



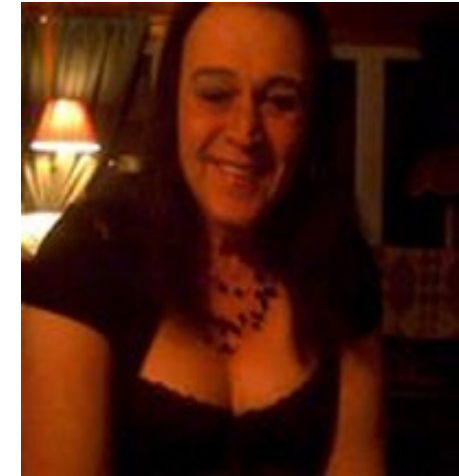
The Lost and Sometimes Forgotten

(Supporting our LGBTQ2S offenders)





Stacey Love-Jolicoeur Educator/Support Worker For the LGBTQ2S Community



A Little about me:

- Independent Education and Support worker for the LGBTQ2S community.
- Two-spirited Métis Trans woman with a strong passion for the betterment of the LGBTQ2S community
- Work involves coordination, group facilitation, LGBTQ2S competency training and peer to peer counseling along with presentations and workshops on diversity, acceptance, inclusion and affirmation that offer support to the LGBTQ2S community.
- My passion and insight and understanding into Tran's issues is often a welcomed resource to many companies, organizations and institutions.

- Currently provide LGBTQ2S services to offenders and administration in 9 (nine) correctional institutions around Ontario. With an ever increasing geographical service area, spanning from Ottawa on the east to Kitchener in the west and north to Penetanguishene.
- I provide services in both Federal and Provincial correctional facilities.
- Developed and Facilitate a training workshop called "Creating LGBTQ2S Cultural Competency" to administration staff, psychology, social workers, medical personal, the Wardens and Superintendents .
- Group facilitation and co-facilitation with the inmates of the LGBTQ2S & Friends groups.
- Peer to peer monthly support to LGBTQ2S offenders
- Recognized a need for peer to peer re-integration counseling for Trans offenders with a set release date.

- Supported by Canadian Mental Health Association ,CMHA HRB (Halton Region Branch) or Halton/Oakville offices.

- Volunteer as Coordinator of TRANSforum in Belleville, Member of RYO (Rainbow Youth Outreach), active executive on Belleville Pride and Pride in the Park committee



WELCOME TO:

