

Outline of NSRAP History from 2002-03 to 2013-14

As Pulled from Annual Reports by Rebecca Rose

2015-12-11

Fundraising

Internal/Staffing

Membership

Campaigns

Space

Rural Outreach

The Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) was founded in 1995. Incorporated as a non-profit society on February 17, 2000, NSRAP has been working throughout Nova Scotia as a voice for the Rainbow Community.

Pre NSRAP: GALA

In the early 1980s, Radclyffe Hall, a small house on Macara Street in Halifax, held the office for Gayline, as well as the Gay Alliance for Equality (GAE) library. It was used for meetings of GAE and other gay-related organizations, for workshops, for alcohol-free social events, and one summer for a youth outreach project with two part-time employees. In 1985, Radclyffe Hall was sold to facilitate the purchase of a larger location for Rumours on Gottingen Street. In 1988 GAE was renamed the Gay and Lesbian Association of Nova Scotia (GALA). By 1994, its energies sapped by internal debates along with having to manage Rumours, GALA dissolved. The group's publication, The Gaezette continued to publish under a new name, Wayves.

It was after the demise of GALA that NSRAP was formed.

2002-03

Report by **Bob Fougere, Coordinator**

- ! Book Tour – Kevin Bourassa & Joe Varnell authors of “Gay Marriage and the Expansion of Human Rights’ were on a maritime tour.
- ! The plight of ‘Gay Muslims’ was recently brought to our attention. Saleem, one of our new members, has volunteered to set up a local branch of The Salaam Foundation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ) Muslims & Their Friends.

- ! Partnered in research: 'The Health and Social Service Needs of Gay and Lesbian Elders and their Families: An exploration in Three Canadian Cities' (2002 – 2005).
- ! NSRAP was a community partner for project: '...the settlement of Property and Family Conflicts of Lesbians in Halifax' By Cathy J. M
- ! **Fundraising continues to be an issue for the organization.**
- ! Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) has started a fund for. Any money in that fund can be used for education purposes only.
- ! If there is anyone who would like to take on a fundraising project it would be most welcome.
- ! **We now have about 250 people on our mailing list. Unfortunately we have only 7 people who have applied for membership.**
- ! Plans to purchase a banner have been put on hold until we are in a better financial position.
- ! On May 24, 2003 we had a community meeting in **Yarmouth**. Made a presentation on recent legislation affecting same sex couples. Dianne C. has agreed to arrange a regular date and to host monthly meetings that will be held at the Tri-County Women's Centre in Yarmouth.
- ! Recent Court rulings have ordered that the Province of British Columbia , the Federal Prison System and the Canadian Armed Forces must cover the cost of sex reassignment surgery (SRS.) Given the above the executive of NSRAP has decided that we should consider making whatever interventions are necessary to have this procedure covered by the provincial medical insurance system in NS.

2003-04

Report by **Bob Fougere, Coordinator**

- ! **Same Sex Marriage:** NSRAP remains actively involved in the national coalition of groups working towards gaining same-sex marriage rights for all Canadians.

- The Pro Bono Group at Dalhousie worked with NSRAP this year on our marriage initiative and with the trans group.
- ! The Nova Scotia Teachers Union approached NSRAP to evaluate a new policy on homophobia and heterosexism that they are implementing.
- ! Saleem was successful in setting set up a local branch of The Salaam Foundation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ) Muslims & Their Friends. The group has met only a few times and is very small but this work is important.
- ! A coalition consisting of The Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Project, the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia and NSRAP have submitted a proposal to the Canadian Rainbow Health Coalition for a grant. The overall goal of the Project is to increase access to primary health care services for GLBT2TQ people within the jurisdiction of the Capital District Health Authority. The principal target population for the Project activities is the community of primary health care providers within Capital Health. If the proposal is accepted one staff member will be hired and the Project will last 18 months starting in July of 2004.
- ! In October NSRAP, working in cooperation with Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church, held a day-long workshop entitled “Queer and Spiritual? – Lets Talk About It.”
- ! **Fundraising continues to be an issue for the organization.**
- ! **In August, 2003, a Mardi Gras Weekend was held at the Mermaid and the Cow campground in Pictou, NS. A total of \$281.00 was raised for NSRAP**
- ! We now have about 250 people on our mailing list. **Unfortunately we have only 32 people who have applied for membership.**

