

NSRAP Reboot Meeting

Revision of this document: 2026-06-23

Location of original of this document: [Dan's Google Drive](#)

When: Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 6 - 9pm

Where: Glitter Bean Café, Spring Garden Road

Who: [Members / people are in the sheet](#)

Steps

1. [X] Pick a date, time and venue for the Special General Meeting: January 14, 6pm, Glitter Bean Café.
2. [X] Invite as many people as previously attended NSRAP meetings as possible. (we need TEN; I have a list of 33 who have said they will help, at the moment.
3. [X] Get the domain back on line - hosted by Alan Jean Joyce
4. [X] Arrange catering for the meeting
5. [X] Get control of the website and email nsrap@nsrap.ca
6. Pick a new Board that will be elected during the meeting
7. Print out attendance sheet with a column for "I have attended at least one NSRAP meeting in the past."
8. At the meeting: (see Agenda, below.)
9. Register the new board with the RJSC
10. Take control of the bank accounts & social media accounts. Helen says: Alanna and/or Kristina had admin access to the Google shared drive and social media accounts.
11. Start doing the tasks as suggested after the SGM, and as decided by the new Board
12. Submit 2023 / 2024 financial reports to the RJSC

People's Roles At The Meeting

Greeter	Paul
Zoom Operator	Paul
Chairs for this meeting	Alanna & Dan
Secretary	Dan
Wayves Reporter	none

Agenda

6:00 People gather

6:15 Discussion about the goals of the new NSRAP

7:30

1) formal SGM meeting comes to order. Recording of members in attendance

2) why we don't have reports, e.g. financial or previous minutes

3) nominations for the Board from the Floor

4) Motion to elect the Slate of new board of directors

5) Discussion

6) Vote on the new Slate

7) Adjournment

8:00 Social time

Some history from the veterans

Sean: in the mid 1980s there was a need for a grass roots organization. Bob Fougere and Sam and a bunch of others were making connections - Egan, the first recognition, registered domestic partnerships ... there was a gay lawyer's group which fed into NSRAP. National movement to legalize same-sex marriage and parenting and adoption rights - and filling in the corners. The big early issue was same-sex marriage and trans issues were just starting ; all of those focuses were forming. Hugo Dann was the first paid exec director / coordinator for promoting the Rainbow Health Project in Bloomfield - the only time we had a real office. After same-sex marriage, we started the NSRAP GALA, 2005 onwards, and evolution from groups of people who were trying to disagree agreeably.

Kevin: NSRAP has been really fluid in terms of identity and activity. It was a real focus, it had a focus when we had a goal - same-sex marriage, and that focus attracts a kind of energy. Then after legal reforms, and we started working on different needs of the community and responded to those needs. Life is very different than it was in 1995. And - waxing and waning of the energy and stability of the organization. This meeting is picking up a long tradition of navel gazing and deciding what we needed to do.

Kate: I was at the end of Kevin's term and the focus on trans rights and adding gender identity to the human rights act and a clause which prevented access in healthcare related to gender identity and specific procedures. It was a time when there were very specific legal challenges.

Susanne: I came on the board when Kate was leaving, picking up on those legal issues. Gay rights and marriage were done, but there was a lot of trickling down in the laws which needed to be amended, for example, sperm donors, it was required for the sperm donors to be known; there was still discrimination towards trans people in healthcare but for example, trans women wouldn't have access to breast augmentation. Nonbinary folk required certain surgeries, eg

breast reductions. There was gendered language, the binarism of our world, those are the places where the last decade we were focussing on. The other big focus was education. Our education committee probably did eighty sessions to long term care facilities, opticians, Nova Scotia Power, Irving Shipyards, just doing sessions so people could understand who we are. There are still lots of things that trickle down in legal reform. We had a big event for the 25th anniversary of NSRAP, during Pride.

Alanna: When I joined, NSRAP was just a skeleton of itself.

