




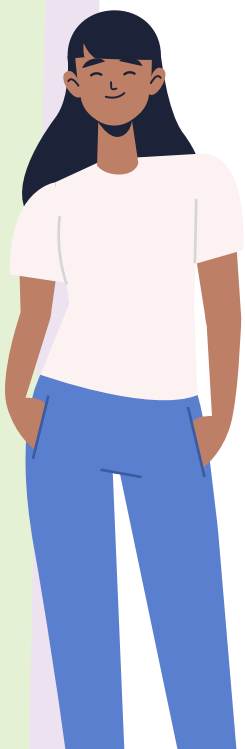
**RAINBOW
REFUGEE**
ASSOC. OF NOVA SCOTIA



ANNUAL REPORT
January 2023 - March 2024



Rainbow Refugee Association of Nova Scotia engages in refugee resettlement and exists in the community in Kjiptuk (Halifax), on the traditional and unceded land of the Mi'kmaq people. It is our responsibility, as an organization of settlers and newcomers, to inform LGBTQI+ newcomers to Canada about this country's legacy of colonization, and to promote learning about and engaging with the people of this land



Rainbow Refugee Association of Nova Scotia is the only registered non-profit society dedicated to LGBTQI+ refugee resettlement and support in Atlantic Canada

Our mission is to make possible LGBTQI+ refugee resettlement and supports safer communities of belonging through advocacy, education and sponsorship

Our vision is a world where ALL 2SLGBTQIA+ people are safe, welcome, and included everywhere



OUR VALUES

INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY GROWTH

Growing intentionally means we stay aligned with our values when facing tough decisions and potential opportunities. Community growth is rooted in collective 2SLGBTQIA+ histories, knowledge, relationships

NIMBLE & FEISTY

We are thoughtful and flexible in our actions, always seeking opportunities to improve. We dream up new ideas, and bring them to life.

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

We encourage courageous conversations, whether in the context of personal or professional growth, mentoring, or coaching, where everyone is encouraged to express their views openly and truthfully, rather than defensively or with the purpose of laying blame. Integral to courageous conversations is an openness to learn, stemming from curiosity and compassion.

OUR VALUES

JOYFUL RESETTLEMENT

We believe that LGBTQI+ newcomers are the experts of their own experiences. While we recognize the barriers and realities newcomers face, we aim to infuse the resettlement journey with hope and possibilities, so newcomers can thrive.

LEADING WITH COMPASSION

We believe human connection fosters transformative relationships and systems change. We lead with empathy, through non-judgemental listening, and active learning and unlearning.

STRIVING FOR EQUITY

We have a responsibility to acknowledge and use our positions & power, to combat personal, interpersonal, organizational and systemic inequities. We aim to be accountable through reflection, meaningful action, honesty and trust.



Letter from Our Board of Directors

LETTER FROM THE BOARD

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the incredible progress achieved at RRANS. It is our privilege to be a part of such a dedicated, resilient, and compassionate community supporting people who are discriminated against or persecuted based on their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC).

We have made significant strides in our mission to support LGBTQI+ refugee resettlement through advocacy, education and sponsorship despite ongoing social impacts.

While COVID precautions have been reduced, groups that have been marginalized have continued to face the impacts of the pandemic within their communities. There continues to be a growing campaign of propaganda against the queer and trans community, with legislation being passed within Canada and globally to dehumanize and remove access to basic human rights. Political unrest continues to grow, with the war in Ukraine and genocide within Palestine. We continue to see an increased need for refugees as the LGBTQI community continues to face increased persecution and lack of safety.



Locally, a housing crisis has placed a significant burden on the community at large, with newcomers experiencing barriers due to limited financial accessibility and discrimination. Staff have worked tirelessly to create connections and facilitate affordable housing for newly arrived newcomers. RRANS has been dedicated to ensuring that our sponsored newcomers can find homes within our community.

Building community and establishing local networks for newcomers has been a significant focus for staff. Intentional efforts have been made to develop and sustain social support and connections to prevent isolation for our newcomers. With generous funding, RRANS has been able to continue offering pottery programming which brings the community together to create art and build friendships. Additionally, staff have introduced a monthly social gathering to increase settlement and integration through building social support.

