

## **Justice en/in Action Committee (Just/Act)**

### **Ottawa Senior Pride Network (OSPN)**

#### **Terms of Reference – May 2019**

#### **1. Purpose**

The Committee's purpose is to enhance awareness of issues regarding equity, human rights, freedoms, and safety for LGBTQ2+ seniors. The Committee will advocate and seek to positively influence changes at the systems level in order to maintain and improve the issues above, and overall quality of life of LGBTQ2+ seniors.

The Just/Act Committee fosters an inclusive, respectful and dignified environment that allows for civil conversation, and a sharing of ideas to develop strong plans of action. The group recognizes that all members offer varying perspectives, opinions, experiences, geographic neighbourhoods (in Ottawa and area) and skill sets that benefit the group as a whole.

#### **2. Proposed Activities**

Just/Act seeks to strengthen, support and protect the LGBTQ2+ community, to foster greater emotional and mental well-being as well as to protect our basic human rights through anti-oppression work and forging strong alliances within and external to the Ottawa and area LGBTQ2+ community. Examples of possible activities could include:

- ✓ Meeting and forging alliances with other individuals or groups who value equity, and who work harmoniously with the Committee
- ✓ Calling for or joining protests such as for human rights, or against hate crimes
- ✓ Informing OSPN members about ideas or activities that affect the lives and rights of LGBTQ2+ seniors via social media, bulletins etc.
- ✓ Hosting or co-hosting Town Halls, fostering respectful discussions
- ✓ Analyzing social, justice and political issues and inform OSPN membership
- ✓ Contributing to gathering data to better understand member needs
- ✓ Utilizing data to help inform allies about senior LGBTQ2+ needs
- ✓ Informing members about issues and encouraging voting during election periods
- ✓ Bringing forward or contributing to longer-term projects such as Age-Friendly Communities or becoming a Rainbow City
- ✓ Creating opportunities for intergenerational activities
- ✓ Supporting the activities, vision, mission and values of OSPN & its Committees

### **3. Membership**

Anyone who is interested in either a) joining the Just/Act Committee or b) allying/partnering, is welcome. Two existing committee members will interview prospective candidates or organizations. The main criteria are to share similar values regarding equity, show an ability to work respectfully and harmoniously with existing members, and contribute new ideas, perspectives and skill sets.

### **4. Meetings**

Meetings are held monthly for 2 hours at an accessible, central location (to be determined on an ad hoc basis). More meetings could be scheduled as needed.

While a consensus may not be possible in all discussions or decisions, all members must be respectful to each other, as they would wish to be respected themselves.

### **5. Background**

The Just/Act Committee formed following the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of OSPN's October 20, 2018 open-invitation Forum "Visibility in Action". At the Forum, the on-going work of OSPN committees was acknowledged, and participants were invited to identify additional issues that affect members currently, and would affect them in the future. Tim Hutchinson identified the need to address the rising populism and hate crimes happening around the world, and clearly affecting LGBTQ2+ communities, among others.

A group of interested members began meeting regularly to continue discussions and ideas; a more formalized approach was developed over the fall and winter 2018-19. Just/Act became an official OSPN Committee, confirmed by the OSPN Coordinating Committee members by the May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting.

Founding members, in alphabetical order by first name: Andrew Ember, Deborah Leach, Diana Claire Douglas, Glenn Crawford, Holly MacKay, Jay Koornstra, Marie Robertson, Paul Richard, Pierette Carrière, Tim Hutchinson.