Roundtable Discussion

What roles / actions do you see NSRAP taking on? Expand on that as much as you see fit.
What are the community needs?

Nat: In the first message, there was an allusion to a bank account - how much is in it? A: \$16,000. If it was more substantial than that, then we could hire someone to apply for grants . The biggest challenge that I faced as co-chair with Suzanne was that as if it was a second full time job - without staff to run the organization. We had a robust board, but there were challenges of followup and priorities. Now there are other organizations which have made a name for themselves and if we now put in for funding, their ability to outbid or outperform might render it not a fruitful expenditure of resources.

Robin: I've been active for 51 years with GAE and GALA, the founding of the Turret and Rumours. I was keynote speaker at a GALA with Rebecca Rose; I wasn't active with NSRAP because of my own activities in cultural things. The focus of NSRAP shifted from a militant presentation of ourselves; we've won a lot of victories and we did a shift towards equal rights and NSRAP did a lot for that, and LGRNS - because my interest is more in a militant demonstration. But I'm aware that we are facing a dire situation globally not just as Q people but as people, and there is fascism south of the border, and it could come here by a variety of means. We haven't had a voice for the queer and trans community; in an absence of that, Pride has sometimes done that job - but it's not really their job. We need a voice that can speak for the many Q* communities in Nova Scotia We need to be a centre of resistance and need to engage in solidarity and coalition. I attended the Halifax Pride meeting where NSRAP was supporting Queer Arabs of Halifax. We need to be wary of depending on external funding because if there's a change of social climate or government that money can disappear. Your central core has to depend sole-ly on the community. This is how GAE worked - we were lucky enough to run a bar. You can't be an effective voice if your core operations depends on Government funding.

Trulee: My awareness that NSRAP was gone, was a session Lisa held, and it became obvious that there was now no central human rights organizations. For example if we need to be critical of the provincial government, especially in rural communities; that neglect is close to an attack. Some Prides have taken up that work but it's not really their job. When it comes time to take up

a radical opinion, government funded organizations can't do that because they'd lose their funding. Silently that funding can disappear. There is no one who can stand and say, "I can say what I want because the government doesn't fund my organization."

Lisa: when I was elected it was a weird time, there was nothing, silence in legislature. We've done a lot of things to identify priorities, but not having a provincial voice, a coalition, has hindered things. Funded organizations can't be seen to be working with a politician. I think a lot of the work will be in coalition building. I can see communities building across Nova Scotia - from opposition to uranium mining to queer organizations, and There's a need to have provincial networks. WAGE has announced another cloche of funding for capacity building. If you got that funding [you would have a staff person.] I'll do whatever I can do to support - but I won't be joining the board.

Susanne: we will probably need someone on the board to apply for grants. We did some really good work when we didn't have funding, and for the last four years we had part time staff - even 20 hours a month is helpful.

Kevin: the most recent discussion of funding and stability – there's kind of a chicken and egg, because you need to show that you're stable enough to deliver. In the earliest days we had no staff; we had people who could devote spare time to activism. We got through samesex marriage to changes to vital statistics where we did spot fundraising to cover our needs or the time, tiny amounts of money, e.g. did we have enough money to buy a banner for the Pride Parade? We did a lot without funding, for a lot of years. And you can burn through a lot of staff time and have no products. We need a clear focus in order to get things done. I'll be part of the team to close down NSRAP thoughtfully, but the energy of the room seems to be in a different direction. My advice would be to find a discernable thing that you can focus on rather than trying to do it all. When there was an anti-trans protest, the counterprotest to that, it was very confusing who was doing what for that. Also, the potential for burnout in this work is huge.

Raine: speaking from my personal hat: I echo what I hear from people, that we'd need to do things that are sustainable - something like SPECTRUM from Kitchener Waterloo in Halifax. I'd love to see NSRAP be a voice for queer orgs; there are local pride groups and other groups doing niche work - youth, trans, pride, there's no voice to bring things together when things are arising That would be the dream to see that and be the central representative. For sustainability, we should find different ways to bring people on board and give them things to do, and that encourages skill sharing which encourages stability. There isn't always a clear path. Each person should be able to show up a little bit.

