

# PFLAG TORONTO

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

November 2010 Newsletter

[toronto.office@pflag.ca](mailto:toronto.office@pflag.ca)

## Next Chapter Meeting

Wednesday  
**December 1, 2010**  
7:30 p.m.  
Kimbourne Park United Church  
200 Wolverleigh Blvd.,  
Toronto, ON M4C 1S2

**Come out** for the **Transgender Day of Remembrance** event on Friday, **November 19, 2010** from 7:00 - 9:00 pm at the 519 Church Street Community Centre in Toronto.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.

## PFLAG TORONTO VISION

PFLAG Toronto is a charitable organization that speaks for a more accepting Canadian society by providing support, education and resources to all people who wish to grow in their understanding of sexual and gender diversity.

Through our PFLAG Toronto Chapter, we actively assist in the recognition and growth of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersex, queer and questioning persons, and their families and friends, within their diverse cultures and societies.



2011 Bowling Fundraiser  
Mark this date on your calendar:  
**Sat. May 14, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**



National Anti-Homophobia Day  
Was proclaimed at Toronto City Hall  
And the rainbow flag was raised

## **A message from your President**

For PFLAG volunteers, spring and summer months are hectic, with all the planning and organizing leading up to Pride. Pride offered ten days of events and some that we attended included the great Opening Festivities at Woody's, Shaun Proulx's screening of an interview with Buck Angel; the Gay for Comedy Gala at the Panasonic Theatre; musical events spread over the week at various venues; and Cyndi Lauper's free concert at Queen's Park.

The PFLAG Toronto and PFLAG Canada booths, side by side on Church Street, afforded us two days of opportunity to meet and greet people from around the city and around the world. PFLAGers we met this year included some from Pittsburgh, Boston, Moncton, Nova Scotia and Edmonton, Alberta. Also, the Pre-Pride Brunch at Pogue Mahone's on College Street let us share a meal with over eighty PFLAGers and supporters before we gathered to march.

The PFLAG group was a huge contingent this year. We were a sea of signs; as diverse a group as one could hope to find, and all of us marching proudly, celebrating that diversity. Our signs show very special messages; but perhaps the best message of all, is seeing the people walking with the signs.

As the 2010 Honoured Group, PFLAG was at the front of the Parade, a privilege which we truly appreciated.

It seemed that Pride was hardly over when Gay Day at Canada's Wonderland came around, and once again volunteers were out to support and share in the fun. Even a bit of rain didn't dampen the spirits of everyone who came to enjoy Wonderland and the special entertainment for Gay Day participants.

And now it's October - a time to review what we did this year; what worked well; what needs tweaking; or even what new initiatives we'll introduce next year.

It is planning time at PFLAG, and next year's plans are being put in place. We hope you're going to feature in our next year's plans, as we have lots of opportunities for volunteers. You'll be hearing from us again over the Winter.

PFLAG Toronto doesn't have time off - we're still here answering the telephone support line; we're still here at the monthly Support Meetings; and we're still here in your community, supporting you and helping make change happen.

Irene Miller



Raising the flag for Pride Week  
At Toronto City Hall



President of PFLAG Canada (centre) and PFLAG  
Toronto (right) at Pogue Mahone's

### Make a donation. Inspire hope.

With recent tragic news in mind, PFLAG Toronto volunteers need your immediate help. We are so very often first contact for those in need of support and your donation now will help our team ensure we can keep the critical phone lines and Support meetings in place through this Holiday season to offer hope that 'it will get better'.

As a fully volunteer run organization, your donation makes a direct impact in the lives of those who need support and respectfully we would ask you to consider a min. donation of \$25.00.

Please help by making a donation through the secure servers at [CanadaHelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org) (charitable donation receipts are issued automatically) or send a cheque to PFLAG Toronto, 200 Wolverleigh Blvd., Toronto, ON, M4C 1S2. (charitable donation receipts will be issued for amounts of \$20 or more)

**DONATE NOW** <http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=s70090>

On behalf of the PFLAG Toronto team, *thank you!*

*Charitable Registration BN: 891493348RR001*



PFLAG in the 2010  
Pride Parade



PFLAG Sarnia-Bluewater's Co-chairs  
at Pogue Mahone's

## RELEVANCY IN PFLAG

Written By: Sean Young, Creative Director & CEO – SERIAL SEAN

Wednesday October 6<sup>th</sup>. 2010 – a day when Toronto LGBTQ communities came together and stood in solidarity against homophobic violence by remembering the lives of departed youth and teenagers across North America caused by unjust bullying.

A number of organizations were there that evening – SOY (Supporting Our Youth) Toronto, YouthLine, and PFLAG Toronto – who were the most visible group not because of speaking to the crowd, but because of the sign held by PFLAG Toronto President Irene Miller that read, ‘COMING OUT? We can help.’

A sign that when seen by people through the crowd at Toronto’s Church & Wellesley neighborhood, during the walk to Queen’s Park, and within the park itself encouraged many different people from all kinds of backgrounds and orientations to come forward and share stories, say hello, and express their thanks for being there.

PFLAG (Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays) Toronto operates as a non-profit support and assistance organization to provide outlets for adults and youth alike regardless of ethnic background or sexual orientation to help and educate anyone on either side of the coming out process or who are facing difficulties in their lives – with the goal of keeping families together in supportive relationships. We offer support so that individuals need not feel isolated, alone, and without options.

For these reasons PFLAG Toronto was an incredible recognizable force within the Toronto Vigil’s crowd – even if silently. Being there – is what matters to PFLAG Toronto.

Please remember that PFLAG Toronto operates purely on charitable donations and continues to exist based on the contributions of the public – please help PFLAG Toronto continue to support others in their time of need by donating at <http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=s70090>



PFLAG Toronto at the Toronto Vigil against Homophobia.



At the PFLAG Toronto Booth during  
Pride Weekend



PFLAG marching in the  
Pride Parade

Message from the Secretary:

The monthly Support meetings offer a friendly, safe environment in which PFLAG volunteers offer Support through the sharing of our experiences. We welcome new people coming for the first time - to seek our help, ask questions, and learn more about being gay, or supporting a loved one who is part of the LGBTQ community. And we welcome back others who have become friends and have continued to come back to share stories of their journey.

I have become more actively involved in the volunteer opportunities offered at PFLAG Toronto as the years have progressed. When I came to the meeting for the first time, I came for support, and really never imagined that after a few months I would still be attending meetings and offering support to new visitors. I became a volunteer, and it has been very a rewarding experience.

Volunteering is definitely key to the success of the organization. There are many different volunteer opportunities and we hope that you too will decide to become part of the PFLAG team of volunteers.

Bev



PFLAG in 2010  
Getting ready for the Pride Parade



PFLAG Canada at  
The Pride Parade



2010 Pride Parade



2010 Pride Parade

## Volunteers needed

If you are interested in volunteering with us at PFLAG Toronto send us an email at [toronto.office@pflag.ca](mailto:toronto.office@pflag.ca) .



PFLAG at Canada's Wonderland