2004-05

Bob Fougere, Coordinator

- ! **We were instrumental in the court case that resulted in getting the right of same couples to marry in NS.**

- ! Over the last two years trans issues have been a major project of NSRAP. The Trans Action Committee has been very busy researching the issues from a legal, social and medical perspective. The long-term objective of this work is to have all of medical procedures relating to Gender Identity Disorder becoming insured services in NS.
- ! **We still have an outstanding balance on our legal fees associated with the marriage case** and we are looking ahead to the possibility of large expenses relating to the case on Gender Identity Disorder.
- ! We are looking ahead to the possibility of large expenses relating to the case on Gender Identity Disorder.
- ! **Last year we had our first annual Gala at which we raised about \$6,000.**

2005-06

Report by Gaston R. Saulnier, NSRAP Secretary

- ! The Board of Directors has been very active in reorganizing the internal workings of NSRAP. **Much of the year has been spent on strategic planning and organizational development efforts that coincide with NSRAP's ever-continuous growth. This ongoing process has resulted in a revision of our guiding principals and values as well as an introduction and/or formalization of many policies and guidelines.**
- ! The Board of Directors has also been actively involved in **transitioning the roles and responsibilities of our outgoing volunteer Coordinator, Bob Fougere, to a temporary (six months) full time staff member hired this spring.** Above completing many of the daily administrative tasks of NSRAP, this new employee is mandated to seek out long-term funding from both the public and private sectors...
- ! NSRAP's Trans Action Committee has been active in addressing trans issues in Nova Scotia, one of the Society's leading areas of interest.
- ! **2005 Gala: This year, NSARP partnered with the Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church (MCC). Most notably, the profits of the 2005 Gala were evenly split between NSRAP and MCC.**

- ! Wayves outreach: NSRAP has reached out to its membership in a series of three articles published in Wayves in early spring.
- ! 2006 general election: Kevin Kindred, media.
- ! Rosie O'Donnell Visit to Halifax (July 2005): NSRAP coordinated the preparations - both legal and social aspects - of the marriage ceremonies of couples visiting Halifax as part of the Rosie Cruises.

2006-07

Report by Gaston R. Saulnier, NSRAP Secretary

Strategic priorities identified during the 2005-2006 fiscal year:

1) Increasing outreach, both within and outside the Halifax Regional Municipality

(HRM): NSRAP donated a total of \$1,500 to sponsor Pride groups and Pride celebrations outside of HRM; and sponsored and participated in the 2006 Halifax Pride celebrations.

2) Building a stronger, united Rainbow community: NSRAP, in partnership with other LGBTTTQI associations, expressed interest in coordinating the establishment of a Rainbow Coalition, a discussion forum that would include representatives of various local and provincial LGBTTTQI organizations and groups; **and NSRAP was successful in obtaining a HRM Community Grant to examine the need for and the feasibility of a Rainbow community centre in HRM.**

3) Building and sustaining healthy partnerships: The local police consulted NSRAP during the investigation of the murders of Michael Knott and Trevor Brewster. Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to maintain a healthy working relationship; The Society supported the rally held on the International Day Against Homophobia (May 17); NSRAP has continued representation on the Halifax Regional Police Chief's Diversity Advisory Committee; NSRAP offered its continued support to Capital Health's LGBTI Initiative...

