

better queer lives

Annual Report 2013

QMUNITY

A MESSAGE

from our Chair of the Board and our Executive Director

In 2013, we achieved the most significant milestone in the history of our organization – we secured a \$7 million financial commitment from the City of Vancouver to develop a new, 10,000 square foot, purpose-built facility.

We believe in the power of community.

To ensure that we deliver a dynamic queer hub, QMUNITY is committed to shepherding a transparent and inclusive process as we develop a permanent space for connection. Learn more about it on pages 10-11.

We believe that a new facility will strengthen our core work. For 34 years QMUNITY has supported and celebrated the LGBTQ community and our allies through direct services, education, and advocacy. Learn more about the impact of our work this year, highlighted on pages 4-13.

Yet, we know there is still work to be done.

Despite the advancement in legal equalities, many people continue to struggle to come out at school, work, or in the home. QMUNITY is helping change that. By ensuring that every person has an opportunity to feel safe, included, and free from discrimination, we are translating our legal equalities into lived equalities.

We cannot not do this alone.

Thank you. On behalf of the organization that we are privileged to serve, we want to recognize everyone that works tirelessly to ensure that no one is left behind. Our inspiring volunteers, our dedicated staff, our incredible board, our generous supporters, and everyone in our community that continues to fight for the world that we all want to live in: you make this possible.

We look forward to continuing to serve you.

Warmly,



Dara Parker
Executive Director



Morgan Camley
Chair of the Board of Directors

DIRECT SUPPORT

Addressing the health and wellness of our communities.

The health and wellness of LGBTQ communities is at the core of our strategic priorities. Throughout 2013, we supported LGBTQ communities through peer support, free counselling sessions, and special events.

Highlights



2,370

visits to drop-ins



843

counselling
sessions



1,515

event attendees

10



letters of support
for refugee claimants

Breaking the Ciscentric Ceiling

Trans Employment Project*



An innovative project that developed employment-related workshops and resources for trans* individuals.

Story of Change

Donna, an elder trans* woman, had visited our Generations office many times to chat and learn more about our programs. She shared that she felt unsafe dressing in women's clothing in public or wearing makeup.

At one of the first drop-in sessions for seniors, she stretched out her fingers while she spoke and showed her bright blue nails; she said that painting her nails made her feel feminine, and that it was the only thing she felt comfortable doing to express her female identity in public.

When Donna attended our 2013 Honouring Our Elders event, she approached registration wearing a beautiful floral print dress and heels.

As she walked towards us, she smiled from ear to ear and told us that this event was the only event in the entire year that she felt safe to be herself.

For the rest of the afternoon, she chatted with new friends, danced, and laughed.

EDUCATION

Creating queer-inclusive spaces.

The strongest catalyst for change is education. In 2013, we continued fighting homophobia and transphobia by increasing the number of people reached through our LGBTQ diversity trainings and developing two educational print resources.

Routes to Roots

Educational Resource & Workshop

An innovative, youth-driven project for newcomer and refugee LGBTQ youth to promote community engagement, inclusion, and improve settlement services.

Youth developed workshops and resources to raise awareness and educate service providers, especially settlement workers, youth workers, and teachers.

I Heart My Chest

Educational Resource & Workshop

Responding to identified need, QMUNITY developed an up-to-date resource for trans* individuals and health care service providers.

We delivered a series of 'Trans* Chest Health Seminars' for trans* community members and health care providers.

Highlights



6,465

participants trained
in LGBTQ inclusion

5,242 youth
reached through
Pridespeaks



1,223 adults
reached
through Queer
Competency
Trainings



9 out of 10

participants feel
better equipped
to support LGBTQ people

Some of our clients

YMCA • Options for Sexual Health • Justice Institute of BC
Hope School District • Kwìkwèxwelhp Healing Village
Vancouver Police Department • CN Police • Quest University

Testimonial



The Queer Competency Training could not have come at a better time. I had been struggling with ways to support my child and their gender variant friend. The training gave me the language and skills I need to support both of them.”

— Participant

ADVOCACY

Changing minds.

