



# PPT Now

Planned Parenthood Toronto Newsletter

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## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF PROVIDING CHOICE

## Fall 2010

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Dear Friends and Supporters of PPT,

It has been nearly 50 years since Barbara and George Cadbury organized the first meeting of the Planned Parenthood Association of Toronto in response to the arrest of Toronto pharmacist Harold Fine for providing the public with information on contraception.

The Cadburys were established family planning pioneers from England and, once in Canada, had a vision of a society that actively supported family planning and women's health. Barbara and George worked tirelessly and had many successes; however **fast forward fifty years later and it is painfully obvious that the Cadburys' vision has yet to become a true reality.** Picking up where the Cadburys left off, PPT continues to advocate for reproductive choice and unrestricted access to sexual health information for all. **I am proud to say that we are not alone in this fight – dedicated supporters like you have demonstrated that.**

As PPT approaches its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, next fall, **we want to hear from you!** PPT is excited to mark this important milestone and I hope you will take advantage of the number of ways that you can get involved.

**Please reach out and share your connection to PPT with me.** I am eager to hear from you about why you support PPT as a donor or volunteer, or access our services as a client - Tell me what motivates you to be a part of the organization!

Please contact me directly to share your story, and if you know of others who have been connected to PPT in the past, please invite them to do the same. You can reach me by email at [shobbs@ppt.on.ca](mailto:shobbs@ppt.on.ca), or by phone at 416-961-0113 extension 135.

**I look forward to hearing from you!**

Sincerely,

Sarah Hobbs  
Executive Director

## You're Invited...

**...To join us at our Annual General Meeting!**

Thursday, September 23rd, 2010  
6:00pm - 7:00pm

Planned Parenthood Toronto  
180 Bloor Street West, Suite 1202  
Toronto, ON M5S 2V2

Light refreshments will be provided at 5:30 pm.

**...To provide us with input**

into the future direction of the organization by completing PPT's planning survey! PPT is seeking input from clients, donors, members and the community to inform our next strategic plan.

Complete the survey online:

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/Z7PH2JZ](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Z7PH2JZ)  
For a hard copy contact Dianna Karapalevski at 416-961-0113 ext. 124

## COMMUNITY IN ACTION

### Let's Stop Rewinding Human Rights... and do some Fast Forward Thinking Instead!

A big thank you goes out to both LGBTQOut and VicPride for organizing the Canadian premiere of the film *8: The Mormon Proposition*, held on June 10th at the Isabel Bader Theatre. **Organizers donated the proceeds from the premiere to PPT, raising \$1,100 in support of our programs and services.**

*8: The Mormon Proposition* is a documentary that investigates the economic and political support of Proposition 8, a **backward milestone in Californian judicial history** as the proposition states that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California.

"The film was amazing!" says Sarah Siddiqui, PPT's Administrative Assistant, who attended the premiere. Sarah added that "having lived in Toronto for most of my life, a city that is relatively accepting of the LGBT community, I often forget about the struggles for equal civil rights and liberties that exist outside of our city. **I believe that this film offers an important reminder that rights can be taken away from us as quickly as they were awarded.**"

Thank you to everyone that attended the premiere to support the work that we do!

### Alumnae Theatre Company Takes to the Stage to Support Choice

On June 20th 2010, the audience roared with applause for the Alumnae Theatre Company's Toronto premiere of *The Abortion Monologues*, by Canadian Playwright Jane Cawthorne. The premiere served as a benefit performance and we are thrilled to announce that this inspirational show raised \$1,200 in support of Planned Parenthood Toronto.

Lynne Patterson, one of the show's producers and performers, shared with us that "**we felt it was important to demonstrate our support of the pro-choice movement** in response to Stephen Harper's announcement that Canada will not fund abortions in its G8 child and maternal health-care initiative for developing countries".



Lynne Patterson

When asked what the most rewarding part of the production experience was, Lynne said "by far it was **the fantastic dialogue it sparked** during the 'talk back session' after the performance. **I was overwhelmed and inspired by the number of women who opened up** and shared their own personal experiences with abortion".

"**The play was inspiring and embodied PPT's pro-choice values**" says Sarah Hobbs, Executive Director - "We are extremely grateful to the Alumnae Theatre Company for their support."

