



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*  
**QSCC Coordinator**

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TO: Members of the Executive Board  
FROM: Aly Khalifa  
SUBJECT: QSCC Report 1  
DATE: October 18 2016

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## **UPDATE**

The QSCC is now up and running! We have hired our volunteer base, trained the volunteers, and have had 3 events in September with 2 more planned for October. Drop in peer support is now available in the space. We are currently working on a policy with UA. Planning for Mac Pride and Trans Visibility week is underway.

## **SERVICE USAGE**

The number of people in the QSCC space fluctuates, ranging anywhere between one to 11 people, usually peaking around noon. We have already had one peer support request so far this semester. Our social media has significantly grown this year, going from 400 Facebook page likes in March, to 650 likes as of this writing.

Our event turnout so far has been very exciting, with almost 50 people coming out to our Speed Friending event, compared to about 25 last year. We had 90 people register to march with us in the Toronto Pride parade, although only about 50 people actually came. This is an increase from last year which had an attendance of less than 20.

## **PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

The first event we had this year was Toronto Pride during the summer, which as mentioned above had a successful turnout. The turnout was a result of collaborating with the Faculty Societies Coordinator and the Maroons, who helped us invite Welcome Week reps to the event as well as circulate promotions.

The rest of the summer was mostly used for hiring and planning the year out. We participated in several events to promote the QSCC, including Horizons, the SSC's Online Orientation Fair, MacQuest, Clubs Fest, and the Homecoming Expo.

We held volunteer training in the first few weeks of September. The training this year was a little more extensive this year, with all volunteers completing Trans 101 and Sexual Violence Response Protocol training. Our peer supporters participated in the full weekend of training offered by the MSU this year, which was incredibly successful (shout out to Shruti Ramesh for doing an amazing job on this!). Drop in peer support is now up and running from 11:30 – 5:30 in the space.

We had three events during September. The first was Speed Friending, which we usually host in March but we decided to move it to September this year and use it to kick off the year. We managed to have the event in Bridges this year, which was where it was historically held until last year, which contributed to the atmosphere but made set up difficult because there were so many people. The other events were collaborations, one with OPIRG during their Making Connections where we hosted a panel called Interrupting Norms, and the other with COPE during their Intersectionality Conference. Both events managed to spark some great discussions.

Our intramural team has also started up. This year we opted for Ultimate Frisbee instead of the usual dodge-ball because Athletics and Recreation stopped offering dodge-ball. This has been a successful change, with a large attendance at games and also a win.

We have also had some good advocacy efforts so far. We have partnered with the University Affairs committee to write a policy, currently with the working title of Sexual and Gender Diversity Policy. We are focused on addressing the systemic barriers that students of non-normative identities face on campus. To collect data, we held a week of focus groups which had varied attendance. We also had an online survey which had 19 responses. The policy is currently in the process of being outlined. We are also in the process of working with the Equity and Inclusion Office and PACBIC on some exciting advocacy!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

October has some small events planned. We are co-hosting an event with You Can Play, who are bringing in players from the Hamilton Tiger-Cats to discuss LGBTQ inclusion in sport. We also have a Hike through cootes planned!

We are heavily focused on Mac Pride right now, which will be happening from October 31 – November 5. We are still waiting on conference services for a few of our venues, but otherwise we are making good progress on the logistics. The week features a couple of changes from last year. The week overlaps with Halloween so we will be having a themed event that night. The Trans Community Group will have a launch featured on the Mac Pride Schedule, hopefully giving it a lot of visibility. Our Trans Swims will also be part of the schedule this year. We are also having fun things like a coffeehouse and new workshops!

Planning for Trans Visibility Week (Nov 13-17) with WGEN is now starting up, and there are some cool ideas floating around already.

Once Mac Pride and Trans Visibility Week pass, we will start wrapping off the semester with volunteer appreciation.

### **BUDGET**

Not much of the budget has been used yet. We have had small expenditures from our Annual Campaigns line for events, and a lot of training line was used during the training weekends. I expect large expenditures to start for Mac Pride, which includes venue booking and material purchases.

<b>McMaster Student's Union</b>							
<b>Dept. 0119 - QSCC</b>							
<b>For the Four Months Ending August 31, 2016</b>							
	Current	Prior Yr.	Current	Prior Yr.	Prior Yr.	Approved	% Budget
	Month	Month	YTD	YTD	YE	Budget	Used
	August	August	2016-17	2015-16	2015-16	2017	To Date
All:							
5003-0119 QSCC - OFFICE SUPPLIES					226.40	100.00	0.00%
5101-0119 QSCC - TELEPHONE				50.30	503.00	600.00	0.00%
5201-0119 QSCC - PHOTOCOPYING					4.25	24.00	0.00%
5202-0119 QSCC - COMMUNITY OUTREACH					88.66	500.00	0.00%
6101-0119 QSCC - FORMAL EXPENSES					709.91		0.00%
6102-0119 QSCC - ANNUAL CAMPAIGNS			282.50	298.41	3,570.75	3,000.00	9.42%
6494-0119 QSCC - VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION			41.29		482.04	500.00	8.26%
6501-0119 QSCC - ADV. & PROMO.	31.50		186.50		1,268.95	1,500.00	12.43%
6604-0119 QSCC - RESOURCE PURCHASES					286.49	300.00	0.00%
6804-0119 QSCC - TRAINING EXPENSE	91.72	55.22	191.72	55.22	668.94	750.00	25.56%
7001-0119 QSCC - WAGES			881.61	589.58	6,243.18	5,700.00	15.47%
7101-0119 QSCC - BENEFITS			61.20	31.22	453.38	400.00	15.30%
8001-0119 QSCC - DEPRECIATION EXPENSE			328.39	170.30	985.16	1,200.00	27.37%
Total All	123.22	55.22	1,973.21	1,195.03	15,491.11	14,574.00	13.54%

## **VOLUNTEERS**

The executive team is doing fantastically and I am very happy to see the passion and dedication they put in. Their work has led to a lot of important successes this year already! Hopefully we will have more opportunities to grow closer as a team as the year progresses.

There were many structural changes to the volunteer base this year, including hiring more peer supporters and including shifts in their job descriptions, and the creation of the resource volunteer. The team has some great individuals and I am excited for the year!

We've also hired two Trans Community Group Facilitators this year to work on projects and resources for trans students and the planning has been going very well so far.

There have been a couple of issues in the space with problematic visitors as well as some internal conflicts. These have mostly been handled, but some still require some follow up by me.

## **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

Our peer support services are not being accessed as much as I'd like to see. I am currently in conversation with the Communications Officer about making a promotional video for peer support that will hopefully garner attention.

Newcomer meeting attendance has been low, perhaps because people are unaware of them. A new promotional strategy is needed.

Many projects are now overlapping and converging, which is good but is also taking up a lot of my time. Unfortunately this has meant that I have less time to devote to other things such as regular check ins in the space and with exec.

## **SUCSESSES**

- Speed Friending and Toronto pride attendance was great.
- The volunteer restructuring worked out and the QSCC didn't fall apart.
- The QSCC executive is highly effective and so good.
- A lot of my advocacy goals, such as the policy and trans community group, is coming to fruition.
- The QSCC space is now equipped for drop in peer support.