We raise the issues that matter most to BC's queer communities. Through our media appearances, contributing our expertise to advisory committees, and publishing timely queer cultural commentary on our social networks, we communicated queer issues to broad audiences across BC.

Aging Out

Community Research Project



A two-year public education and policy development project to increase inclusion and belonging for lesbian, gay, trans* and bisexual seniors in BC's health care system. Through a series of training workshops, the project increases awareness among health care providers of the specific health-related needs of LGBTQ seniors. Additionally, a series of public dialogues and focus groups provides the queer community with an opportunity to create community-driven policy on health care for LGBTQ seniors.

Highlights



19

committees
served on



More than

8,000

followers engaged
through social media
and e-newsletter



80

media
appearances

Story of Change

QMUNITY's youth workers provided advisory services to the Science of Sexuality exhibit at the TELUS World of Science in fall 2013.

The exhibit and supporting materials struggled to represent the diversity of sexual orientations and gender identities. Through the review process, our youth workers were able to give constructive feedback on content and to explain how it was likely to affect queer and trans* youth. QMUNITY's contributions provided the basis for additional materials around the exhibit to make it more inclusive, such as "Learn more!" or "Not the only option." The team worked very hard to incorporate our suggested changes and the result was a much more inclusive exhibit.



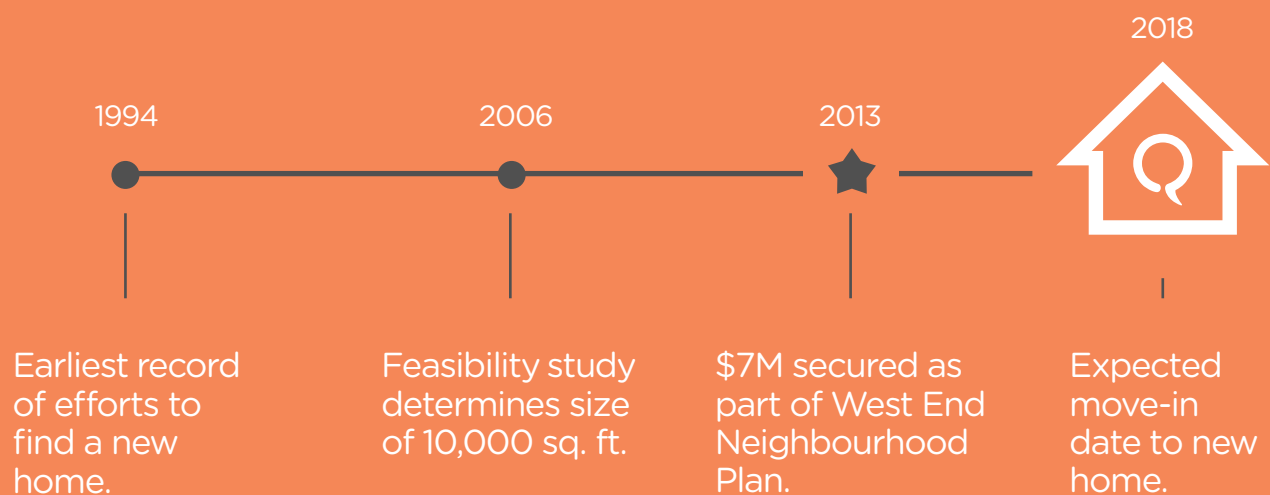
A SPACE FOR CONNECTION

A place to belong. A home away from home.

We served 34,897 community members in 2013. Yet, our capacity to facilitate opportunities for connection is limited by our current facility. In 2013, we secured a \$7 million financial commitment from the City of Vancouver for a new, accessible, 10,000 square foot, purpose-built facility.

A New Facility

A decades-long effort comes to fruition.



Highlights



19 
peer-facilitated
support groups

— Social
— Educational
— Transitional
— Others

3,896
items in our
Out on the Shelves Library

Story of Change

Our Gab Youth Workers visited Jacob*, a youth in hospital at Canuck Place Children's Hospice. Jacob was diagnosed with terminal cancer, and had been staying at the hospice in between his chemotherapy treatments at BC Children's Hospital.