*Alumnae Theatre's mandate is to produce works that offer strong roles for women, are not often seen in Toronto and are written by Canadians. For more information on the Alumnae Theatre Company and their upcoming season, please visit [www.alumnaetheatre.com](http://www.alumnaetheatre.com).*

### Sex Ed Matters for Youth... Because they said so!



In January 2010, PPT applauded the provincial government for introducing an updated Ontario physical and health education curriculum that included revised information on sexual health topics. The revisions were based on research examining the needs of youth and informed by PPT's Toronto Teen Survey Research Report.

Unfortunately, Premier Dalton McGuinty made the decision to shelve the proposed curriculum in April.

In swift response, PPT launched a postcard campaign asking the public to join us in delivering our message to the provincial government in a unified voice urging them to implement the new sexual health curriculum without delay!

In addition, PPT helped coordinate the Rally for Reproductive Justice, and on Saturday, June 19th, we took to the streets of Toronto to advocate for sexual and reproductive rights!

Thank you to everyone who has stood with PPT to demonstrate that Sex Ed matters for youth!

# From Choice . . .

## Celebrating Excellence at PPT



We are thrilled to tell you that PPT has a winner of Canada's Top 40 Under 40 award in our family! I know you will join us in congratulating Rob Drynan, Chair of PPT's Board of Directors, on this amazing achievement.

"It was no surprise to us that Rob was selected from the list of about 1,100 nominees" says Sarah Hobbs, Executive Director of PPT. "We are honoured to

have him as a part of the PPT team"

Rob is currently the Executive Director of Camp Oochigeas, an organization renowned for its innovative and inspiring programming that enriches the lives of children with cancer and their families.

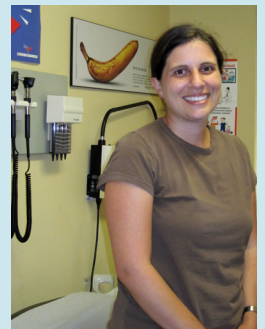
Rob says that "PPT holds a special place in my heart – it is always refreshing to be a part of such a forward thinking, innovative and energizing organization. We truly value the input of every stakeholder - clients, volunteers, donors, staff and the community at large - and together we are shaping the future of sexual and reproductive rights."

Thank you, Rob, for all you do for PPT and for making our world a better place!

Marisa DeLuca first came to Planned Parenthood Toronto in 2000 as a Nurse Practitioner student and in 2001 she joined the staff team as a Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner. Ten years later, Marisa continues to go above and beyond to provide youth with supportive, non-judgemental and holistic, sexual and primary health-care.

"Marisa is an excellent Nurse Practitioner and we really appreciate her commitment to PPT!" says Saad Hussain, PPT's Director of Community Health Services.

The thing that Marisa loves most about her work with PPT is "being able to have a positive impact on the lives of the youth I see every day." Marisa believes that "it is critical to see the whole picture, really listen to our clients and make sure we're addressing all of their needs."



Please join all of us at PPT in thanking Marisa for 10 years of dedication and providing clients with an unwavering quality of care!

## YOUTH T.E.A.C.H PEERS TO CONFRONT HOMOPHOBIA

In the lead up to Toronto's 2010 Pride festivities, PPT staff organized a series of activities to raise the funds that are urgently needed to support the **critical work of Teens Educating and Confronting Homophobia (T.E.A.C.H.)**.

Believing strongly in the value of T.E.A.C.H., PPT staff **rallied in support by raising over \$2,100 in benefit of the program**. Rhobyn James, a Community Health Promoter at PPT, shared that "it was amazing to see staff come together to embrace a culture of philanthropy by personally giving back to PPT and engaging the local community."

Thank you to Anna, Amber, Cheryl, David, Dianna, Fani, Lorena, Nadjla, Neil and Rhobyn for all of your efforts!