- ! **The Board of Directors began work to create a charitable foundation.**
- ! **The 2006 Gala dinner, Coming Together, was an astounding success.** Guests enjoyed an intimate evening of celebration amongst each other. Olympic medallist Mark Tewksbury gave the keynote address as well as a very generous prize for the silent auction – none other than the shirt off of his back!
 - o A special thanks to the evening's corporate sponsors: Rosie Porter, Realtor – Royal LePage Atlantic and Laurie L. Stephenson, Chartered Financial Consultant – Freedom 55

2007-2008

Report by Gaston R. Saulnier, NSRAP Secretary

- ! Priorities: 1) **Increase the NSRAP membership list**, 2) Redesign the website, pamphlets, etc., 3) Public and Media Relations: **Produce quarterly reports / newsletters**, Raise NSRAP's profile within the community at large and within the Rainbow Community, 4) Community Outreach: Create and sustain partnerships, increase networking efforts within and outside the Rainbow Community, maintain and further develop NSRAP's relationship with the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, continue efforts to **establish a Rainbow community centre**, engage in advocacy on behalf of the Rainbow Community, establish a Rainbow Coalition, organise a Town Hall Meeting, participate in Pride celebrations.

- ! **Gala** – Community: A Work In Progress, NSRAP's fourth annual gala and the organisation's signature event (September 2007):
 - o **Raised more than 5 900 dollars** (net revenue) through ticket sales and the auction. Our **thanks to Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church for organising the auction**.

- ! **Rainbow community centre: Feasibility study / Halifax Regional Municipality Community Grant – Town Hall Meeting (November 2007)**.

- ! In August 2007, the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project (NSRAP) supported Jamie and Emily O'Neill in their fight for equality in being recognized as their daughter's legal parents under the Vital Statistics Act of Nova Scotia.

- ! Pride of **Pictou** County – political lobbying of municipal and town councils to ensure that Pride groups throughout Nova Scotia have the opportunity to fly the Pride flag during Pride celebrations and have equal recognition from municipal and town officials (Spring 2008).

- ! On September 22, 2007, **Truro** Pride and the Nova Scotia Rainbow Action Project co-organised a "Town Hall on Religious Freedoms and Equality Rights".

- ! Organ donation ban: During the 2007 winter months, we were asked to comment on Health Canada's change of screening

policy for organ donations that exclude men who have had sexual intercourse with men in the last five years.

- NSRAP's response: The new policy is discriminatory, an opinion also generally shared by medical authorities. Conscious of the risk of HIV / AIDS, the Rainbow Community is invested in protecting the supply of donor organs and tissues. However, NSRAP maintains that the organ donor policy should be based on the individual conduct of the donor, not on sexual orientation or stereotypes of a particular community's behaviour.
- ! Staff: **Between December 2006 and December 2007, Charles Hsuen served as the NSRAP Coordinator.** In addition to handling the day-to-day activities of NSRAP, Hsuen played a key role in organising the 2007 Gala.

2008-09

- ! **Introduced Rv. Darlene Young Community Hero award.**
- ! Collaborated with the Halifax Regional Police Chief's Diversity Committee to maintain a positive relationship with the regional police. Recommended standard operating policies for police interactions with Transgender members of the community to the Halifax Regional Police.
- ! Participated in discussions led by PrideHealth (Capital District Health Authority) to create a strategy to recommend to the Department of Health of Nova Scotia that sex-reassignment surgery be listed as an insurable Medical Services Insurance (MSI) service.
- ! Supported community events such as Camp Out! to celebrate and explore LGBT activism, past and present, in the Maritime Provinces.
- ! To honor the International Day Against Homophobia (May 17), NSRAP:
 - Obtained official recognition of International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia from the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia (May 2008).
 - Organized the Rally for Change: Break Down the Borders of Homophobia! In Grand Parade Square (Halifax, Nova Scotia).

2009-10

- ! **Staff: Executive Director, Hugo Dann**
 - Last summer I was contracted by NSRAP to compile the data from the Community Centre Survey and to prepare the final

report... While researching and writing that report, I also organized the reading of The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later, and I **collaborated with NSRAP Chair, Matt Numer, on preparing NSRAP's successful application to the Department of Seniors' Positive Aging Fund. In January, thanks to the Board, I officially began my term as Executive Director.** The job description of NSRAP ED is a work-in-progress, but it seems to fall into three main categories: political action, community development, and fund development.

