

# Conference Overview

## 2012 Conference

Rainbow Health Ontario 2012 Conference:  
Supporting LGBT Health Through Every Stage of Life

Ottawa Marriott Hotel

Tuesday, March 20 – Friday, March 23, 2012

### Conference Overview

The Rainbow Health Ontario 2012 Conference will provide a forum for health and social service providers, community members, researchers and policy makers to share knowledge, experience and ideas, to network and develop partnerships, and to find inspiration for their ongoing work. This conference will, for the first time, include presentations in French and all plenary sessions will feature simultaneous translation.

The biennial Rainbow Health Ontario Conference is the only conference in Canada focused on the health and wellness of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) communities. It provides a dynamic forum for influential health and social service providers, community members, researchers and policy makers to meet, learn, share and plan for action. The 2010 Conference, held in Toronto on improving access and equity in health for LGBT people was widely acclaimed. The 2012 Conference builds on that success.

### Rainbow Health Ontario

Rainbow Health Ontario is a unique, province-wide program funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. It is based at Sherbourne Health Centre, a leader in providing primary health care services to Toronto's LGBT communities. RHO's mandate is to improve access to services and to promote the health of Ontario's LGBT communities. Both Sherbourne Health Centre and Rainbow Health Ontario have earned a high level of trust and respect within health care and LGBT communities.

### The Issues

Human rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people in Canada have changed a great deal in the past 40 years, but our society still struggles to fully accept LGBT people as family members, clients or colleagues. Stress, stigma and violence lead to a higher burden of mental and physical health conditions and LGBT people often face barriers in accessing appropriate and dignified health or social care. These issues are even more significant for people who also hold membership in other marginalized communities. Increased understanding, a more integrated and informed approach and urgent action are needed.

The theme of this year's conference is "Supporting LGBT Health Through Every Stage of Life". It will examine the experiences of diverse LGBT people and communities across the life cycle from family formation, to adolescence, to old age. It will highlight new knowledge, key issues and best practices from leaders in research, clinical practice, community development, equity and policy. Many workshops and all plenary sessions will be offered in both official languages.

## Conférence

2012 de Santé arc-en-ciel Ontario :

Pour la santé des LGBT à toutes les étapes de leur vie

l'Hotel Ottawa Marriott

Mardi le 20 au vendredi le 23 mars 2012

### Aperçu de la conférence

La Conférence 2012 de Santé arc-en-ciel Ontario sera pour les fournisseurs de services sociaux et de soins de santé, les membres de la communauté, les chercheurs et les décideurs un forum d'échange où ils pourront partager leur savoir, leurs expériences et leurs idées, créer des liens et des partenariats et faire le plein de motivation et d'inspiration pour leur travail. Pour la première fois, cette conférence comportera des présentations en français et un service de traduction simultanée sera offert au cours de toutes les séances plénières.

La conférence biennale de Santé arc-en-ciel Ontario est la seule au Canada à être dédiée à la santé et au bien-être des communautés lesbiennes, gaies, bisexuelles et trans (LGBT). Elle offre un forum dynamique aux fournisseurs de services sociaux et de santé influents, aux membres des communautés, aux chercheurs et aux décideurs afin qu'ils se réunissent, apprennent et élaborent un plan d'action. La conférence de 2010, qui a eu lieu à Toronto, visait à améliorer l'accès et l'équité à la santé pour les personnes LGBT en Ontario. La conférence de 2012, à Ottawa, s'appuie sur ce succès.

### Santé arc-en-ciel Ontario

Santé arc-en-ciel Ontario est un programme provincial unique financé par le ministère de la Santé et des Soins de longue durée de l'Ontario. Il est situé au Centre de santé Sherbourne, un chef de file en matière de services de soins de santé primaires auprès des communautés LGBT de Toronto. Le mandat de Santé arc-en-ciel Ontario consiste à améliorer l'accès aux services et à promouvoir la santé au sein des communautés LGBT de l'Ontario. Le Centre de santé Sherbourne et Santé arc-en-ciel Ontario ont tous deux gagné la confiance et le respect des communautés des soins de santé et LGBT.

### Les problèmes

Les droits des personnes lesbiennes, gaies, bisexuelles et trans au Canada ont beaucoup évolué au cours des 40 dernières années, mais notre société a encore de la difficulté à accepter pleinement les personnes LGBT à titre de membres de la famille, de clients ou de collègues. Le stress, les stigmates et la violence aggravent le fardeau des problèmes de santé physique et mentale, et les personnes LGBT ont souvent de la difficulté à obtenir des soins de santé ou des services sociaux dignes et appropriés. Ces problèmes sont beaucoup plus importants parmi les gens qui font aussi partie d'autres communautés marginalisées. Une meilleure compréhension, une approche plus intégrée et éclairée, de même qu'une action urgente sont nécessaires.

