



Safe and Caring Schools – A Resource for Equity and  
Inclusion in Manitoba Schools

# LGBTQ ROLE MODELS & SYMBOLS



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**possibility**



# LGBTQ ROLE MODELS

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## ADVOCACY



*Arthur Blankstein* ✨  
b. January 25, 1945

Arthur grew up in a liberal minded home with parents who were very accepting of all lifestyles. He went to Kelvin High School and then attended United College (now University of Winnipeg). After a year or 2 of Arts Arthur applied and was accepted into the Department of Interior Design in the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Manitoba. His choice of profession was a reflection of his abilities and an extension of his family legacy as his Grandfather, Father, Aunt and Uncle all studied and practiced architecture in Winnipeg. After graduation Arthur worked in Winnipeg for his father's architectural firm and

then moved to Toronto to find his own way.

Arthur practiced Interior Design in Toronto for nearly 10 years. During his time in Toronto he served as President of the Registered Interior Designers of Ontario and began his first affiliation with the World Congress of GLBT Jews (an international LGBTQ organization). Upon his return to Winnipeg at the end of the 1970's he re-established his private practice in Interior Design.

Arthur has served on various community boards – The Winnipeg Jewish Theatre, The Jewish Heritage Centre of Manitoba, The Shaarey Zedek Synagogue, and others. He married his life partner Ken Ure in Vancouver in 2004 in a civil ceremony at a cousin's home and then when the opportunity presented itself they were married in a religious ceremony at the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue in January 2012. He is so very grateful for the opportunity to always be himself, and for the unconditional acceptance of his extended family and friends.

*Bio provided by role model*



*Karen Busby*  
b. September 17, 1958

Carrying a secret is a big burden, especially if you think that you will lose friends and opportunities if others learn about it. I carried not one but two secrets: I was queer and my dad was in jail for bank robbery. So how did I manage to become a lawyer and then a law professor in “everyone-knows-everyone’s-business” Winnipeg? I resolved to be the best I could be; I would prove that those who expected nothing from me were wrong. Some would say that I had a big chip on my shoulder.

We moved to Winnipeg from another city when my dad was charged because the bullying was too intense. I was placed in a class for academically challenged kids simply because

the school authorities—who knew about my dad—did not expect much of me, even though I had always been a top student. It was a brutal year as I struggled not to live down to their expectations. I truly loved learning and managed to show my teachers that I should be taken seriously. After that first year, my teachers were terrific. All kids need to find at least one great teacher who will be their mentor and champion.

When everyone is watching you and expecting you to fail—either because you are queer or for some other reason-- you need to figure out how to be fabulous at something. Singing, sports, sewing, spelling...do something. The world is not going to be very forgiving of you—so you have to resolve to stay out of trouble.

To tell the truth, I became a lawyer because it seemed prestigious and I wanted to prove something. I planned to graduate from law school, get the best job in the city and then quit to do something altogether different. To my surprise, I loved the work. If you are angry, like I was,

## Advocacy cont'd

channel that anger into something useful—like proving that you can do something that no one thinks is likely.

Going to the University of Manitoba changed my life. The weird social preoccupations of high school disappeared and I was given a buffet of amazing things to study. University may or may not be for you but you need to have a goal and some kind of a plan to achieve it.

*Bio provided by role model*



**El-Farouk Khaki**  
b. October 26, 1963

I call myself the accidental activist because much of my work for justice, human dignity and inclusive communities has arisen from my own need and search for spaces where I can be authentically whole. I identify as a queer African Muslim man of colour, a feminist and an immigrant.

I was born in Tanzania. My families, of mixed South Asian and Middle Eastern descent, are many generations African, and my father was active in the independence movement. Political persecution forced us to flee in 1970. We went first to England and after three years, came to Canada. I grew up always being the 'Other' sometimes because of my skin colour, other times because I am Muslim, or because I was different from the other boys even before I knew I was gay.

I was raised in an open minded religious Muslim home for whom Islam was an inclusive and diverse tradition and spiritual path. However, when in my teens I realized I was attracted to other guys, I thought I was going to go to hell. Many nights, I prayed I would wake up straight. It never happened. I was traumatized until I embraced the belief that God (Allah) had created me intending me to be gay, and that Allah as ‘the Tenderly Compassionate, Infinitely Merciful’ (al-Rahman and al-Raheem) loved me just the way I was made.

Despite my own inner reconciliation of faith and sexuality, there were no safe, non-judgmental spaces for LGBTI Muslims. My need for such a community led me in 1991 to start Salaam: A Support group for Lesbian and Gay Muslims. In later years, Salaam – now ‘Salaam: Queer Muslim Community’, became the inspiration for the formation of LGBTI Muslim groups around the world.