We've focused on establishing structures to support purposeful governance. Through planning and collaboration, we developed frameworks to ensure accountability, transparency, and effectiveness in all aspects of our operations. These structures not only guide our day-to-day activities but also uphold the values of inclusivity and equality that lie at the heart of our organization. In coordination, our small but mighty team of staff began a similar process to ensure organizational policies, procedures and standards of care are in place too.

In 2023-24 we also hit an important milestone - not only are all RRANS staff and board members of the LGBTQI+ community, but we also have reached a BIPOC majority. Having a team that is representative of the community we serve, and with lived experience, is integral as we continue to work on centering newcomers in everything we do. We are forever grateful for our staff at RRANS, who bring forward knowledge, passion, and dedication, while also experiencing firsthand the same adversities we aim to combat. The work that they do is beyond words and we thank them for everything they bring to this work. We also thank our volunteers and community members, who help foster care and support through their actions. As a board, we are continually inspired by the resilience and compassion that surrounds us and are deeply grateful for their ongoing commitment to our cause.

As we look to the future, there is still much work to be done, but with your continued support, we will work to ensure 2SLGBTQIA+ people are safe, welcome, and included in Atlantic Canada.

Thank you.

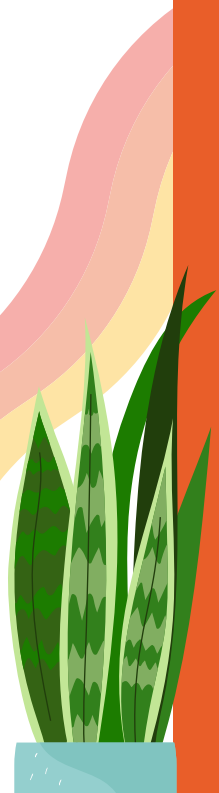


GOVERNANCE

As a board, we are working hard to lead our strategic direction and establish and align our structures to support governance. We updated our bylaws in 2023; developed and documented our policies; and through planning and collaboration, we created mechanisms to ensure accountability, transparency, and effectiveness across our operations. Moving forward we will further focus on ensuring the sustainability of RRANS operations. We are thrilled to share that RRANS successfully gained charitable status. This milestone opens new avenues for growth and impact. With charitable status, we are better positioned to secure funding, forge partnerships, and expand our reach, ultimately enabling us to provide vital support to our newcomer

SPONSORSHIP

RRANS continues to see increases in requests for sponsorship. Though RRANS receives hundreds of requests yearly, our limited funding and size only allow us to support a limited number of newcomers. We strive to provide referrals and maintain contact with those who request our support and hope to increase our capacity with the support of community funders and donations. Regardless of our limited resources, we have been able to submit 10 applications for sponsorship. This number is significant, given the size of our organization. We hope to see many applications expedited throughout the year.



BRANDING

In late 2023, recognizing a need for improved brand recognition and visibility, we worked with RRANS staff to collaborate on a rebranding project with The Public, a Toronto-based design firm with a queer and community-focused mandate.

The board and staff unanimously agreed on new branding that encapsulated RRANS perfectly. We're proud to launch our new brand and a logo which reflects the roots that RRANS strives to provide to its newcomers while celebrating the diversity of the folks whose lives are touched by RRANS' work.


NATIONAL IMPACT & ADVOCACY

RRANS is a steering committee member of the national coalition, from Borders to Belonging, composed of organizations aiming to champion LGBTQI refugee protection and settlement, engage our society to provide supportive communities of arrival, and generate knowledge for training, research, and policy development. As part of our collaboration, in March we organized the 2024 Atlantic LGBTQI+ Refugee Regional Forum at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21. The forum encouraged conversations across sectors, including hospitality and tourism, healthcare, immigration and settlement, and education.