The Lost and Sometimes Forgotten

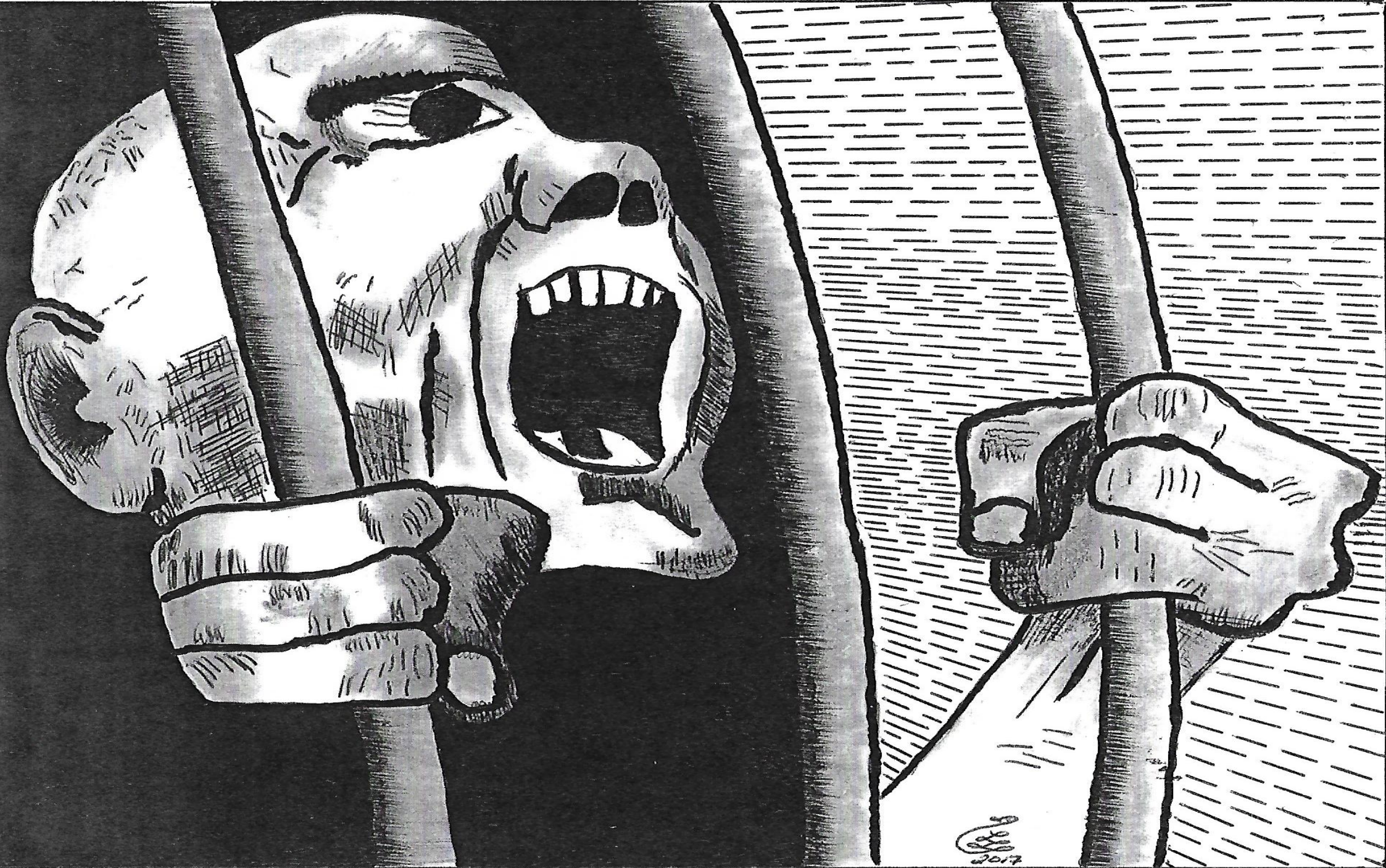
(Supporting our LGBTQ2S offenders)



CANADIAN
MENTAL HEALTH
ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION
CANADIENNE
POUR LA SANTÉ
MENTALE



Canada



How this all began.

During a very dark time in my life (2012-2013), my amazing Doctor suggested to me to participate in the Gender Journeys Program that was being run at the local CMHA (Canadian Mental Health Association) HKPR office. This program saved my life, completing the 10 week program I received information, support, encouragement and most of all confidence in myself to be my true authentic me.

Being out of work, I joined an employment agency that was offering a program called TIOW (Targeted Initiatives for Older Workers). This program allow me the opportunity to gain my Teachers Certificate and become a Certified Leader of Diversity and Inclusion from the CCDI (Canadian Center for Diversity and Inclusion).

While busy with studies for both of the above courses, I successfully gained a relief position with CMHA HKPR in the Gender Journeys Program (2014-2016, 2017-2018), providing group facilitation, facilitating drop in's, and providing Trans awareness training to local companies and organizations.

One October day (2015) my supervisor approached me, asking if I would be interested in attending at one of the local prisons in our catchment area to work with a new formed LGBTQ2S and Friends group. So four years ago was the start of an amazing journey that has lead me here today.

LGBTQ2S & Friends Group

- **Offender seen a need for community inside the walls.**
- **Proposed idea to Nurses.**
- **Forwarded to the Warden.**
- **Group was approved.**
- **Summer of 2015 planning underway.**
- **October 2015 first group.**
- **November 2015 CMHA (me) joins facilitation team of Community Partners.**
- **Group started with 12 now varies from 20-29.**
- **Offender created, Mission statement, Objective of group and guidelines.**

Community Partners



Canadian Mental
Health Association
Halton Region Branch
Mental health for all



Canadian Mental
Health Association
Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge
Mental health for all



Street Health Centre



LGBTQ2S & Friends Group Program

In these groups, we work from an agenda that is a collaborated response from the offenders as to what they wanted from group. This list is not definitive and can change to accommodate issues as they arise. Working with community partners we deliver information on:

- Sex “Lets talk about it”
- Mental Health in LGBTQ2S + community
- Life Outside – resources in the community
- Romantic Relationships (while inside and on the outside)
- Spirituality and Religion
- Substance use in the LGBTQ2S community
- Friendships
- Body Image, health and fitness
- Problems encountered and best practices to deal with them
- Living your true authentic self
- Ongoing support while incarcerated.
- Open dialog for groups needs on individuality of each sector of the population

This is the original document created by the offender that wanted community inside the walls.