Professionally, I am a refugee and immigration lawyer, primarily representing women fleeing gender violence, LGBTQI People fleeing persecution because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity, as well as people fleeing persecution because of their HIV status.

I have sat on the boards of many organizations including the Toronto Mayor’s Committee on Community and Race Relations, the 519 Church Street Community Centre and APAA (Africans in Partnership against AIDS). I am a public speaker on Islam, the Immigration and Refugee system, human rights, racism, politics and HIV/AIDS, and have had regular TV, radio and print appearances. My activism has

been recognized through Awards including the 2006 “Excellence in Spirituality” Award from Pride Toronto, the 2007 SOGIC Hero Award from the Canadian Bar Association; as well as the prestigious Steinert & Ferreiro Award in 2007. In 2008, I ran for Canadian Federal Parliament in two elections for the New Democratic Party of Canada.

In May 2009, I co-founded the el-Tawhid Juma Circle, a gender equal, LGBTI affirming Mosque space with my spouse Troy Jackson and friend Dr. Laury Silvers. Functioning in Toronto as the Toronto Unity Mosque, we now have 3 sister communities in Canada, and have resourced and inspired similar mosques in the UK, US and other countries.

In addition, I am one of the owners of the Glad Day Bookshop, the World’s oldest surviving LGBT bookshop. I am now enrolled in the Muslim Chaplaincy/ Pastoral Studies Master’s program at the University of Toronto as part of my on-going commitment to societal change and social justice through the creation of inclusive spaces that enable spiritual transformation and celebrate human dignity.

*Bio provided by role model*



*Chris Vogel* *Rich North* ✨  
b. April 23, 1947      b. June 28, 1951

Rich attended Silver Heights Collegiate, University of Winnipeg (BA, Economics), and Red River College (Diploma, Computer Analyst/ Programming) and worked as a carpenter. Chris attended Charleswood Collegiate and the University of Manitoba (BA, Arts and Sciences) and became a civil servant in the Manitoba Department of Natural Resources working as a land use planner.

We met in 1972 and have been together since that time. We became involved in the Campus Gay Club at the University of Manitoba in 1973. This club evolved into Manitoba's first gay liberation organization, Gays for Equality.

In 1973, we were the first homosexuals to apply for a marriage licence in Canada. When the Government of Manitoba refused to issue a licence, Reverend Norman Naylor

of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg married us using the Christian tradition of Proclamation of the Banns. When the Government of Manitoba refused to register our marriage, we took the Province to court.

Chief Judge Alan R. Philp of the county courts of Manitoba ruled in the case of *North v Matheson* that Mr. Matheson, the Director of Vital Statistics, did not have to register the marriage because no marriage had taken place. His ruling concluded, "I view it as self-evident that the ceremony performed Feb. 11,



1974 was not a ceremony of marriage, it was a nullity.” This was the first case in Canadian law to challenge the exclusion of same-sex couples from civil marriage in Canada. .

In 2004, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms provided a legal framework to challenge the exclusion of same-sex couples from civil marriage in Canada, and we were one of three couples in the court case which redefined civil marriage in Manitoba to encompass same-sex couples. On September 16, 2004, the Manitoba Court of Queen’s Bench declared in the case of *Vogel v. Canada* that the current definition of marriage was unconstitutional and Manitoba became the fifth jurisdiction in Canada to legalize same-sex marriage.

We did not remarry in 2004 because we were married 30 years earlier in the Unitarian Church of Winnipeg. On February 24th, 2013 we submitted a formal letter of application for registration of our marriage to the Director of Vital Statistics for the Province of Manitoba.

We were baby boomers. We had the good fortune to come of age during the 60’s. The conspiracy of silence surrounding homosexuality was the greatest barrier to gay liberation, and our first challenge was a struggle for visibility. We put up thousands of posters over the years in Winnipeg. Most were ripped down. In those days, homosexuality was so taboo that the Manitoba Telephone System would not publish a listing for Gays For Equality in the telephone directory.

Education is the key to overcoming prejudice, but when we came out, there was almost no positive information about homosexuality available. We did many mass mailings over the years. Our first mass mailing was the distribution to all libraries in the province of the book *Society and the Healthy Homosexual* by Dr. George Weinberg which introduced the word “homophobia” into the language.

The gay movement was built around the campaign for legal equality, and we played a central role in the campaigns for human rights protection and spousal benefits for same-sex couples in Manitoba. Gay liberation was also a journey from shame to pride, and we organized gay pride celebrations at U of M and U of W in 1974 and 1975. In 1974 we helped organize the 2nd National Gay Conference which was held in Winnipeg, and which included the first gay march in Winnipeg.

