

Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research

Research Affinity Group on Women, Gender and Health

Research Affinity Group in Women, Gender and Health

Monday, March 22, 2010

12 noon – 2 pm

The Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research is hosting an affinity group in Women's Health and/or Gender and Health. The purpose of this affinity group is to facilitate networking amongst researchers, graduate students, and policy makers who are interested in this particular area of health research. We meet twice a year to exchange information and ideas about research projects and proposals, potential sources of funding, and opportunities for training and knowledge exchange.

This semester's guest speakers are Diana R. Deacon, an Educational Specialist with the Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University and Costa Kasimos, the Executive Director of Planned Parenthood – NL Sexual Health Centre. Their presentation is titled: **Under the Rainbow: Working Towards Inclusive Communities and Health Care for the LGBT Community.**

Biographies and an abstract of the presentation are attached below.

If you are interested in attending this affinity group meeting please reply to Tyrone White (Tyrone.White@med.mun.ca or 777-7973) by March 15 to confirm your attendance. If you wish to participate by conference call instead of in person, please let us know that, too.

Location of the meeting:

NLCAHR Boardroom

95 Bonaventure Avenue

Suite 300

Coffee and tea will be provided. Please feel free to bring a lunch.

Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Applied Health Research

95 Bonaventure Ave. Suite 301
St. John's, NL Canada

Phone: 709-777-6993
Fax: 709-777-6734
E-mail: nlcahr@mun.ca

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Research Affinity Group Women, Gender & Health

Under the Rainbow: Working Towards Inclusive Communities and Health Care for the LGBT Community

People who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered (LGBT) are more likely to experience gender oppression, heterosexism, and homophobia. The literature is replete with possible impacts that include: drop-out from school, low self-esteem, higher rates of depression, increased drug and alcohol use, increased incidence of mental health issues, greater exposure to violence and bullying, homelessness and sex trade work, and at the extreme, higher rates of suicide. There is a demonstrated need for education and skill building amongst health care and community service providers regarding the LGBT community of Newfoundland and Labrador. In response to this need, Planned Parenthood – Newfoundland and Labrador Sexual Health Centre, with the support of Eastern Health, will be holding a 4 day training workshop focused on increasing the community's capacity to respond to the needs of the LGBT communities.

In this talk, Diana Deacon (Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University) and Costa Kasimos (Planned Parenthood – NL Sexual Health Centre) will discuss the gaps in health and community services which have been identified and possible ways to bridge these gaps. They will also discuss how there is a need in this province for a centre dedicated to meeting the health needs of the LGBT community.

Diana Deacon is a part-time PhD student in the Division of Community Health and Humanities, with a focus on issues around transgender health, queering health research, and institutional ethnography. Her work arises from and is inspired by the lives of trans people and allies who have fostered a sense of passionate commitment to advancing transpositive health care. She is proud to be part of their community as an ally and is actively involved in PFLAG Canada as a local chapter chair, EGALE Canada, the Newfoundland and Labrador Human Rights and Gender Identity Working Group, and the Canadian Professional Association for Transgender Health. She is also an Educational Specialist in the Faculty of Medicine's Medical Education Scholarship Centre with broad experience in adult education program administration, development, implementation, and evaluation in the university context.

Costa Kasimos (M.Sc) has been the Executive Director of Planned Parenthood since October 2008. Through Planned Parenthood, Kasimos currently manages a number of projects under the "Making Queerness Visible" title. This includes the LBGTQ Youth Group, where queer youth and their allies meet once a month for various social activities, including bowling, movie nights, and discussions on various topics. With the assistance of Susan Rose of EGALE Canada, and with support from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Planned Parenthood developed a school presentation addressing heterosexism and homophobic bullying. In 2009, Planned Parenthood with the support from countless individuals launched "Camp Eclipse: OUT in the woods", a three day youth leadership retreat for sexual minorities, gender variant individuals, and their allies.

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