Elderberries Report to NSRAP - April 18, 2019

The 2019 Annual General Meeting was held just before the March Salon and was very well attended. Board members are: Allison Brewer, Richard Crooks, Pauline Fedrick, Ann Gorman, Baren Kamperman, Daniel MacKay, Scott MacNeil, Anita Martinez, Lynn Marie Murphy, Mike Sangster and Paula Wedge. Dan MacKay is acting Chair.

A Pride Health Elderberries Second Sunday Salon was held on April 14 with almost 20 people in attendance. 38 people had completed a pride health survey online. The new Pride Health 'navigator' did a presentation and answered questions. Overall, people were happy with existing health services and had not experienced inappropriate or unwelcome behaviour from health professionals.

As noted in Susanne Litke's email of February 1, Jacqueline Gahagan has established a LGBTQ archive and Dan MacKay, Chair of Elderberries, has been hired as the official Provincial Queer Archivist. The archives project has 3 parts:

1) Establishing a permanent, long term archives at Dalhousie.
2) Also a permanent queer display/ event/ project space on the main floor of the Killam Library
3) A 2-year project with Dan and a student archivist collecing assets from all over NS, populating a website with a catalog, and making displays of interesting assets online and physical ones for libraries, etc.

Jacqui Gahagan is also looking at LGBTQ Housing Needs. She is also interested in a health related project, which might request some funding from or through NSRAP.

Another Pride Salon will be held on July 22 during Halifax Pride Week at the Unitarian Church on Inglis Street in the afternoon and evening. The space will be larger than last year and good attendance is expected. As with last year, the focus will be on Elders telling stories of LGBTQ events from the past - The Bad Old Days.

As a side note, the Rainbow Communion project is a special LGBTQ Listening Committee of the Presbyterian Churches in Canada. The project is looking to document discrimination within the church community.