FUNDRAISING & FINANCES

RRANS finances for the year-end 2023-2024 are in a good place. We've ended the year with a small deficit, but we increased our donations and had strong grant funding during the year. Since receiving our charitable status, we have spent the year updating our donation processes and procedures to make our fundraising more efficient. For 2024-25, we have several funding streams ending that will impact our revenue, but we anticipate more grant funding to be awarded during the year and we have reduced our staffing levels in the short term in anticipation of the reduced grant funding. We expect a larger deficit in 2024-25, but we have a large accrued surplus that allows us to fund this during the year, as we continue to grow our fundraising capacity and improve our investment and financial plans for the future.



Warmest regards,
David Gosine (he/him)
Chair



Brie Rehbein (she/her)
Vice Chair



Who We Are?



Staff

Rhiannon Makohoniuk (she/her)
Executive Director

Ege Tektas (they/them)
Strategic Operations Manager

Tora (Viktor) Cherenkov (he/ him)
Communications Coordinator

Sahand Faranhanchi (he/ him)
Education Coordinator

Dineh Hernández Guerrero (she/they)
Toolkit Coordinator

Board of Directors

David Gosine (he/him)
President

Kyle DeYoung (he/him)
Treasurer

Olga Vigil Letang (she/ her)
Secretary

Ahrthyh Arumugam (she/they)

David Smith (he/ him)

Katie Walker (she/ her)

Rae River Paul (they/ them)

A special thank you to the incredible contributions of this year's outgoing staff and board members who have dedicated so much to RRANS:

Staff:

Andrea Puszkar (she/ her)
Kartik Saini (he/ him)
Peace Nabwami (she/ her)
Robin Cunningham (she/ her)

Board:

Brie Rehbein (she/her)
Carol-Anne Bilodeau (she/ her)
Mario Mazraany (he/him)
Kaitlin Miles (she/ her)

Our Impact



This past year held many highlights for RRANS. Our community grew this year, through welcoming 8 LGBTQI+ newcomers to Canada, and working with many more. We expanded upon our programming at RRANS, hosting new events, having an expanded Pride series, and introducing new bi-weekly community hangouts

Internally, we also continued to strengthen our organizational roots, and became a registered charity in August 2023, shifting our fiscal year from January to December to April to March. In our commitment to build safer communities of belonging for LGBTQI+ newcomers, we also created new materials and resources for organizations to use to better work with LGBTQI+ newcomers, through funding from Women and Gender Equality Canada.

Sponsorships



Eight LGBTQI+ newcomers sponsored by RRANS, arrived between April 2023 - March 2024. We anticipate between 8-10 people will arrive in the next year. RRANS provides financial and settlement support to sponsored individuals, couples and families through their first 12 months in Canada. We also provide additional support as needed beyond this first year, as people grow their lives in Canada.

In 2023, we put in 8 additional applications for private sponsorship, and plan to submit an additional 8-10 applications in 2024. Currently we have applications for 18 people submitted to the government, who should arrive over the next few years.

Settlement

In addition to supporting people who arrived to Canada through RRANS private sponsorship, we also provided settlement and community supports to many additional LGBTQI+ refugees, including government assisted refugees (GARs), other privately sponsored refugees (PSRs), and refugee claimants living in Canada. This year, we worked with or assisted over 20 of these individuals



Settlement support looks like many things. Sometimes it is assistance with systems navigation of local systems or resources, such as the health care system, local transportation, or accessing resources like food banks. This support can also look like acting as a support person to people attending appointments or meetings. Frequently this year, settlement support involved assisting individuals to access employment, education, and in trying to find safer, and affordable housing. One huge aspect of our settlement work that we focused on this year was increased events and programming for the community



2023-2024 Programming:

Feb 2023 - Oct 2023

RRANS Pottery Program



Through funding from Halifax Regional Municipality and Arts Nova Scotia, RRANS hosted a weekly pottery program for LGBTQI+ newcomers. Facilitated by former RRANS staff member, and local artist and potter, Andrea Puszkas, this program brought together 10 LGBTQI+ newcomers from various backgrounds to learn about and make pottery, and to engage in other art practices including textiles, dance, and filmography. This also provided space for LGBTQI+ newcomers to connect, build connections and practice English speaking skills



