



For Immediate Release
October 7, 2010

Trans Activist Rupert Raj to Receive Annual Steinert & Ferreiro Award
Award to be presented at Community One Foundation's 30th Anniversary Celebration

The Community One Foundation is proud to announce that Rupert Raj has been named recipient of this year's Steinert & Ferreiro Award. Community leader, psychotherapist, researcher and trans activist, Raj has made an incredible contribution to the LGBTTIQQ2S community in Canada, particularly with respect to fostering a greater understanding and acceptance of the transsexual and transgendered communities. This marks the first time the Steinert & Ferreiro Award has been given to a trans person in its five year history.

The Steinert & Ferreiro Award was launched through a bequest from the Estates of Jonathan R. Steinert and Fernando G. Ferreiro in 2005. The \$10,000 award is Canada's largest recognition of leadership in the LGBTTIQQ2S communities. Previous recipients have included Rachel Epstein, Rev. Brent Hawkes, El-Farouk Khaki, Bev Bain and George Hislop.

A transformative figure in the trans community for close to 40 years, Rupert Raj has won numerous awards in Canada and United States for his tireless advocacy and support for trans rights. In his many roles, which have included counselor, psychotherapist, educator, professional trainer, consultant, gender specialist, clinical researcher, writer and activist, he has helped foster greater understanding of trans issues within the broader LGBTTIQQ2S and straight communities. He currently works as a mental health counselor at the Sherbourne Health Centre, and is an active member of the Rainbow Health Network's Trans Health Lobby Group.

"The S&F Award was established to recognize leadership in the LGBTTIQQ2S communities," says Rupen Seoni, Chair of the S&F Award Committee, Community One Foundation. "Rupert Raj embodies leadership and has made an outstanding contribution to our community, helping countless individuals better understand their identity. His list of achievements is exemplary and he is a fitting recipient of this award."

Community One Foundation: Celebrating 30 Years

The Steinert & Ferreiro Award will be presented to Rupert Raj on Friday, October 22 at the Community One Foundation's 30th Anniversary Celebration at the Bata Shoe Museum, presented by RBC Royal Bank. Thanks to our other sponsors – Celebration Sponsor: Whirl Inc.; Founding Media Sponsor: XTRA; Beverage Sponsor: Mill St. Brewery; Exclusive Wine Sponsor: WineOnline.ca; Event Supporters: A La Carte KITCHEN, Bata Shoe Museum, Church Wellesley Village BIA, Heather Pollack Photography, Mayflower Designs, Village Pharmacy and Woody's.

Established in 1980, the Community One Foundation (formerly the Lesbian & Gay Community Appeal) provides grants to community projects in order to create a strong, vibrant and diverse community by supporting individuals and groups that enhance the development of the LGBTTIQQ2S communities in the Greater Toronto Area including Durham, Halton, Peel and York Regions.

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