

Pride Committee Report
January 2013

Presented by Isabelle Gendron, Co-chair

Jacques, co-chair of this committee, and I continue to desire and work towards support and engagement in this committee. To do so, we have undertaken new research, done some brainstorming and have pursued networking.

Since the report presented in May 2012, the committee has done a number of activities. For example, there was the participation by Jacques and some committee members in the Pride parades in Montreal and Toronto. Two parades where they were warmly welcomed by our brothers and sisters from other unions. The members of the committee, their allies, accompanied by brothers and sisters of our region, also had a good turnout for the Pride parade in Ottawa. Jacques and I wish to thank them as well as Robyn Benson and Larry Rousseau for their participation.

Our FaceBook page friends continue to grow, we have 588 friends. We hope that these friends will continue to exchange with us via this tool. We invite them and you as well to share your stories personal and public to promote human rights. As it is a grassroots page, all are invited to post in the language of their choice.

In December 2012 Jacques was acclaimed Co-chair of the committee for a second mandate. I wish to not only offer him my sincere thanks, but to thank him for his engagement and activism. We also had the pleasure of hosting our first speaker. A Bruce House representative gave us testimony, as front line workers, of the changing HIV and AIDS reality in our region. Jacques and I also attended the PSAC Leadership Summit and Jacques attended the PSAC Human Rights Conference. Two very educational activities!

Our brainstorming and various conversations that took place in 2012 have resulted in our developing a program where we will be offering a speakers and movies series on the themes of LGBT and activism. We hope this type of program will meet our members' needs and that of their allies as well.

For 2013, we are asking you again: should we concentrate our efforts on action within the community or within the workplace?