This program culminated in an exhibit hosted during Nocturne, in partnership with Pier 21, that showcased the works of program participants. In addition, there was a hands on pottery workshop, called Making Space, that invited the public to come and make a sculpture that represents 'love' to them

2023-2024 Programming:

Jun 2023

Someone Like Me Screening



We hosted a screening of the NFB documentary *Someone Like Me* at the Halifax Public Library. Through a community connection, we also got to interview the star of the documentary, Drake, and talked to them about their experience with the documentary, and with resettling in Canada.



Someone Like Me follows the parallel journeys of Drake, a gay asylum seeker from Uganda, and a group of strangers from Vancouver's queer community who are tasked with supporting his resettlement in Canada. Together, they embark on a year-long quest for personal freedom, revealing how in a world where one must constantly fight for the right to exist, survival itself becomes a victory.

2023-2024 Programming:

Jul 2023

Pride Events



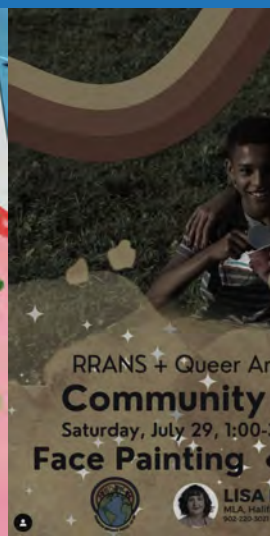
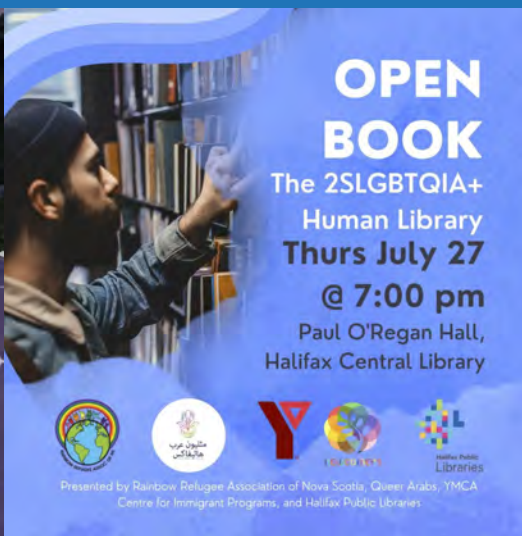
In July, we celebrated Halifax Pride with 4 events:

1. Pride Party for LGBTQI+ Newcomers

a closed space LGBTQI+ newcomer hangout at Glitter Bean Cafe featuring Mexican Bingo, Drag Performances, and of course, coffee!

2. Open Book: The 2SLGBTQIA+ Human Library

in partnership with Queer Arabs Halifax, The YMCA Centre for Immigrant Programs, and Halifax Public Libraries, we put on a human library event, showcasing LGBTQI+ newcomers from around the world answering questions about life, interests, and how gender and sexuality relate to their cultures.



2023-2024 Programming:

Jul 2023

Pride Events (part 2)



3. Community Pride Picnic

in collaboration with Queer Arabs Halifax, we hosted a community picnic at Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth, featuring low key mingling, games, and snacks. It was a great opportunity to meet and connect with the RRANS community

4. RRANS Sponsorship Workshop

we also hosted a workshop on private refugee sponsorship, and how to start a sponsorship group and bring this work to your community!