- ! Responded to the Hon. Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, about the removal of material relating to LGBT rights and history from Canada's citizenship guide.
- ! Our most important initiatives at present are the Community Centre Project and the LGBT Elders Initiative. As part of the latter, we hosted A Gathering of Elders in April with the aim of hearing from LGBT community members over 50. We also arranged for LGBT Elders to attend a performance of Thom Fitzgerald's play Cloudburst.
- ! The Community Centre Report is out there, it's been sent to all LGBT organizations in the province, and is now available for download on our website. It contains no surprises. In cities where there are such facilities, they make a real and positive difference for their LGBT communities. In Nova Scotia, our community wants one. Now the hard work has to begin, and I am grateful that Robert Allan is taking the lead on this.
- ! NSRAP is making its first forays into the world of corporate partnerships: Venus Envy, Company House (providing wheelchair accessible venues for The Laramie Project, the Gathering of Elders & Wine Roulette fundraiser), Menz Bar office (Community Centre Report written & the Laramie Project produced), Wade Carroll of Wired & Lit Design. (website and design).

2010-11

- ! **Staff: Lisa Buchanan, Executive Director (May 2010 – present) & Hugo Dann, Executive Director (July 2009 – May 2010)**
- ! Last year I (Chair Matt Numer) set a fundraising goal of \$30,000 for

NSRAP. This year, we not only met this goal but exceeded it by \$20,000. As you will see below our **total revenue for 2010 was \$50,000!**

- ! Community Development Conference we hosted thanks to a grant from the Department of Economic and Rural Development. On March 18 and 19, fifty delegates from across the province gathered at the Halifax Marriot Harbourfront to participate in a collaborative strategy session. The conference created the beginning of a provincial network of people interested in furthering the ideas brought forward at the conference.
- ! Another important collaboration this year has been the strong working relationship developed between NSRAP and Northwood, the province's largest long-term care facility. This relationship arose as a result of our **grant from the Department of Seniors' Positive Aging Fund**. With the aid of Holly Huntley, a student intern from Dalhousie University's School of Health and Human Performance, and participation from members of our Elders Committee, NSRAP held a series of meetings and consultations at Northwood. The resulting report has taken the form of a tool-kit designed to educate those working with elders in need of continuing care about the unique issues faced by the aging LGBTQ population.
- ! The **Gala** was held on October 21, 2010 at the Marriott Harbourfront in Halifax. The keynote speech was delivered by Michelle Douglas, the person responsible for ending the ban on LGBT Canadians serving openly in the Canadian Armed Forces.
 - o **The net revenue was \$8,540.84 (our best result ever) with gross revenue of \$21,488.86 and expenses totaling \$12,948.02.**
- ! Distributed a quarterly electronic newsletter to registered members.
- ! A social group, now called NSRAP Elderberries, has held monthly potluck and program socials since August, 2010.
- ! Formed Health Committee.
- ! NSRAP began a project in the fall of 2010 with the Equity Office of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society to jointly supervise a law reform project for a team of four pro bono law students, who recently produced two final research documents: A Brief Look at Legislative

Reform in Nova Scotia: Reflecting Same-Sex Marriage & Birth Registration Regulations—Suggestions for Change and Ongoing Issues (re: lesbian moms).

- ! Met with provincial Minister of Justice, Ross Landry, to discuss our proposed amendment to the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act to include gender identity and gender expression in the list of prohibited grounds of discrimination.
- ! TimeOUT: Organized by Kevin Kindred, this popular lunchtime series and held at the Spring Garden Road Memorial Library in July of 2010. Lectures included: Jane Morrigan - The Homosexualist Agenda; Robin Metcalfe - The Path to Here; The Youth Project – Youth Speaking Out; Kevin Kindred – Gay without God?
- ! BlackOUT! Catherine Meade introduced and moderated this panel. Included Robert Wright, a social worker in Halifax, Chris Cochrane (AKA Elle Noir), performer and activist in Halifax and Dr. Clemon George, HIV/AIDS activist and educator.