Le thème de la conférence de cette année est « Pour la santé des LGBT à toutes les étapes de vie ». La conférence sera l'occasion d'examiner les expériences de différentes personnes et communautés LGBT tout au long du cycle de vie, de la formation de la famille à l'adolescence et la vieillesse. Elle mettra l'accent sur les nouvelles connaissances, les enjeux clés et les meilleures pratiques des chefs de file en matière de recherche, de pratique clinique, de développement communautaire, d'équité et de politique. Un grand nombre d'ateliers et de séances plénières seront présentés dans les deux langues officielles.

# Acknowledgements

*The Rainbow Health Ontario team consists of a core staff in Toronto, and 14 part-time Outreach Team members, one in each of Ontario's Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs).*

## **Rainbow Health Ontario Toronto Staff**

### **Anna Travers**

#### **Director**

Anna guides the team at Rainbow Health Ontario and provides overall leadership to the program. She has a Masters degree in Social Work and over 25 years experience in community based health and social services in Ontario. Prior to becoming the Director of RHO, Anna developed and managed Sherbourne Health Centre's comprehensive LGBT primary health care program. She is also an active writer, presenter, community-based researcher and activist. In 2009, Anna received a lifetime achievement award from the American Psychological Association's Division 44.

### **Donna Turner**

#### **Communications Coordinator**

Donna coordinates the development and implementation of communications strategies and materials for RHO. She has a Public Relations diploma and 13 years of experience working for non-profits. Most recently Donna worked in mental health as the Manager of Communications for the Mood Disorders Association of Ontario, and her experience also includes working for the Inside Out LGBT Film and Video Festival, and the Canadian AIDS Society. In addition to work experience, Donna has an extensive history of volunteerism and currently serves as Co-Chair of the Board of Directors for the Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Youth Line.

### **Loralee Gillis**

#### **Research & Policy Coordinator**

Loralee is responsible for supporting the development of LGBT health research in Ontario and for encouraging public policy that supports LGBT health. Before coming to RHO, She worked as the manager of Research and Evaluation at the Association of Ontario Health Centres, the umbrella organization of Community Health Centres in Ontario. In that role she acted as Principal Investigator on a number of large research grants and supported research capacity building in the sector. Loralee has also worked as a front-line service provider in street outreach and needle exchange services. She is currently completing her Master's degree in Social Anthropology at York University. Her Master's research explores the lives and experiences of Women in Southern Ontario who are living with HIV/AIDS. In addition to having a long history of political activism, Loralee is one of the founders and co-organizers of the Toronto Women's Bathhouse. Over the last decade she has spent lots of her spare time fighting legal battles which ensued after the Toronto Police raided the Women's Bathhouse in September 2000. Loralee grew up in Peterborough, Ontario.

### **Devan Nambiar**

#### **Education Coordinator**

Devan coordinates RHO's training and education initiatives and delivers most of RHO's core training. He has been working in the gay/ethno-racial MSM/HIV sector for 20 years. In his previous position, he was the Treatment Educator/ Counsellor at the Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange. Devan co-authored, *A Practical Guide to Complementary Medicine* and *A Practical Guide to Herbal Therapies for PHAS* (CATIE, 2004), *Managing Your Health* (CATIE, 2009), contributing editor to the *Practical Guide to Nutrition for PHAS* (CATIE 2007). Devan writes for the e-zine, [www.positivelite.com](http://www.positivelite.com) and the blog at, [www.asaap.ca](http://www.asaap.ca). In his professional capacity, he lectures on complementary medicine, provides input on community based research and has served on numerous boards and ethics review committees. He is currently completing his MSc in Integrated Healthcare.

## Matt Caron Francino

### Francophone Service Coordinator

Matt coordinates all RHO communications, initiatives and resources serving LGBT francophones and those who provide services to them in Ontario. Matt has a Masters in Education with a particular interest in community based education within linguistic minority contexts. He has a decade's experience in healthy sexuality education and sexual diversity workplace issues. Matt has a background working in the HIV/AIDS sector and he was involved for a number of years with Planned Parenthood of Toronto.

Matt Caron Francino est coordonnateur des services francophones de Santé arc-en-ciel Ontario. Il assure la liaison avec les communautés francophones de l'Ontario ainsi que les services en français, notamment en matière de communications, de formation et de consultation sur les politiques. Matt est titulaire d'une maîtrise en éducation. Il s'intéresse particulièrement à l'éducation en milieu communautaire dans le contexte des minorités linguistiques. Il possède plus de 10 ans d'expérience en éducation pour une sexualité saine et en matière de diversité sexuelle dans les milieux de travail. Matt a travaillé notamment dans le secteur du VIH-SIDA et a oeuvré durant quelques années à l'organisme Planned Parenthood de Toronto.