OPEN BOOK
The 2SLGBTQIA+ Human Library
Thurs July 27
@ 7:00 pm
Paul O'Regan Hall,
Halifax Central Library

Association of Nova Scotia, Queer Arabs, YMCA, Program, and Halifax Public Libraries

RRANS + Queer Arabs Halifax Present:
Community Pride Picnic
Saturday, July 29, 1:00-3:00 pm, Sullivan's Pond
Face Painting • Fun • Games

LISA LACHANCE
M.A. Halifax Citadel-Sable Island
902-209-3021 | lisa.lachance@rrans.org

RRANS Sponsorship Workshop

Sun. July 30, 1:00-3:00 pm
BMO Community Room
Halifax Central Library
5440 Spring Garden Rd

Pride P
LGBTQIA+ M
— Closed

Monday, July 24,
Glitter Bean Cafe, 58
Closed space for LG

2023-2024 Programming:

Feb 2024 - Ongoing

RRANS Community Hangout



Beginning in February 2024, we started hosting biweekly RRANS community hangouts for LGBTQI+ newcomers, RRANS volunteers and staff to get together and build community. Offering free coffee, tea, and snacks, these bi-weekly hangouts are an informal place to connect with each other, relax, and sometimes to play a game or do an shared activity.



Social connections and community spaces were a huge need identified by people we work with and in our community this year, and RRANS wanted to create regular space and programming to address this. We hope to continue growing upon our recreational supports in the future, creating new opportunities to foster communities of belonging.

Education & Advocacy

Over the past year, we have continued to develop our own internal capacity, as well as the capacity of local and regional service providers, to best support LGBTQI+ newcomers. Much of this work came through local and national projects aimed at gathering, compiling and disseminating information for, and about, LGBTQI+ newcomers.

RRANS continues to act as a Steering Committee member of the national coalition of LGBTQI+ refugee serving organizations, From Borders to Belonging. In addition to this, our board member, Ahrthyh Arumugam, is now one of the Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee of From Borders to Belonging. Through this work, RRANS has engaged in local and national research and programming, advocacy efforts with IRCC and other government officials, and participated in many learning opportunities to continue and strengthen our work.

Some of our advocacy and education efforts from 2023-2024, include the following:

ORIENTATION TO LIFE IN CANADA BROCHURES FOR LGBTQI+ NEWCOMERS

We created a series of 5 brochures, translated into 5 different languages, to assist newly arrived LGBTQI+ newcomers with learning about local information and systems navigation, on their own. This included brochures about: mental health, housing, finances, rights and freedoms, and reconciliation and local Indigenous context. These brochures will be available online, and will be printed, along with a larger companion document with extra links, resources and information.



Education & Advocacy

RRANS TOOLKIT FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR 2SLGBTQIA+ NEWCOMER INCLUSION

This toolkit outlines promising practices and recommendations for organizations to better work with and support LGBTQI+ newcomers, and gives some additional information and context setting into why this is so necessary. This toolkit will be available online for 2SLGBTQIA+ and other organizations to use.

RRANS INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY FOR LGBTQI+ NEWCOMERS PRESENTATION

This presentation and facilitation guide, was created in collaboration with a steering committee of LGBTQI+ newcomers, and highlights the specific challenges, barriers and realities of this population, and how to support them. This culminates in providing a peer-to-peer model for settlement organizations to continue supporting LGBTQI+ newcomers from within the community. This will be available online for settlement organizations and others to use.

COMMUNITY MAPPING PROJECT

This presentation and facilitation guide, was created in collaboration with a steering committee of LGBTQI+ newcomers, and highlights the specific challenges, barriers and realities of this population, and how to support them. This culminates in providing a peer-to-peer model for settlement organizations to continue supporting LGBTQI+ newcomers from within the community. This will be available online for settlement organizations and others to use.

Over the last year, we worked with other organizations from across the country to develop a community mapping project to determine the impacts of refugee resettlement for LGBTQI+ newcomers in different communities across Canada, on their social determinants of health. Information was collected through 1 on 1 surveys with LGBTQI+ refugees in each of the communities. This information will be used to strengthen advocacy efforts and impact settlement outcomes of individuals through education and engagement.

Education & Advocacy

2023 ONTARIO - QUEBEC - ATLANTIC REGIONAL FORUM

In February 2023, we partnered with The 519, OCASI, MCCT, Rainbow Railroad, Capital Rainbow Refuge, and AGIR, to put on a forum for LGBTQI+ refugee serving organizations across Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic. We highlighted local innovations in refugee resettlement and programming, and dreamed of how we can better work together to support LGBTQI+ refugees

RAINBOW COALITION FOR REFUGEE

ONTARIO, QUEBEC, & ATLANTIC REGIONAL GATHERING FEB 22, '23

ORIENTATION TO LGBTQI+ MIGRATION

"IT'S IMPORTANT TO THINK OF THE WHOLE SPECTRUM."

