



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*  
**Queer Students Community Centre**

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TO: Members of the Executive Board  
FROM: Emily Smith  
SUBJECT: QSCC Report #1  
DATE: Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## **UPDATE**

The QSCC has spent a lot of time this summer planning for the upcoming year, and as a team we are all excited with how things are playing out so far. We appear to have done more outreach in terms of tabling than recent years, have been able to engage with a more robust training program, and have a massive volume of volunteers. The service is doing quite well and we have high hopes that with some of the big changes intended for this year that the service will continue to flourish.

## **SERVICE USAGE**

Currently we do not qualify the use of our service in terms of head numbers. This is something we sporadically attempted to put in place last year, and is one goal for the upcoming year. In terms of attendance thus far, we had the biggest attendance at volunteer training I have seen in my time at McMaster, and the first week we have had upwards of 12-13 people in the space at one time.

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

So far this year we have had a few general events. These include “Planting Roots” a spoken word even with the School of Graduate Studies. We also hosted a movie showing with OPIRG called Hedwig and the Angry Inch. Up to date we have had five Newcomers Meetings with varying attendance. In terms of projects, we are working towards re-doing our space and making some furniture purchases, as well as purchasing books for our SLEF budget.

In terms of projects, we opted to spend some of our outreach budget on button-making, making a total of 385 buttons in 2 hours. We also provided monetary support to a local queer coffeehouse and have been working towards bringing an individual from the AIDS network to the QSCC to engage with men who have sex with men about safer sex and general health. This will begin the first week of October.

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

Upcoming over the next month we have a few events planned both large, and small. On the smaller scale, our Newcomers meetings will continue weekly at staggered times and place. Intramural dodgeball will be upcoming and ongoing into November.

This year the QSCC has joined up with WGEN and SSC to have a weekly book club about “For Today I Am A Boy” which will commence September 24<sup>th</sup> and be ongoing until November 5<sup>th</sup>. In September there is also an upcoming Social Dinner being held at the Phoenix to encourage our community to come out and share a meal and reconnect for the semester ahead.

One executive goal is to host monthly self care events which will begin in October. Also in October goals include holding Gayzer Tag (lazer tag) and a Rocky Horror or other Halloween themed movie night. We have hopes of having at least one more larger sized event in October, based on our next executive meeting. A professor has reached out to us about a documentary showing of PUZZLES which we hope to bring to campus.

### **BUDGET**

Currently the majority of spending has taken place for volunteer training, including general and peer support trainings (approximately \$500). Some spending has been allocated to community outreach and, upcoming, our largest spending will go towards our furniture capital purchases and the spending of our SLEF funding for our resource library.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

At this time we have approximately 50 general volunteers, 6 peer support volunteers and 2 newcomers facilitators. Successes have included better interactions between volunteers with a wonderful turnout for team bonding. We have also been able to provide a more robust peer support training. Challenges include monitoring volunteer – one executive overseeing 50 people, and ensuring that everyone has been able to sign up for at least one desk shift.

### **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

Current challenges include preparing to re-do the space, such as selecting paint and furniture, as well as coordinating a timeline of having furniture delivered and assembled, re-painting the space, and ensuring we can open on time. This also includes having the manpower to ensure these changes can take place over a weekend – such as ensuring executives are available to paint and help reorganize.

Another challenge will be navigating time. I am unavailable on campus due to placement on Mondays and Tuesdays beginning September 28<sup>th</sup> and am unsure of how the team will operate without the ability to access me if needed.

### **SUCSESSES**

Some successes of my personal work across the summer have included reconnecting with other services and partners on campus to ensure collaborative events take place. These include our first two events, some of our tabling during the summer (i.e. the Wellness Fair with other services, and our training program).

Some successes our team has had so far is quickly getting our goals established and keeping lines of communication open. Already the executives have had individual meetings with myself, and attended two executive meetings with each other. They have

now taken on a more independent role including managing their own responsibilities with little help from myself, and more help from each other.

**OTHER**

N/A