## Jordan Zaitzow

### Trans Health Connection Program Coordinator

Jordan coordinates Trans Health Connection, a project of Rainbow Health Ontario and Sherbourne Health Centre with the goal of increasing the capacity of Ontario's primary health care system to provide high-quality, comprehensive care to trans communities. Jordan is a queer white trans activist and educator who has co-facilitated trans youth programs, volunteered and done programming at drop-ins for low-income trans folks, and has been part of a variety of other political and social initiatives with a trans focus. Jordan previously worked for Fred Victor Centre as part of a social service team addressing trans inclusion at all organizational levels from front line support to policy development. He has been facilitating trans health – focused workshops in Toronto for the last 7 years and is also a current member of the Canadian Professional Association for Transgender Health (CPATH) as well as the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH). Jordan grew up in Ottawa.

## Jen Keystone

### Administrative Assistant

Jen has been working in health and social services for a number of years. Career highlights include Special Events Manager at the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT), and founding Board Member of the Ten Oaks Project. Jen received an Honours Bachelor of Outdoor Recreation, Parks & Tourism from Lakehead University, Thunder Bay. Committed to environmental consciousness and stewardship, she is the Co-Chair of the Sherbourne Health Centre Green Council. Jen is a proud parent of two super kids!

## Rainbow Health Ontario Outreach Workers

*RHO's 14 outreach workers live in every part of Ontario. They work for us on a part time basis to ensure that we have a presence in every LHIN region. Outreach workers help to develop local networks and initiatives, share resources and best practices, and create vital connections to promote the health of LGBT communities.*

Sarah Fraleigh, LHIN 1 – Erie St. Clair  
 Vacant, LHIN 2 – South West  
 Blair Groves, LHIN 3 – Waterloo Wellington  
 Ruth Cameron, LHIN 4 – Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant  
 Vacant, LHIN 5 – Central West  
 Gary Hoskins, LHIN 6 – Mississauga Halton  
 Phyllis Waugh, LHIN 7 – Toronto Central  
 Haran Vijayanathan, LHIN 8 – Central  
 Kirsten Schmidt-Chamberlain, LHIN 9 – Central East  
 Angela Rail, LHIN 10 – South East  
 Allison Armstrong, LHIN 11 – Champlain  
 J. Andrew Baker, LHIN 12 – North Simcoe Muskoka  
 Shannon Palmer, LHIN 13 – North East  
 David Belrose, LHIN 14 – North West



*This map of the Local Health Integration Networks' (LHINs) shows how health care planning and funding is organized. RHO's 14 Outreach Workers live in each of these regions. They work for us on a part time basis to ensure that we have a presence in every LHIN region. Outreach workers help to develop local networks and initiatives, share resources and best practices, and create vital connections to promote the health of LGBT communities.*

## Conference Program Committee

### Rainbow Health Ontario 2012

*Thanks to Conference Program Committee members for their time and contribution to the task of reviewing and recommending this year's conference program content.*

**Charlene Catchpole** is a 2-Spirited Anishnawbe Kwe. She has been active in the LGBT community in Toronto and has worked in the Not For Profit sector for over 27 years, promoting health and wellness in the LGBT, HIV and violence against women communities. Currently, she is the Executive Director of the North York Women's Shelter.

**Louie Chan** is a family physician from LAMP East Mississauga Community Health Centre. Louie obtained his MD degree from the University of Toronto, and completed his residency training in family medicine at McMaster University. He has long been involved in LGBT health advocacy ever since the start of his medical training. He was one of the founding members of GLBT Meds Canada, a nationwide professional network for LGBT medical students and physicians in Canada (<http://glbtmeds.co.nr>)

### Rainbow Health Ontario 2012 Conference Planners

Rachel Gillooly and Associates, Haliburton County, Ontario  
 Rachel Gillooly, Holly Fisher, Barb Lewis, John Schmidt, Huguette Leger

**Joël Dickinson** is a member of the faculty of Psychology at Laurentian University in Sudbury. Although her main area of research is cognitive psychology, she has also done research in the area of Parental Stress and Lesbian Motherhood. She has also recently been doing research on how schemas (such as heteronormativity) impact cognitive actions such as reading.

### Kim Dolan

Kim Dolan is the executive director of a small, dynamic AIDS Service Organization in Peterborough (PARN - Your Community AIDS Resource Network). With a small team of nine staff that is committed to providing services to people living with HIV, and prevention programs to people at risk for HIV transmission, they address homophobia and heterosexism within community systems and help to build safer communities for people who identify as LGBTTTQI and their allies.

**Mark Ferrari** is the Executive Director for the Windsor Family Health Team. Mark has been in healthcare administration for 4 years and has 18 years in public administration experience. Under his leadership the Windsor FHT has made LGBT healthcare services a priority for Windsor and surrounding communities. He is the Community Family Health Team constituency director on the board of the Association of Ontario Health Centres and is also active in his community as an advocate for public services for LGBT youth and children as co-chair of SAFE (Service Alliance for Equality) Windsor.