When our youth workers met with Jacob, he was very open and proud of his bisexuality. He shared that his sexuality was something he had previously struggled with, but that he was now very comfortable with who he was. Jacob talked about his experience living with illness, stressing that he was happy to have connected with Gab in order to meet people who would understand and accept him. His family still refused to accept or discuss his sexuality.

Unfortunately because our facility is not wheelchair accessible, it was more difficult for Jacob to attend our Gab Youth drop-ins. Gab ensured there were activities facilitated offsite so that Jacob could participate.

Throughout his stay in palliative care, Gab stayed in touch with Jacob and provided support around his sexuality. We look forward to a new facility where all of our programs are accessible!

* The youth's name has been changed to protect his identity.

VOLUNTEERS

The lifeblood of our organization.

Volunteers play an integral role at QMUNITY. For every successful service offered, there are many volunteers who work behind the scenes providing their skills, time, and energy, all while connecting with other like-minded individuals.

Highlights

15,504

hours of service
contributed by volunteers



The equivalent to eight
full-time staff



In the roles of:

- ♥ Resource Reception
 - ♥ Out on the Shelves Library
 - ♥ Counselling
 - ♥ Peer-Facilitated Groups
 - ♥ Special Events
 - ♥ Special Projects
 - ♥ Practicum Students
 - ♥ Programs
 - ♥ Resource Development
-

Story of Change

Volunteering at QMUNITY as a Resource Receptionist has been a great opportunity to get in touch with the queer community, make new friends, and learn new skills.

In my role, I'm often people's first contact with QMUNITY, greeting them as they walk into the building, and helping to connect them with the resources they're looking for.

“ In the process of doing this, I have also found connection myself. Building ties within my community has helped to give me direction and purpose, both immediately and into the future.”

Talking with a diversity of people has been fascinating and sometimes inspiring, giving me confidence in myself not only as a queer person, but also as a member of larger communities.

After being here for half a year, it's become clear to me that I am both giving and receiving meaningful connections by volunteering here. Both sides have been equally enriching.

—Jessie,
QMUNITY Volunteer



SUPPORTERS

We cannot do this alone.

A deep thank you to every individual, group, and corporate supporter that contributed to QMUNITY in 2013. Your generosity is vital to our present and our future.

DONORS

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Although we have made every effort to ensure that supporters have been correctly acknowledged, if we have erred, please accept our apologies and report the error or omission to 604-684-5307 ext. 102.

FINANCIALS

We increased our resources by 9.5% in 2013.

For the year ended December 31, 2013

	2013			2012
	General Operating	Specific Purposes	Total	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
REVENUE				
Donations and fundraising	108,880	—	108,880	97,059
Events revenue	85,190	—	85,190	46,535
Grants	486,185	—	486,185	435,926
Honorariums and other	21,882	—	21,882	11,381
Rental	42,223	—	42,223	29,203
	744,360		744,360	620,104
EXPENSES				
Accounting and legal	13,042	—	13,042	24,971
Advertising and promotion	1,807	—	1,807	3,052
Amortization	4,385	—	4,385	9,303
Bank charges and interest	2,323	—	2,323	1,724
Equipment and lease	1,937	—	1,937	1,152
Fundraising	48,067	—	48,067	33,413
Insurance	2,637	—	2,637	2,495
Office	6,649	—	6,649	7,081
Program costs	53,867	—	53,867	36,435
Rent, utilities and taxes	89,372	—	89,372	97,890
Repairs and maintenance	9,027	—	9,027	8,645
Telephone	4,219	—	4,219	5,140
Travel	3,216	—	3,216	3,667
Wages, subcontracts and benefits	447,394	—	447,394	393,018
	687,942	—	687,942	627,986
Excess of revenue (expenses) for the year	56,418	—	56,418	(7,882)

Together,
we are making a
difference in the
lives of LGBTQ
people in BC.



Registered under the Society Act of BC as:

QMUNITY BC's Queer Resource Centre Society

+1 (604) 684-5307

1170 Bute Street

Vancouver, BC

V6E 1Z6

Charitable registration number:

11924-9522-RR-0001