



BIG News for the LGBTTTQ Community in the Central Okanagan – we will soon be opening our own social space – a downtown coffee bar and community centre! Thanks especially to Ben, Neal and Daryle ORC has secured a grant to establish a gathering place and resource centre for our community. This generous grant was made possible by the *we're funny that way foundation* based in Toronto <http://www.werefunnythatway.org/>

The Board of Directors of the Okanagan Rainbow Coalition have accepted the grant in the amount of \$35,000.00 to cover the rent, utilities and the wages for a part-time coordinator for a one year period. Also part of the grant is to cover the legal costs of getting *charitable status* for ORC. We have secured a facility located at 1476 Water St., in Kelowna, on a month to month basis for one year.

The Goal as set out in the grant application is: **To establish a Community Resource Centre, in Kelowna for members of the LGBTTTQ Community and to provide resource to the entire community** – with the following objectives established:

- 1. Open a Community Resource Centre for the LGBTTTQ Community in the Central Okanagan.**
- 2. Work with the two youth groups in the Okanagan – YouthGlo in Vernon and Out with Friends in Kelowna to develop and implement a “Peer Volunteer Training Program” for the two groups**

We are looking to the LGBTTTQ Community for support our new space, and our first request is we will need furniture and supplies for the centre.

The space initially will be used for groups meetings for:

- Out with Friends Group
- Gay Straight Alliance
- Other Groups that identify themselves.
- Gay & Lonely Group
- Board of Directors

The Board will be working with a Committee to develop additional programming for the space like: If you would like to volunteer please contact Lane at trawler@telus.net

- Gay Men’s Book Club
- Movie Night
- Games Night
- Special Occasions – where will be able to have licensed events

We are in need of:

- a couple of couches in good condition,
- some soft seating chairs,
- a computer that is not too old and will be able to access the internet
- miscellaneous cleaning supplies, broom, mop, pail, cleaner, vacuum
- toilet paper, paper towels for the washrooms
- garbage cans
- a stereo system
- Art work
- Coffee cups, flatware
- A small fridge
- Microwave

So if you are spring cleaning or just de-cluttering and the items are in good shape and you would like to help us out. Please contact Daryle Roberts at djroberts@shaw.ca

If you would like to volunteer in supporting the center and have time please contact Daryle Roberts at djroberts@shaw.ca

If you have ideas of events and activities – let us know – contact the board@gayokanagan.com

ORC, will be holding a naming contest for the space, so watch your e-mail for the opportunity to participate in this great opportunity for the LGBTTQ community.

A BIG THANK YOU to Maggie and the *we're funny that way foundation*:

Their Mission:

We're Funny That Way is a national fundraising organization whose goal is to raise funds to support queer organizations across Canada. Specifically, the We're Funny That Way™ Foundation aims to donate funds to organizations that will be highly impacted by their receipt. Towards the end, we try to seek out small struggling or start-up organizations especially those in less populated areas that support the queer community in a variety of ways. We support youth, health, social and arts organizations. We aim to make our grants have the most impact possible and by focusing on groups that operate on shoestring budgets or groups that bring essential services such as counselling and support to queer youth we intend to meet that goal.