WHOLISTIC SUPPORT FOR THIS

WE STILL NEED LGBTQI+ SPECIFIC PATHWAYS TO SAFETY

DANGER DANGER DANGER DANGER DANGER

- DEATH PENALTY
- CRIMINALIZATION
- PERSECUTION
- DANGEROUS MIGRATION
- SOCIESEC NOT RECOGNIZED

AND SO: RAINBOW REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PARTNERSHIP

★ 50 SPOTS GOV'T FUNDED → LASTS 12 MONTHS

STILL STRIVING TO MEET RECOMMENDED GOALS FOR LGBTQI+ REFUGEE PROTECTION

- (RCR) COMPLIMENTARY PATHWAYS → BLENDED VISA REFERRAL
- TO HELP PEOPLE VULNERABLE AND LOST IN THEIR TRANSITION → SMOOTHER PROCESS
- 2024 SPONSORED REFUGEES → FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

WHAT WE DESIGNED:	WHY?	THE IMPACT:
(CAPITAL RAINBOW REFUGEE) SUPPORT FOR NEWCOMERS	COVID SUPPORT/ TRANSITION SUPPORT	HELPING 250 CLIENTS
(OCASI) POSITIVE SPACES INITIATIVE	HELPING LGBTQI+ NEWCOMERS BUILD COMMUNITY	REGIONAL NETWORK/ PARTNERSHIPS
(RAINBOW RAILROAD, TO) MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT	REFUGEES OVERSEAS NEED PEER SUPPORT	HELPING PEOPLE OVERSEAS/ONLINE BETTER MENTAL HEALTH!
(MCCT) HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT	COLLABORATING W/ COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE	COMMUNITY BUILDING SKILLS DEV'T, LEGAL AID WELLNESS
(SYMCA, HALIFAX) EAST COAST KITCHEN PARTY PROJECT	NEWCOMERS NEED MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS TO THEIR NEW HOME, CONNECTION TO LAND	PEER SUPPORT & COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS, FRIENDSHIPS, GOOD NUTRITION

EVERYONE IS JUGGLING LOTS OF THINGS!

WHAT ABOUT ACCESSIBILITY? HOW CAN SUPPORT BE JOYFUL & CELEBRATORY?

Getting to know each other

"WE'RE STRONGER TOGETHER WITH OUR PARTNERSHIPS."

Sharing Ideas & Resources

"LOTS OF NEW CHANGES!" "GREAT TO COLLABORATE!"

SHIFTING FOCUS FROM URBAN TO RURAL SPACES

Making Connections

"YOU DESERVE A LONG WEEKEND!"

Graphic by James Neish

Education & Advocacy

2024 ATLANTIC REGIONAL FORUM

For the first time since 2020, we hosted an in person regional forum at Pier 21, in March 2024. This event brought together over 25 people from 15 organizations and community groups to talk about issues facing LGBTQI+ refugees regionally, and to dream of ways we could work together to advocate for better resources, supports and services for this community. We also showcased some of the projects RRANS had been working on in 2024, as well as the work of the YMCA Centre For Immigrant Programs in supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ newcomers and newcomers youth.

