



Rainbow Health Ontario



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rainbow Health Ontario and the LGBT Program at Sherbourne Health Centre encourage organizations and individuals to participate in the Second Annual LGBTQ Health Matters Week

Toronto, February 27, 2009 – Rainbow Health Ontario and the LGBT Program at Sherbourne Health Centre are pleased to announce the Second Annual LGBTQ Health Matters Week. The *2009 LGBTQ Health Matters Week* celebrations, under the theme – **Building Healthier Communities**, will begin on April 13, 2009 and end on April 19, 2009.

The *2009 LGBTQ Health Matters Week* is an annual health awareness campaign designed to promote the health and well-being of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgender, 2-spirited, genderqueer, intersex, queer and questioning communities across Ontario.

LGBTQ Health Matters Week began successfully last year with a series of events in the city of Toronto. With the launch of Rainbow Health Ontario, LGBTQ Health Matters Week is now a province-wide initiative in Ontario.

The *2009 LGBTQ Health Matters Week* is a great way for individuals and organizations to reinforce and strengthen your commitment to addressing LGBTQ health issues across the province. The LGBTQ Health Matters Week website, www.lgbtqhealthmatters.com, lists a complete calendar of events taking place over the week, as well as resources for individuals and organizations interested in taking part.

“We encourage everyone who wants to help promote the health and well being of LGBTQ people in Ontario to get involved including local health organizations, social service organizations, community groups, local businesses, media organizations and schools,” says **Michèle Clarke**, Communications Coordinator at Rainbow Health Ontario. “If you are organizing or know about an event or activity that relates to LGBTQ health in Ontario, we want to hear about it!”

These activities could include:

- an article for a newsletter or local newspaper
- lunch ‘n’ learn training session to educate staff team about some aspect of LGBTQ health
- an Open House of programs and services for members of the LGBTQ communities
- a workshop or discussion for LGBTQ people on any health issue
- an educational display about LGBTQ health issues in a waiting room, lobby or store window
- distribution of information on LGBTQ health issues to clients or customers

To have events or activities listed on www.lgbtqhealthmatters.com, please send your submissions to info@lgbtqhealthmatters.com.

About Rainbow Health Ontario

Rainbow Health Ontario (RHO) is a province-wide program that works to improve the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people in Ontario through education, research, outreach and public policy advocacy. Our mission is to improve access to services and to promote the health of Ontario's lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities. RHO began operations in January 2008 and we are based at Sherbourne Health Centre in downtown Toronto. We work with LGBT communities, service providers, researchers, policy makers and government representatives in three main areas: Information and Consultation, Education and Training, and Research and Policy. For more information, please visit www.RainbowHealthOntario.ca.

About Sherbourne Health Centre

Sherbourne Health Centre is an urban primary health care centre which provides innovative primary health care, counselling, support, outreach, health promotion, and education programs to our clients – the many individuals who reflect the diverse and vibrant communities of southeast Toronto. Sherbourne Health Centre has been providing comprehensive primary health programs and services to the LGBT communities since 2003 and frequently provides consultation and expertise on LGBT health issues. For more information, please visit www.sherbourne.on.ca.

For more information about the *2009 LGBTQ Health Matters Week*, please contact:

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