

Media Advisory

February 13, 2017

Re: Gender Journeys program of C.M.H.A. H.K.P.R

Gender Journeys, a Program of the Canadian Mental Health Association, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (C.M.H.A. H.K.P.R.) has been delivering education and support services for transgender people, gender diverse individuals, people questioning gender identity and their families, partners and loved ones since 2012. This program has been supported by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (O.T.F.), an agency of the Government of Ontario, since November 2013.

We wish to advise the community that the funding from the O.T.F. Grant has come to an end and the Gender Journeys program will close, effective March 31, 2017. However, we have made an application to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for a "Grow-Grant" to fund the Gender Journey Program for another three years. The Ontario Trillium Foundation will announce the successful grant recipients and award grants later this spring. We have already notified community partners, current participants of the program and any staff affected by this program closure but would appreciate the media assisting us in notifying the public.

The Gender Journey's Program, including current groups and drop-ins will operate until March 31<sup>st</sup>. After this date, C.M.H.A. H.K.P.R. Programs and Services such as Four County Crisis response, intake and brief services, housing and supportive employment programs will continue to offer services to all community members seeking support.

If someone is in urgent need of support, they should contact Four County Crisis at 705-745-6484 or 1-866-995-9933. Other community supports available are Rainbow Youth Coalition <http://parn.ca/community-building/rainbow-youth/> which provides support, community and a safe place to question and explore gender and/or sexuality. As well, [getinformed@parn.ca](mailto:getinformed@parn.ca) 705-749-9110; PFLAG [www.pflagpeterborough.com](http://www.pflagpeterborough.com) 705-749-9723 (also in Cobourg and Lindsay) a resource for family and trans and questioning folks; and two online resources <http://www.youthline.ca/> <https://www.translifeline.org/> are available.

We are optimistic and hopeful that we will be successful in our efforts to obtain long term funding through the O.T.F. "Grow Grant" to restart and sustain this important program. We will endeavor to communicate regularly any developments in this regard.

For any media inquiries regarding Gender Journeys, please contact Gordon Langill, Manager of Programs and Services, C.M.H.A. H.K.P.R. 705-748-6711 ext. 2022 or [glangill@cmhahkpr.ca](mailto:glangill@cmhahkpr.ca)

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