

media release

For immediate release



Network announces new director

(March 23, 2009) Toronto – The LGBT Giving Network is pleased to announce the hiring of Michael Cress as its first Network Director. Working with the volunteers of the Network, Michael will be responsible for guiding the Network through its strategic development and help to oversee projects of the Network including the annual LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Trans) Philanthropy Conference, a new mentorship program and the promotion of LGBT community voluntarism. The 2009 **LGBT Philanthropy Conference** is scheduled for **November 6-8, 2009** at the University of Toronto.

“The LGBT Giving Network aims to raise awareness about the needs of our community by helping our programs and agencies do a better job connecting with donors and volunteers,” says Philip Wong, executive director of the Community One Foundation (formerly the LGCA) and an executive member of the Network. “Michael brings years of professional experience in fundraising, communications, and volunteer and event management, and has demonstrated his commitment to our community through his own voluntarism.”

A member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Michael has worked and volunteered extensively in resource development at agencies like Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research (CANFAR), the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of Canada, Fife House, Youth Employment Services and the Toronto People with AIDS Foundation. He is the current co-chair for the 2009 Friends for Life Bike Rally.

“This is a really dynamic time at the LGBT Giving Network. I’m excited and honoured to be the first Director of the Network” says Michael. “I look forward to working with all our volunteers and helping to build the fundraising capacity of member organizations of the LGBT Community. During these uncertain economic times our giving decisions are more important than ever, and history shows the resiliency of our community during tough times and that we emerge as a stronger more unified community.”

Funding for this position was made possible through a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

The LGBT Giving Network is a network of organizations that are working together to engage and cultivate lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and allied donors to help secure leadership gifts and long-term financial support to build stronger LGBT communities in Canada. The Network was formed to address the need for improved engagement between non-profit charities, donors and business interested in the LGBT communities and issues. Its **founding members** represent a cross-section of the diverse LGBT communities including:

Asian Community AIDS Service	Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention	Buddies in Bad Times Theatre
Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives	Central Toronto Youth Services	Community One Foundation (formerly the LGCA)
Egale Canada	Family Services Association	519 Church Street Community Centre
Inside Out	Lambda Foundation	Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Youth Line
Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies	Pride Toronto	Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto
Toronto People with AIDS Foundation	PFLAG Canada	Planned Parenthood of Toronto
	Xtra! & Pink Triangle Press	

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LGBT GIVING NETWORK

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