2011-12

- ! **This past year, NSRAP took over the space at Veith House**, which previously belonged to Safe Harbour Church. As well as regular NSRAP Board and Committee Meetings, we have used the space to house several events including the Transgender Day of Remembrance, a prideHealth community forum and a Pink Triangle Day seminar on February 14.
- ! Communications: included monthly e-mail newsletters, social media accounts and a monthly column in Wayves Magazine.
- ! At the end of our last year, the Elders Committee saw the completion of a major report by former NSRAP Executive Director Hugo Dann. The extensive report acted as a resource for those working in seniors' care facilities to educate them on LGBTQ issues.
- ! However, the report did not provide a module learning structure that can be easily shared amongst staff members. The Elders Committee decided to revise the contents in an effort to streamline the document and convert it to a more accessible format.
- ! Our **Fundraising Gala** was held on October 22, 2011 at the Marriott

Harbourfront in Halifax. The keynote speech was delivered by Matt Alber, American gay singer/songwriter. **The 2011 net revenue was \$15,975.23 (our best result ever, and nearly double 2010's result) with gross revenue of \$30,595 and expenses totalling \$14,619.77. The amazing Silent Auction was significantly larger than previous years (bringing in over \$6,100)** and while we do thank everyone who got items, this year two volunteers really stood out getting items – Rosie Porter, and John Britton. We also changed the VIA Rail main prize to a raffle as opposed to a silent auction to increase our revenue and give everyone the chance to buy a ticket for a dreamy train ride to Montreal. The committee also put together our first official sponsorship package, which resulted in a new cash sponsors from Atlantic Lotto. TD Bank, the Marriott and Wayves were the other major sponsors for this event.

- ! This year NSRAP has been heavily involved in consulting with the Canadian Blood Services (CBS) about changing the indefinite deferral for men who have had sex with men. **A presentation in Halifax in the fall sparked a series of meetings in Ottawa to help guide the CBS decision to reduce the indefinite deferral to between five and ten years.**
- ! Law Reform:
 - o 1. Reform of Human Rights Act to include “gender identity and gender expression: Public presentation on this issue as part of TimeOUT series, meetings with Justice Minister and others to lobby for change
 - ! 2. New legislation requiring criminal record checks for name changes: Presented at Law Reform Committee on impact on trans community, media presence: Wayves and mainstream media, upcoming consultations about regulations under the new Act.
 - o 3. Overall update of legislation impacting couples’ rights: Oversaw a report by Pro Bono law students on the issue and presented report to Nova Scotia Barristers’ Society for action.
- ! timeOut Lecture Series: A Case for LGBT History; HIV – A New Beginning, Sex & the Good Book; and Human Rights/Trans Rights.
- ! **NSRAP teamed with other LGBTQ community members (and allies) to host an organized social on Friday evenings at the Company House. One dollar from each drink special was donated to NSRAP.**

- ! A fundraising evening hosted at the Company House to support our team in the Halifax AIDS Walk or Life. The CoHo offered donations via drink specials and attendees could request songs for donations towards the NSRAP team.
- ! NSRAP hosts TDOR for the first time.
- ! On January 31, our chair, Matt Numer, and administrative coordinator, Kirk Furlotte, did a day-long professional development workshop for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans fledgling Pride Network. The theme was “LGBTI Inclusion in the Workplace & Home.”
- ! NSRAP’s Health Committee took the first steps towards planning a symposium focused on transgender health care and related policies with an open public meeting.
- ! **In the early hours of April 17th, local activist Raymond Taavel was murdered on Gottingen Street, outside Menz & Mollyz. NSRAP lead the charge in organizing a vigil on Gottingen Street.**

2012-13

Chris Aucoin, Administrative Coordinator

(September 2012– Present)