(Has been adopted for all groups within correctional institutions)

LGBTQ2S and Friends

Mission Statement:

We are dedicated to providing a safe place where you can be yourself without fear of judgement. We seek to uphold the values of honesty, respect for the physical safety of others, respect for privacy and for human dignity. We welcome all inmates who are open minded, non-judgmental, and willing to work together to make this institution a safe, positive and equal environment for all.

Objectives:

- To educate and raise awareness about issues faced by the LGBTQ2S community and their friends and supporters, both here at this institution and in the broader community
- To offer support to this to those that are still exploring their sexuality, gender identity and sexual orientation
- To create a more positive and healthy environment for the LGBTQ2S & Friends here at this institution
- To educate inmates on safe sex, about HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis A, B and C and other STI's and health issues that face the LGBTQ2S community

Guidelines:

1. Those attending any event put on by the LGBTQ2S & Friends will respect the privacy of other. Unless you have permission of the person, please do not talk about that person's attendance at the group/workshop, outside the group events and do not disclose personal details and intimate issues that may have been discussed.
2. Respect whatever stage of the journey each person may be on as they deal with either their own sexual orientation / gender identity, or if they are there to find help in accepting a family member or loved one who is going through the journey. We should help each other and not pressure each other.
3. This group is about building a strong community here at this institution and creating good support networks for inmates. It is NOT about "hooking up". Please do not expect it to be, nor try to turn it into a "dating site".

1) This is from one of the original attendees:

Two years ago, working with the founder of the LGBTQ2S group here. I discovered a part of myself I never knew about. I discovered a strength inside I didn't know I possessed. Watching this group come together and grow and even spread out from this institution has been amazing. Knowing that this group is here for many of the guys who need a safe place, who need to know they are not alone, it makes me proud and gives me hope for the future, that maybe, even in prisons, we can end the stigma against those who are different, that even in prison, a person's orientation and gender identity will be accepted.

2) From Offender:

I would like to say that this Group for LGBTQ2S has been an awesome experience. It has opened my eyes to a lot of issues, such as Trans Issues and even issues related to my own sexual orientation. Being openly gay and a Catholic, I have had to deal with many of these issues.

3) From Offender: who title his submission "Scared and Alone"

I have been in prison for more than twenty years and have know a lot of men that are gay, bisexual and transgender and most were afraid to come out while incarcerated for fear of being assaulted. For the people that live the LGBT lifestyle here in this facility, we have a group that is well organized, with support of the Warden, support of Health Care and some very knowledgeable people from the street.

4) Letter from a Family Member of an offender:

I am writing this letter as a thank you for being a strong influence and support for my dad and other members of the LGBT community while they are in prison. Last year at Christmas dad told me how much the workshops has helped him and other members of the LGBT community at his prison and other prisons around Ontario.



Canada's source for
HIV and hepatitis C
information

La source canadienne
de renseignements sur
le VIH et l'hépatite C

Warkworth's LGBTQ2S and friends support group

Programming Connection

Canadian Mental Health Association, Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), PARN, PFLAG
Campbellford, ON
2016

Bright idea

Correctional Service Canada, along with PARN, PFLAG and the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) has been running an LGBTQ2S and friends group at the Warkworth Institution medium-security penitentiary for men since October 2015. The idea came from an inmate who recognized the need for support. He wanted to bring together LGBTQ2S folk and their allies to create a safe space where people could express themselves inside the walls of the prison. He proposed this idea to the infectious disease nurses at the Institution, Donna Davies and Susanna Tinney. They, in turn, met with CSC's Regional Manager of Public Health, Janice Thomson, to lay the groundwork for a proposal to the warden. After the warden granted support, things started rolling.

Donna and Susanna contacted PARN and PFLAG in early summer of 2015 to plan a workshop. That workshop was the first of its kind to be held in a federal prison. It was also an opportunity for the group to celebrate the creator of the proposal, who had since passed away. A second workshop was set for November - this time involving the Gender Journeys Program at CMHA.

