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*From the...*

## QSCC Coordinator

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TO: Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Miranda Clayton, QSCC Coordinator  
SUBJECT: Operating Policy Changes: New Branding, New Vision  
DATE: March 10, 2018

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Dear Assembly,

The past few years have seen the rising of peer support services to an integral place in our student union. A lot of people have been thinking of the identity based services as a new thing but the QSCC was first approved in 1997. It has taken many forms since then, changing names and evolving to meet student needs. Myself and many others in McMaster's LGBTQ2SI+ community felt the service was ready to evolve again. The title of Queer Student Community Centre no longer reflects the population we seek to serve. We wanted a name that was more inclusive of trans identities and did not carry the baggage of a reclaimed slur. This is how we came to the conclusion of renaming the service and giving it a new logo for a fresh start. The service will now be known as the MSU Pride Community Centre (PCC) and bear the logo of a flamingo; standing tall and proud, unashamed to be different and be itself in a flock of marauders.

Obviously, the operating policy needed some changes to reflect the new branding but I went a bit further. I cleaned it up by fixing the formatting and matching the policy structure to existing peer support services. There were non-executive positions that did not need to be clarified in the policy and we will no longer be using the ridiculous committee structure that existed before. I also removed the definition of queer at the beginning as we no longer need to define something not in the title. There were a few mentions of the LGBTQ+ community "and their supporters" in the policy. I took the liberty of removing mention of supporters as I do not feel allies have a place in the service. It is peer support and to be a peer you must have a shared lived experience. Allies will still be welcome at open events but I did not feel they needed to be included in the official operating policy as they are not in the community we are serving.

I noticed the policy said the QSCC was supposed to operate an anonymous phone line. I removed this as it is clear we will not be operating anything of the sort after the PSL debate. I retitled newcomers meetings to welcome meetings because I had a discussion with the current executive and we felt newcomers meetings sound patronizing. Welcome meetings sound more inclusive, which is the direction we are going in as a whole. Under the services we provide I clarified that we will aim to offer individual and group support as this is in line with other peer support services. Lastly, I removed all mentions of the now retired committees from the

positions responsibilities and retitled the Group Facilitation Coordinator to the Community Facilitation Coordinator as I wanted to bring their focus to creating community as a whole instead of just ensuring the weekly groups run smoothly.

I understand there are lots of changes here and perhaps it is a lot to take in but many of these changes should have happened years ago. With these changes the QSCC (or PCC if this goes well) will be brought up to speed with the rest of the peer support services to provide the best support possible. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding my decisions I would love to talk about them so feel free to contact me at any given point before, during, or after the meeting. I will be there to speak to this policy. Thank you

Sincerely,

Miranda Clayton  
QSCC Coordinator