- ! **My (Chris’s) work for NSRAP began in spring 2012 by writing two grants in the organization’s name. Both these applications for funding came out of discussions I was having at the time with then NSRAP Chair Matt Numer.**
 - **The first request was to get money from the Department of Culture and Heritage to do some local ‘queer history’ research about the organizing of early Prides and other early protests.** This request was successful and the initial chunk of that research formed the content of the Hfx.Pride.88 exhibit that I was commissioned by Halifax Pride to design and build for Pride 2012 to mark Halifax’s 25th annual Halifax Pride festival.
 - **A grant application to the NS Department of Seniors was also submitted and approved. This grant is for a cross-generational project to document oral history, and especially the lives of our local GLBTQ elders.** The core of

this project is that community youth and elders will videotape interviews with each other about their life experiences. This project has barely begun

- ! With October's fundraiser over, November saw the organizing of a "Trans 101" session given by Sheena Jamieson from The Youth Project for the NSRAP board.
- ! **Membership provides NSRAP with a small revenue stream.**
While there is no fee for membership, we do encourage donations when members sign up. The committee distributes a semi-monthly electronic newsletter to our members
- ! **Net proceeds from the 2012 gala were \$10,221 (down from the record 2011 result of over \$15,000).** Revenues of \$24,443 were down by \$2,800 as a result of lower silent auction proceeds. Attendance and ticket sales were consistent with last year. Expenses of \$14,222 were up by \$2,464 from the prior year.
- ! **A goal for the upcoming year is to generate additional fundraising opportunities, particularly through events and activities that can be both community building and provide fundraising opportunities.**
- ! Government Relations (formerly NSRAP's Legal and Law Reform Committee) activities in the past year largely focused on amending the Human Rights Act, and together with the Health Committee, lobbying around SRS funding.
- ! **Although only a first step, we have been successful in helping end the lifetime ban for blood donation against many of our community members.**
- ! **GCS: To date this year, we have begun a petition to increase support for this issue.**
- ! NSRAP has continued to advocate for the Minister of Health to approve HPV vaccine funding to high risk groups within our community.
- ! In November, NSRAP supported the Transgender Day of Remembrance service (TDOR) with funding and promotion as we did last year.
- ! November also saw NSRAP teaming with the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia and prideHealth to present a panel on the impact of HIV stigma on gay/bi men.

2013-14

- ! **Chris Aucoin, Administrative Coordinator**
- ! **GCS Victory:** After years of mostly one-sided correspondence between NSRAP and the Department of Health and Wellness (DHW), in June 2013, NSRAP received a letter from then Minister David Wilson informing us that the government would not grant our request to remove section 4.8 from the MSI Physician's Manual, which prevented MSI coverage of surgeries related to gender transition.
- ! Public outcry and media coverage caused the Minister to meet with NSRAP days later and announce an about face. Shortly thereafter, an election was called. Expecting a change in government, NSRAP secured a campaign commitment from Stephen McNeil to follow through with this policy change and take the steps necessary to fund GCS. Minister of Health and Wellness Leo Glavine reaffirmed the government's commitment and promised during a radio interview to meet with community representatives.
- ! **Following our meeting with Minister Glavine, NSRAP hosted a day-long community consultation to inquire into health care issues concerning Nova Scotia's trans community.**
- ! TimeOut: Queer Health Research (Cybelle Rieber, Lisa Goldberg & Jacqueline Gahagan), Queer Spiritual Path (Brenda Hattie & Brenda Beagan), Talking Trans (Nolan Pike), Lies, Damned Lies...and Activism (Kevin Kindred)
- ! **At year-end, we have over \$26.5k in our bank accounts, but \$19k of this amount is restricted funds, which can only be used on projects specified by government funders or individual donors.**
- ! **NSRAP is still very dependent on the gala to provide funding for the organization. The gala provides funding for our administrative expenses, phone bills, and any additional invoices that may arise. Our 2013 gala rose over \$6,000 dollars.**
- ! **In the coming year, we will have to look at additional ways to raise funds for NSRAP and become less dependent on the gala to raise all of the unrestricted funds**