Stacey Love-Jolicoeur, who works for CMHA and identifies as a two-spirit trans woman, is now one of the co-facilitators, along with Adam Kelly from PARN and Dianne McKay from PFLAG Canada. They lead the one and a half hour-long monthly group session at the prison. The program began with about 12 inmates and now attracts around 22 inmates. They talk about a range of topics, such as relationships, safer sex, mental health and other concerns raised by the participants. "Some of the inmates are identifying as trans women and that's a very hard thing for them being in an all-male institution," says Stacey.

Every meeting starts by reading the safe space guidelines to set the tone. Above all, members of the group know that what they say is confidential and respected. People share their stories, watch videos and partake in exercises that address LGBTQ2S issues. Each session ends with a "checkout" where people discuss what happened in the session. Some choose to document their feelings, questions or concerns in a book that is always available.

"There's always new people who come and feel more comfortable to be their true authentic selves. And as people have that confidence and that comfort, they can start to feel free," explains Stacey. "It's about making life inside prison more livable."

The current success of the group at the Warkworth Institution is a result of an inmate who had the courage to speak, health services staff and a warden who listened, and community groups who came together to offer their expertise and resources.

To find out more about this program, contact Adam Kelly at adam@parn.ca, Stacey Love-Jolicoeur at slove-jolicoeur@cmhahkpr.ca or Dianne McKay at ladydi@nexicom.net.

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Canada's source for
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information

As a result of the Catie Letter

- Many institution/facilities and detention centers asking for service creating a tsunami of requests.
- Provincial and Federal facilities were asking for help with more and more LGBTQ2S offenders.
- Word spread
- Referrals were being shared with other facilities needing/wanting service.

- Discovered/recognized (2015) a vast underserviced and under represented population
- Recognized need for training of front line staff prior to serving offenders
- Recognized need for peer to peer support
- Recognized opportunity to create a re-integration program
- Began to create, training workshops, formulated a peer to peer program, develop a re-integration program
- Started presenting to Institutions, facilities and detention centers around Ontario. (2015)
- Have presented the training workshop to more than 1500 correctional personal.

The Training Program

Creating LGBTQ2S Cultural Competency

Includes:

- Acknowledgment of the Lands we are on and thanks to our Creator for this amazing opportunity.
- Introduction to LGBTQ2S.
- Video and discussion on how we are all the same inside.
- History of LGBTQ2S and the flags.
- Identification and meaning of the Pride Flag and Trans Flag.
- Examining Gender Identification verses Sexual Orientation.
- Recognizing and understanding Gender, Male, Female, Non-Binary, Gender Non-Conforming, and or Gender Variant as it falls along the Gender Binary.
- Understanding Pronouns (he, him, his, she, her, hers, they, them, their,)
- Learning opportunities for front line staff to accommodate LGBTQ2S folks.
- How 2 spirit individuals are recognized and supported.
- How to support LGBTQ2S while incarcerated.
- Questions that are OK to ask.
- Questions that are NOT OK to ask.
- Changes coming as per directives being release.
- Questions and Answers.



Correctional Service Canada

Providing services in Currently 4 Federal Institutions in Ontario.



Ministry of Safety and Correctional Services

Providing services in Currently 5 Provincial Institutions in Ontario.

Offender Peer to Peer, 1:1 Support

In this program service I provided 1:1 needs based support. This is dependent on the needs of the offender, requests and or requirements. It could include ongoing personal support, providing of information and or documentation support. CHRC (Canadian Human Rights Commission) support and individualized support (such as, lawyers, medical professionals, and or family) as per the needs of the offender. This service/program is available on a one day per month calendar.

Success of this: 16 of 17 clients have not re-offended in 3 years

1) From an offender:

The support I have been receiving has allowed me to focus on myself and my well-being. The fear I had upon entering was crushing. Having support, I have gained confidence in myself and my surroundings. I feel this program is of huge benefit and hope it can expand in all jails.

