a resource to health and social service providers, community groups, researchers, and academics.
- **Advocacy:** Advocate with governments, agencies, and the public on initiatives regarding health and wellness needs, strengths, and priorities of LGBTTT people.
- **Equity:** Work toward increasing access, equity, and inclusion in health-care, supports and social services. Create partnerships to address health disparities experienced by LGBTTT people who are further marginalized by oppression, such as racism, sexism, ableism, and classism.

## WHAT WE DO

Rainbow Health Network (RHN) is a reference group of the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Ontario (CLGRO), which works towards feminism and bisexual, lesbian, and gay liberation. <http://www.web.net/~clgro/>

RHN was founded in 2001 to pursue the recommendations of CLGRO's 1997 research report *Systems Failure: A Report on the Experiences of Sexual Minorities in Ontario's Health-Care and Social-Services Systems*. You can get a copy of the report at: [www.web.net/clgro/frames.htm](http://www.web.net/clgro/frames.htm)

You can join our listserv in order to share information. You can join a committee - such as the Trans Health Lobby Group, the Education Committee, and the Steering Committee - or work on a project, such as the Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Initiative.

RHN/CLGRO's Ontario Rainbow Health Partnership Project with the Canadian Rainbow Health Coalition (funded by Health Canada, 2005/06) produced: 1) *Rainbow Health Educational Toolkit*; 2) *Interventions/ Intersections: Anti-racism and Queer Organizing*; 3) *Building of a Northern Alliance*; 4) *Whose Public Health? An Intersectional Approach to Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and the Development of Public Health Goals for Canada*. Available at: [www.rainbowhealthnetwork.ca/](http://www.rainbowhealthnetwork.ca/)  
[www.rainbowhealth.ca/english/documents.html](http://www.rainbowhealth.ca/english/documents.html)

## HOW WE DEFINE HEALTH

Being healthy is more than not being sick. It's about feeling well - in your body, in your mind, and in your connections with other people. It's about how well you can meet your needs, achieve your goals, and cope with the situation that you're in.

All sorts of things can make it hard to be/get healthy: poverty, homelessness, racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia... Sometimes these things overlap, which makes getting health care really difficult, or even impossible.

In order to be healthy, members of our communities must be treated with dignity and without prejudice. We must have health care, supports and services that we can access and that meet our needs.

make a difference  
get involved

## OUR VISION

Our vision is the optimal health and wellness of people and communities of all gender identities and sexual orientations, as well as intersex people. This includes – and is not limited to - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Intersex, Two-Spirit, Transsexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning people and our allies.



## OUR MISSION

The Rainbow Health Network is a catalyst and a resource for activities promoting the health and wellness of people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, in Toronto and beyond\*.

We are committed to equity-based, community-based, anti-racism, and anti-oppression values. We strive for representation of the full diversity of our communities and commit to building partnerships to achieve this goal.

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\* As a volunteer network with limited resources, our activities are focused primarily in Toronto, and our advocacy and lobbying primarily in Ontario. However, since issues of sexual and gender diversity cross all boundaries, we are open to sharing information and support across provincial and national borders.

## MILESTONES

### 2008:

- Years of RHN advocacy support the relisting of sex reassignment surgery and creation of Rainbow Health Ontario
- Toronto Pride Gala Award
- Toronto Access and Equity Grant

### 2006-08:

- Trans Human Rights Campaign launched
- Workshops and panels adopt an Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression focus

### 2005-06:

- Ontario Rainbow Health Partnerships Project

### 2003 and ongoing:

- Workshops given at hospitals and agencies

## HOW TO JOIN CONTACT US

[www.rainbowhealthnetwork.ca](http://www.rainbowhealthnetwork.ca)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RHN/>

Contact: RHN.Chair@gmail.com  
Box 822, Station A, Toronto, Ontario  
M5W 1G3 (416) 392-6878, ext 4049

## NETWORK MEETINGS

**Time/Dates:** Check website or confirm with RHN Chair or another RHN contact.

**Location:** 99 Gerrard St East, Rm 222, Eric Palin Hall. Wheelchair accessible.

(Meeting space generously provided by the Ryerson University School of Social Work)

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
THE COALITION FOR  
LESBIAN & GAY RIGHTS  
IN ONTARIO



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