

Our charities threatened by economic downturn



communityone
FOUNDATION

Toronto (December 2, 2008) - The Community One Foundation, LGBT Giving Network and Xtra are presenting the community forum, Shrinking Dollars: How our LGBTQ Charities can Manage Uncertain Economic Times on Wednesday, December 10 from 5:30-7:30pm at University of Toronto - The Multi-Faith Centre - Koffler Institute Building (569 Spadina Avenue - between Harbord and College Streets).

Many charities serving the LGBTTIQQ2 community are concerned about the how the negative forecast of the global economy will affect our services and programs. As many charities are in the midst of their year-end fundraising campaigns, non-profit staff and volunteers are bracing for a potential decrease in donations as Canadians tighten their belts.

“All our charities are already expected to do a lot with very little,” says Helen Kennedy, executive director of Canadian human rights group, Egale. “Not only is there a fear of fewer individual donations, reduced corporate sponsorship and reduced support from foundations and government are a concern.”

The Community One Foundation (formerly the Lesbian & Gay Community Appeal Foundation) and the LGBT Giving Network, a collaborative project of several LGBT agencies, recognize the importance of raising awareness around the issue of LGBT philanthropy and the benefits of working collectively. Moderated by Xtra managing editor, Matt Mills, the Shrinking Dollars forum goal is to bring together leaders in philanthropy so that both large and small charities are better aligned and informed to support our community.

“We know that our charities haven’t had the same access to traditional forms of fundraising but our charities could also be doing a better job of serving more people and connecting to our community if we had more resources,” says Philip Wong, executive director of the Community One Foundation, a community foundation that has been granting to LGBTTIQQ2 projects since 1980.

“Our community charities carry on the work of our activists and entrenches our community’s history - they are critical in transferring our experiences to the next generation of leaders. We have to develop a new culture of engaged donors if we want our history to move forward.”

Guest panelists include:

Scott Ferguson – Executive Director, Inside Out Lesbian and Gay Film and Video Festival

Susan Mullin, Vice-President, Development – York University Foundation & Board Member, Community One Foundation

Jo-Anne Ryan – Vice-President, Philanthropic Advisory Services, TD Waterhouse

Denny Young - Executive Director, Foundation Project - Sherbourne Health Centre

Thank you to Venue Sponsor: the Mark Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies at the University of Toronto, and Media Sponsor: Xtra.

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For more information please contact Philip Wong at info@communityone.ca or 416-920-5422.