2) From an offender:

Coming into the institution my whole identity was taken from me. My hair, my makeup, my clothes, and my community. After two years of hardship and struggle to break at least the stigma that there was about the LGBTQ2S community. I ask for help from a worker to look for someone from the community to come and offer support and strength to the LGBTQ2S offenders. Since this support has started (Stacey, thank you), it has been a great success in bringing together inmates and giving us a safe place with acceptance during the dark times we go through. I also pray this program can open doors and break down more stigma behind the walls in many more prisons.

Trans Offenders (with set release date) Re-integration Program

- In this program, I work with Trans individuals that have a set release date. In the program I work directly 1:1 with the offenders for approximately three months prior to their release date to provide opportunities upon release to be successful members of society and to not re-offend. In this program I look at (but not limited to):
 - Identification
 - Ongoing mental health support after release
 - Having a trans competent doctor/medical care provider
 - Housing
 - Financial help and or opportunities for employment
 - Who to call, when to call
 - Understanding stigma in society of being an offender
 - Educational opportunities
 - Living authentically as the person you are
 - Personal needs as required by the offender, may include conversations with family, friends, partners, other agencies and or speaking to the crown, lawyers, and medical care facilities.



Release by Correction Canada
(December 2017)



INFORMATION FOR OFFENDERS

Interim policy for transgender offenders

The *Canadian Human Rights Act* was changed on June 19, 2017 to ensure that people who identify as transgender are protected from discrimination. In December 2017, CSC implemented an Interim Policy Bulletin on Gender Identity or Expression.

What does transgender mean?

A transgender person is someone who identifies as a gender different from their sex or anatomy.

What is CSC's Interim Policy Bulletin on Gender Identity or Expression?

CSC's Interim Policy Bulletin on Gender Identity or Expression overrides other CSC policies, unless there are safety, health or security concerns that cannot be resolved. CSC's interim policy allows transgender offenders to:

- be placed in an institution that reflects their gender identity, if that is their preference, regardless of their anatomy or the gender on their identification documents
- be called by their chosen name and pronoun, such as "he", "she" or "they"
- keep their gender identity confidential and only shared with staff directly involved in their case
- have a protocol created for accommodation, such as spiritual ceremonies, use of showers and toilets, frisk and strip searches, urinalysis, decontamination showers, and monitoring under camera surveillance
- buy authorized items from CSC catalogues for either men or women if there are no safety, health or security concerns according to the security level of their institution
- wear clothing and have personal effects that suit their gender identity or expression

Who is eligible?

Offenders who would like to be accommodated based on their gender identity or expression for issues, such as institutional placements, transfers, and clothing and personal effects, can make a request. If a request is made, CSC will review your case, including your health needs, safety or security concerns, and access to correctional interventions and community supports. Your case management team will work closely with you in making recommendations.

QUESTIONS? Ask your Parole Officer and/or Health Services

This Interim policy was released by Correction Canada (December 2017)

Interim policy for transgender offenders states:

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- Have protocol created for accommodation, such as spiritual ceremonies, use of showers and toilets, frisk and strip searches, urinalysis, decontamination showers, and monitoring under camera surveillance
- Buy authorized items from CSC catalogues for either men or women if there are no safety, health or security concerns according to the security level of their institution
- Wear clothing and personal effects that suit their gender identity and expression.

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Supporting our LGBTQ2S Offenders

Pro's

- Creates community inside the walls
- Allows individuals to be true authentic self
- Reduces bigotry and discrimination
- Increases offenders mental health and well being.
- Reduces behavioral issues when recognized and accepted

Con's

- Huge geographical area
- Singular (only me)
- Lack of funding to provide to other institutions, facilities and detention centers requesting services
- Must deal with lock downs to which offenders miss the opportunities of programs

Offenders Request To the LGBTQ2S community.

LGBTQ2S Mail exchange

(Currently about 3-400 offenders looking to participate)

LGBTQ2S offenders are looking for mail pals.

- No access to internet
- No access to cell phones
- Helps to build community
 - Snail mail

Thank You!



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Health Association**
Halton Region Branch
Mental health for all



Canadian Mental
Health Association

Association canadienne
pour la santé mentale

Hastings And Prince Edward Branch



TRANSforumQuinte.ca

"It's never too late to be who you might have been"



Knowledge is
having the right
answer.

Intelligence is
asking the right
question.



The only bad question is the one not asked and an assumption is made

Stacey Love-Jolicoeur

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