OUR PROJECTS
RRANS FOUNDED 2011!
REFUGEE FORUM 2021
ONTARIO, QUEBEC, ATLANTIC
REGIONAL GATHERING 2023
MMING2SLGBTQIA+ NATIONAL
ACTION PLAN

COMMUNITY MAPPING PROJECT
"ARRIVING TO THRIVING"
INTERVIEWS, JOURNEY MAPS, INTERSECTIONALITY,
SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH & WELL-BEING
RESETTLED REFUGEES & REFUGEE CLAIMANTS HAVE DIFFERENT LEVELS
OF ACCESS TO SERVICES, HOUSING, INCOME, & VARIOUS SUPPORTS
"IT'S HARD TO GET SUPPORTED FOR WHO YOU REALLY ARE."
"SURVIVAL ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH. THRIVING IS WHERE IT'S AT."
THE SYSTEM FOR SHELTERING & HOUSING NEWCOMERS IS COMPLEX AND NEEDS TO BE
MORE ACCOMMODATING OF PEOPLE'S CIRCUMSTANCES & MENTAL HEALTH
"WE NEED ADVOCACY & COLLABORATION TO CREATE
2SLGBTQIA+ NEWCOMER SPECIFIC SHELTER & TRANSITION SPACES."
PEOPLE NEED SOCIAL CONNECTION EXPERIENCES.
ADVOCACY ASKS... PRIORITIES: ★
★ OVERSEAS RESETTLEMENT/ SAFER PATHWAYS
EXPAND EXEMPTIONS TO PROTECT LGBTQIA+ REFUGEES
EXPERIENCING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
★ SAFER BORDERS FUNDING FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS
★ EQUITY IN SETTLEMENT SUPPORT
PEOPLE EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF
POWER & PRIVILEGE
ALLYSHIP CAN BE REACTIVE OR PROACTIVE
THE RIGHT TO CULTURE
THE RIGHT TO HEALTH AND WELLNESS
THE RIGHT TO SECURITY AND SAFETY
THE RIGHT TO JUSTICE

WHAT I LEARNED...
• THE PHHC EXISTS!
• I LEARNED ABOUT PHOENIX YOUTH HOUSE!
• THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE URBAN & RURAL SITUATION
• WHY THE QUEBEC BORDER IS MORE POPULAR

WHAT I RECOMMEND...
• CIRCUMVENT CERTIFICATION WAIT TIMES
• ACCESSIBLE LANGUAGES & SERVICES
• ADVERTISE AVAILABLE SERVICES
• BETTER SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES
• MAKE EDUCATION AVAILABLE- INFO HUB
• COLLABORATION BETWEEN SERVICE PROVIDERS
• DEDICATED FUNDING FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES
• LOBBY FOR SUPPORT
• EDUCATING PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE 2SLGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY
• MORE FAIR REPRESENTATION
• IMMEDIATE SUPPORT REGARDLESS OF STATUS

OUR PROJECTS
KARTIK SAINI
INCLUSIVITY WORKSHOPS FOR NEWCOMERS
• COMMON GAPS & CHALLENGES
• SAFER SPACES
• PEER TO PEER SUPPORT
SAHAND FARAHANCHI
• TOOLS FOR A BETTER RESETTLEMENT EXPERIENCE
• ACCESSIBLE LANGUAGES
• WHAT'S IMPORTANT FOR NEWCOMERS TO KNOW?
- HEALTH & WELLBEING
- FINANCE & BUDGETING
- HOUSING
- RIGHTS & FREEDOMS
- INDIGENOUS LAND & HISTORY
"BEING A NEWCOMER MYSELF HAS GIVEN ME A CHANCE TO EXECUTE MY RESPONSIBILITIES IN A BETTER WAY... I KNOW HOW DIFFICULT AND OVERWHELMING IT ALL IS."
"THEY DON'T HAVE TO GO WHAT I WENT THROUGH."
DINEH HERNÁNDEZ GUERRERO
A TOOLKIT FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR 2SLGBTQIA NEWCOMERS IN NOVA SCOTIA
↳ TO HELP THEM INTEGRATE SUCCESSFULLY
↳ PEOPLE NEED NETWORKS OF SUPPORT
RECOMMENDATIONS SO THAT PEOPLE CAN HAVE SAFER, MORE WELCOMING INTERACTIONS WITH NEWCOMERS

WHEEL OF POWER & PRIVILEGE
MARGINALIZED
POWER
WHEEL OF POWER & PRIVILEGE

COMMUNITY MAPPING PROJECT
3 PILLARS: ADVOCACY EDUCATION COMMUNITY WORK
OPEN BOOK EVENT: SAFE QUESTIONS
LAND TALKS: HIGHLIGHTING THE INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCE
* The first 5 years are crucial to successful settlement!
INNOVATION GRANTS
• EAST COAST KITCHEN PARTIES!
* These programs are only for people with Permanent Residence Status!
"THESE ARE ADULTS... THEY NEED PRACTICAL INFORMATION."