Alanna: this central voice function that we're hearing would be a change in direction from NSRAP.

Sky: Maybe we start up slow and we have people who can speak up for the community, run a website, be a resource without putting in a lot of effort. Also, for WAGE: the only successful way I've seen to do that is to make connections with the people who are running WAGE. Having a fundraising person helps with that.

Susanne: the power of having this NSRAP entity: we took action when that group was coming to Pugwash: we did form a coalition with the Youth Project and Pride and got them uninvited to Nova Scotia. The Death Review committee contacted NSRAP to hear about problems with their standpoints - to change their language and their gaze. It's important to have a provincial voice and staff.

Nat: And Parks Canada consulted with us on gender neutral bathrooms.

Susanne: Right - those are places where we've had a voice making change.

Sky: We have social media now, we can share these stories and build up the capacity of NSRAP.

Nat: at the 25 year anniversary we tried to bring people from past NSRAP engagements and celebrate them, to renew the energy and focus to the organization, spread the word, and a here few years later, this is where we are. For example, Kevin mentioning chicken-and-egg : we have quite an extensive CV portfolio of successful projects. I agree it's important to narrow the vision statement and not rely on external funding. And having folks on the board with privilege - time, resources. I've been a longtime volunteer with the Red Cross and most of the volunteers there are retirees; they have more time to give to the community. There are constraints based on who's on your board.

Raine: From my municipal city hat: it comes up often that people are looking for queer voices and I have to point them to the Youth Project every time - there's no other organization. If the decision is to move forward, I'm a trained facilitator, group facilitation. If that's helpful I'm happy to help facilitate conversations.

Robin: Re: funding. I think I got the first funding for a queer organization in 1978 - for simultaneous interpretation of a conference here. We were a very working class organization. I wouldn't say that GAE was made up of privileged people. [A new NSRAP] could do funding with checkboxes to designate what kind of projects donations could go to - if NSRAP is speaking in the interest (not the voices) of the community. When GAE was functioning, it was a general assembly of the Q community. NSRAP could run something like that; other organizations could contribute. To run a stable organization you need committed volunteers and for members of the community to commit actual dollars. The board needs to be diverse: old people have time; young people have energy so you need multigenerational activity. There are so many more people who are out than in the '70s. We should believe in the power of the community to sustain this organization. There's a serious political need - and we have quite a lot of money. Do we have enough people to give the energy to move forward?

Sean: I agree with Robin, that it's more about the people. 25 years ago... the reason NSRAP did what it did, was ALL volunteers. We had budgets of hundreds of dollars, not thousands. That's why we started the annual GALA - to raise money that wasn't project based. Bob

Fougere was a fulltime unpaid volunteer who led that development. I remember clearly if CBC News or media in particular needed a voice, that there was a consistent group and voice available. We were also focussed on education. ... Getting project funding, sure, that might happen. NSRAP was never a charity because of its focus on advocacy. But: can you get a sufficient group of committed volunteers, the young wons with the energy and the rest. But the core question is: does the community care if NSRAP doesn't exist? Even if we have a group of 25 or 30 volunteers you can burn through that in a few years. That's been a perennial challenge.

Susanne: The community WILL care when it hits home: when your Pride Flag is ripped up [like mine was.] When the pride flag in the high school gets burned, that's when the community will care. Being on the board of NSRAP for 10 years, that was the avenue – people would come to NSRAP and say, "I just experienced discrimination in my church, or at my job" and we could assist in responding to that. That's how we made changes. We were able to answer those requests. Things will get worse, it is coming. When I did some presentations at long term care facilities, I had people cross their arms and turn their chairs away from me.

Dan: you may notice that two years ago I rebooted Wayves magazine after it being dormant ... really since Raymond Taavel's death. I was trying to find a way to help push back against the pendulum swing of fascism coming towards us, and publishing is my tool.

