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Anna Travers, MSW
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333 Sherbourne St.
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To Whom it May Concern,

I am pleased to support the Sherbourne Health Centre's proposal for an Ontario Rainbow Health Resource Centre. Access and equity to health care services is a priority for the Ontario Public Health Association, and it is important that people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, transgender, two-spirit, intersex, queer and questioning have a resource centre that is accessible from anywhere in the province.

As mentioned in the proposal, persons from the LGBTTTTIQQ communities have a number of health concerns and issues that are not usually addressed in mainstream health care services. It is extremely important that these members of our community begin to have their health needs and concerns addressed.

The Sherbourne Health Centre proposal addresses many of the recommendations and strategies adopted by OPHA in its three position papers: *Improving the Access to and Quality of Public Health Services for Lesbians and Gay Men*, *Improving the Access to and Quality of Public Health Services for Bisexuals* and *The Trans Health Project*. Thus the proposal will develop regional advisory networks and informal community partnerships to assist LGBTTTTIQQ community members who do not have direct access to Sherbourne Health Centre services. The proposal also addresses recommendations from all three position papers for health professional training and cultural competency within health care organizations.

This is an important initiative that will benefit the many people in Ontario who identify as LGBTTTTIQQ.

If you have questions, please contact Jean Clipsham, Workgroup Chair at (905) 825-6065 of jean.clipsham@halton.ca.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours truly,

Dr. Garry Aslanyan
President, Ontario Public Health Association