

National Pink Triangle Committee Report to PEI Division Convention 2009

The PEI Equity Committee is up and running again and I attended both meetings where we developed resolutions for this Convention, explored suggestions for events, actions or campaigns, and strategized around ways to promote equity issues. We know that there is still much to do around equality issues and look forward to working with all of you to create safe, healthy, caring workplaces and communities.

I have just returned from the National Pink Triangle Committee meeting where the focus was the National Convention being held in October of this year. Our committee will be hosting the LGBTTI caucus (Tuesday at noon) and a social evening open to all delegates (as yet to be determined). We also will be participating in the Equality Forum being held on Thursday evening. We hope to have (at either the caucus or the forum) a guest speaker from the Rainbow Railroad, a quasi-clandestine organization that helps homosexuals exit from countries that would otherwise torture, imprison, or even execute them because of their sexual orientation. In countries like Iran, this involves a number of "safe houses" and persons risking their lives and so the need for secrecy. The National Pink Triangle Committee hopes to be able to support this intriguing and worthwhile organization and I encourage those of you who will be attending Convention to participate in these events.

The Pink Triangle Committee will also be updating and "sprucing up" many of its outdated and tired materials. Our committee is also embracing technology and the many ways it can help us network, communicate with other members and promote our issues. We will be looking at Union Book, a Facebook like site for trade unionists.

Four members from our committee, and a member of the Secretary-Treasurer's Office, will be attending the "Workers Out" and the Conference on Human Rights component of the Out Games which will be held in Copenhagen in July/August. Although CUPE will not be presenting any workshops this year, our delegates will be promoting our Union ideals in our search for social justice and equality.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your support over the last 10 plus years that I had the honour of representing you at the National Pink Triangle Committee. Our next committee meeting will probably be my last, so I encourage you to help me find some one to take up the cause (my shoes are not very big to fill) and continue the work that must be done.

In Pride and Solidarity
Dale McClure