T.E.A.C.H. was established in order to address the need for youth-focused anti-homophobia work in the city of Toronto. While the LGBT movement has made significant progress over the past several decades, **homophobia is still a daily reality for most high school students**. This is why our volunteer peer facilitators continue to **address these issues by sharing their**

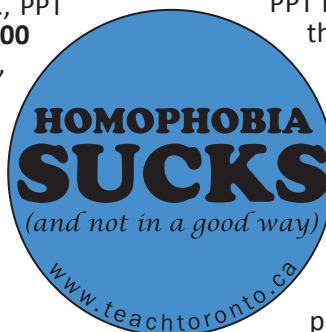
**own experiences of homophobia and helping youth to confront their own attitudes and beliefs** around homophobia and heterosexism.

You can support our youth in this endeavour by helping PPT reach our goal of raising \$5,000 for T.E.A.C.H this year.

Through the extraordinary efforts of our staff and those who supported their activities, PPT is almost half-way there. **You can help us reach the finish line by making a gift to T.E.A.C.H today.**

You can make your donation over the phone, by contacting Dianna Karapalevski at 416-961-0113 ext. 124, online at [www.ppt.on.ca/donate.asp](http://www.ppt.on.ca/donate.asp), or by completing the enclosed donation form and returning it in the postage paid envelope provided – just be sure to indicate on the form if you would like to direct your contribution to T.E.A.C.H.!

For more information about T.E.A.C.H please contact David Udayasekaran, at 416-961-0113 ext. 151 or by email at [dudayasekaran@ppt.on.ca](mailto:dudayasekaran@ppt.on.ca).



# ...a World of Possibilities

## YOUNG MEN PROVE "IT'S THAT EASY"

On July 22nd, we launched the *Young Men's Condom and Testing Campaign*, an initiative of PPT's *Young Men's Peer Project*.

Festivities at the launch included youth performers and recognized the inspirational achievements of the youth who created the *Young Men's Condom and Testing Campaign*, showing young men "It's That Easy" to use condoms and get tested!



Using a peer education model, training male youth as sexual health peer facilitators, the *Young Men's Peer Project* aims to increase the use of condoms and encourage HIV/STI testing among young men. The youth in the *Peer Project* were eager to be the faces of this innovative awareness initiative in order to help shift attitudes among their peers, encouraging other young men to take care of their sexual health and the health of their partner(s).

"The response to the campaign has been amazing" says Michele Chai, a Community Health Promoter at PPT. She added that "there isn't a lot of material out there that shows young men speaking positively to their peers about healthy sexuality. PPT is continuing to see more and more youth engaging in and encouraging discussion about these important issues, which shows that we're having an impact."

Thank you, Chris, Jamal, K.G and Tyson for your incredible contributions to the *Young Men's Peer Project* and to the MAC AIDS Fund for their generous support.

If you are a young man, or work with young men, and would like more information on this campaign please contact Michele Chai at 416.961.0113 ext. 152 or mchai@ppt.on.ca.

## A CLIENT PERSPECTIVE

all!  
Dear Staff at Planned Parenthood,  
I just wanted to write you all to let you know what a wonderful group of individuals P.P. has on staff. I just recently moved to Toronto from Nova Scotia and feel so fortunate to have found a clinic where I have been so well received and feel so at ease.  
I am full of admiration and actually so impressed in the way the clinic conducts itself and the values and respect it upholds for young people of all backgrounds, gender, sexual orientation, race etc.  
Please know that with each visit, your kindness and sensitivity for the health and well being of all patients never goes un-noticed or unappreciated.  
With warm regards,  
Julie Keeche  
June 2010



### Stay Connected!

Join PPT's online community:  
[twitter.com/PPTClinic](https://twitter.com/PPTClinic)  
[youtube.com/plannedparenthoodTO](https://youtube.com/plannedparenthoodTO)

Our facebook page has been given a facelift. Want to suggest a discussion topic? Leave your suggestion on our wall. You can now join the discussion at [facebook.com/PPTToronto](https://facebook.com/PPTToronto)



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### Have a question about sexual health?

If you're under 19, you can speak with a volunteer peer educator at the Teen Sex InfoLine at 416-961-3200 or chat live using MSN messenger at [spiderbytes@hotmail.com](mailto:spiderbytes@hotmail.com). Hours are Mon-Wed 4-9pm, Sat-Sun 12-6pm. To volunteer visit [www.ppt.on.ca/volunteer.asp](http://www.ppt.on.ca/volunteer.asp)

To book an appointment or for clinic drop-in hours call 416-961-0113 ext. 121

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