WHAT I LEARNED...
"YOU CAN'T BE QUEER IN A NEWCOMER SPACE AND YOU CAN'T BE A NEWCOMER IN A QUEER SPACE."
"THE FIRST 5 YEARS ARE CRUCIAL TO SUCCESSFUL SETTLEMENT!"

WHAT I RECOMMEND...
"THESE ARE ADULTS... THEY NEED PRACTICAL INFORMATION."

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• MORE FAIR REPRESENTATION
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↳ PEOPLE NEED NETWORKS OF SUPPORT
RECOMMENDATIONS SO THAT PEOPLE CAN HAVE SAFER, MORE WELCOMING INTERACTIONS WITH NEWCOMERS

WHEEL OF POWER & PRIVILEGE
MARGINALIZED
POWER
WHEEL OF POWER & PRIVILEGE

COMMUNITY MAPPING PROJECT
3 PILLARS: ADVOCACY EDUCATION COMMUNITY WORK
OPEN BOOK EVENT: SAFE QUESTIONS
LAND TALKS: HIGHLIGHTING THE INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCE
* The first 5 years are crucial to successful settlement!
INNOVATION GRANTS
• EAST COAST KITCHEN PARTIES!
* These programs are only for people with Permanent Residence Status!
"THESE ARE ADULTS... THEY NEED PRACTICAL INFORMATION."

WHAT I LEARNED...
"YOU CAN'T BE QUEER IN A NEWCOMER SPACE AND YOU CAN'T BE A NEWCOMER IN A QUEER SPACE."
"THE FIRST 5 YEARS ARE CRUCIAL TO SUCCESSFUL SETTLEMENT!"

WHAT I RECOMMEND...
"THESE ARE ADULTS... THEY NEED PRACTICAL INFORMATION."

Graphic by James Neish



OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Our work to support LGBTQI+ newcomers is made possible through community collaboration and support. This includes: Funders who make our work possible, individual and organizational donors who allow us to sponsor individuals, local businesses, groups, and individuals that fundraise on our behalf and support the work we are doing, community partners who collaborate on programs, services, and referrals to better support the LGBTQI+ newcomers community together, our community partners across the country who share skills, resources, and knowledge with each other, and of course, the newcomers we work with.

Thank you to our community partners for all your support!

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HALIFAX

IMMIGRANT SERVICES ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

PIER 21

DREADLOCKS AND KINDNESS

QUEER ARABS HALIFAX

YMCA CENTRE FOR IMMIGRANT PROGRAMS

HALIFAX PUBLIC LIBRARY

ST. ANDREWS UNITED CHURCH

ANDREA PUSZKAR CERAMIC STUDIO

HALIFAC PRIDE

NSLC

EASTERN SHORE PRIDE

INITIO TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION LAW CLINIC

THE PUBLIC STUDIO - TORONTO



OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



**Thank you, our community partners,
for all your support!**

WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY CANADA

ARTS NOVA SCOTIA

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CANADA

HALIFAX INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS OF CANADA

FROM BORDERS TO BELONGING

RAINBOW REFUGEE SOCIETY

END OF THE RAINBOW FOUNDATION

OCASI - ONTARIO COUNCIL FOR AGENCIES SERVING IMMIGRANTS

MCCT - METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF TORONTO

RAINBOW RAILROAD

THE 519

CAPITAL RAINBOW REFUGE

AGIR - ACTION LGBTQIA+ AVEC LES IMMIGRANTES ET RÉFUGIÉES

CONNECT WITH US!



**RAINBOW
REFUGEE**
ASSOC. OF NOVA SCOTIA



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With better soil and a place to root,
we can find new versions of ourselves.