Lynn: We need some central LGBTQ organization that is visible to the general public that is also reachable by our members. I've spent the past fifteen years with Elderberries, but they are specifically for seniors (open to our allies.) We can serve that purpose. Without NSRAP, who do we have as a central organization that has an educational and advocacy focus?

Dan: Several people have spoken about what since 1972 was called the "Speaker's Bureau." That still exists - being run by the Elderberries. We could merge in some fresh faces.

Special General Meeting

The meeting came to order at 19:45 at the Glitter Bean Café, 5896 Spring Garden Rd, Halifax

Present: in person: 19 people: Daniel MacKay, Paul Pitre, Wesley Riley, Alana Mcnevin, Raine Sparling, Kevin Kindred, Truelee Love, Bria Oswald, Susanne Litke, Kate Shewan, Sean Foreman, Lisa Lachance, Schuyler Smith, Nat Boyd, Robin Metcalfe, Max Elliott. Via Zoom: Garry Brooks, Angus Campbell, Lynn Murphy.

Points of order:

- Number of boardmembers: Minimum of four, maximum of fifteen
- This meeting is being conducted according to the By-Laws of the organization and members were
- Kevin: Note that throughout the life of the organization, anyone attending a meeting was considered a member and had a right to vote at that meeting.
- What about Scott Gillard? We will include him in absentia.

- Past board members who did not resign: we'll keep them on, and take a month to contact them.
- As a current boardmember, Alanna should be the one to make the motion to elect the new board.
- Susanne: We were planning a by-law that if someone didn't attend three meetings in a row that would be considered to be resigning. So it would be useful to have people who haven't resigned, still on the Board so they can be *replaced* rather than the board extended which would require an AGM or another SGM. We can mark their non-attendance at this meeting.

With 19 people present, the meeting had quorum.

Moved by Alanna, that Schuyler Smith, Dan MacKay, Robin Metcalfe, Truelee Love, Alanna MacNevin and Scott Gillard be elected as the slate of Boardmembers.

Discussion:

Board self introductions:

- **Alanna:** Anti war, anti-imperialism work mostly. I feel the need for a focal point of our communities. I have good advocacy skills. I don't need to do just education, I can do technical things. It's important to advocate for existing groups.
- **Robin:** I have too much experience on boards. I have lots of thoughts about process and how diverse voices are not just present but heard. The Board should also plan for secession. Nat: secession planning: how would we do that? When the new board sits down, think about what key voices are missing? Gender diversity, indigenous, african Nova Scotians. There should be a chair-in-waiting.
- **Dan (he/him):** I just want to see NSRAP running until we the community explicitly decide it shouldn't be. In the last couple weeks I've gotten the website back on line and gotten the keys to the email account - but haven't looked at it. And, Angus pointed out, I was the recipient of the first NSRAP Community Hero Award.
- **Skyler (they/them):** helped start national organizations, international day of Pink. Sat on multiple boards, I am an educator, diversity, equity and inclusion. I'm neurodiverse. And a program that brings different communities together over a shared meal. My goal is for NSRAP to create a hub for the queer community.
- **Trulee (she/her):** Previous president for DaIOUT which operates on 15k\$ per year. When I joined, we were handed a dead email and a locker full of stuff. I was co-chair of the Youth Board of the Youth Project so I had a seat on the Board of Directors. Now work as constituency coordinator for Lisa Lachance. I have seen how things can go bad, quickly. I used to work for NSPIRG.

Amendment: The list we read, should include the other people who have not resigned from the board, Kristina and

Amended motion by Alanna: That Schuyler Smith, Dan MacKay, Robin Metcalfe, Truelee Love, Alanna MacNevin and Scott Gillard, plus the other boardmembers who have not resigned, be elected as the slate of Boardmembers.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dan moved that the meeting be adjourned. Sean seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15