Religious issues are central in gay oppression, and in 1978 we established the Council on Homosexuality and

Religion. The Council published a number of booklets and pamphlets. These included What the Bible says about Homosexuality, and Your Questions Answered about Homosexuality that were used across Canada.

We knew that positive media coverage was the key to success, but the mainstream media was not interested in gay content in those days. We decided to do it ourselves. In 1978 we took to the airwaves with the weekly radio program Gay Christian Forum, later Gaysweek, on CJUM-FM. This radio program ran from 1978 until 1980. Chris then hosted a weekly cable television program "Coming Out," from 1980 until 1994.

It's hard to come out when there's no place to go, and Winnipeg needed places for gay people to meet. Rich came up with the idea of combining a social venue with a community service centre, and in 1980 we were founding members of the Oscar Wilde Memorial Society which operated Gio's for 30 years.

After 40 years of gay activism, it is gratifying to see the change in attitudes toward gay people that has taken place in Winnipeg. In 1969, homosexuality was a criminal offense in Canada. Now we have legal equality. In most of the world, gay people can only dream of the freedom and acceptance we enjoy in Canada.

The persecution of queer people around the world is the challenge that faces the gay liberation movement today, and with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, young gay activists in our city will have unique opportunities to contribute to the liberation of queer folk around the world. We

look forward to seeing young political activists rise to the challenge of spreading the gay liberation movement around the world.

*Bio provided by role models*



**Jared Kevin Star**   
b. December 28, 1986

Jared Star grew up in Winnipeg and suffered from discrimination and homophobic bullying throughout his time in junior high and high school. This led to Jared dropping and pursuing a life of substance abuse and crime. Once he connected to care through the support of The Rainbow Resource Centre, he turned his life around and is now actively involved in the fight for LGBTTT\* rights.

Jared is currently working towards a Bachelor's in Social Work with the aim to continue community development for LGBTTT populations and youth. His hobbies and interests include DJ'ing and music, art and volunteering with Multicultural Youth Outreach initiatives with the Province of Manitoba.

Professionally, Jared coordinates the Youth Program for the Rainbow Resource Centre which includes a drop-in program, community consultation, activism and outreach, advocacy and social justice with a focus on community building. He also works to educate youth in the school system and other youth serving

settings around issues of LGBTTT awareness and anti-homophobia education.

On any given day, Jared receives calls from community workers, parents, youth and schools with questions of how to support LGBTTT\* youth and the people in their lives. This includes dealing with the risk factors faced by LGBTTT\* youth, including suicide, substance abuse, homelessness, bullying and discrimination and mental health needs. These issues inspire Jared to continue his work, along with drawing from his own experience as a youth facing similar circumstances.

Jared's goals for the future include a community space and online forum for youth involved in their school GSA's to connect and share information and resources; an LGBTTT youth housing initiative that addresses homelessness and exploitation, and the development of the Peer Project 4 Youth program at the Rainbow Resource Centre.

In his downtime, you can find Jared pursuing his wellness goals through yoga, fitness training and the outdoors, or playing music for his friends!

*Bio provided by role model*



## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



trey anthony  
b. 1974

Award winning playwright, executive producer, actor, creator, and stand-up comedian

trey anthony, is known for the ground-breaking television and theatrical production *'da Kink in my Hair*. Critics have referred to anthony as The 'Oprah of the Canadian theatre scene'! trey was also the executive producer, co-creator and writer of the hit television show *'da Kink in my Hair* for Global Television. In the series she was the outspoken, wise-cracking, Joy, who has become an audience favourite!

*'da Kink in my Hair*, theatrical play, was Dora nominated and has received critical acclaim, and broken box office records

wherever it has played. The play is also the recipient of four NAACP Theatre awards and was the first Canadian play to be produced at the Princess of Wales Theatre, Canada's largest commercial theatre. It was named as one of the top ten plays in Canada's theatrical history! *'da Kink* has been seen in California, in London, England and made its New York debut at Tisch School for the Arts at New York University in October 2010.

anthony is the first Black Canadian woman to write and produce a television show on a major prime time Canadian network. She is a former television producer for the Women's Television Network (now W) and a writer for the Comedy Network and CTV. She was also the executive producer of the Urban Women's Comedy Festival, *dat girl, sho is funny!* She co-wrote, *I Am Not a Dinner Mint*, *The Crap Women Swallow to Stay in a Relationship!*, which debuted in 2006 to sold-out audiences. Following in the line of successful theatre plays came, *Secrets of a Black Boy*, (the male response to *'da Kink*

*in my Hair*) in 2009 at the prestigious Music Hall, written by her brother Darren Anthony and was produced by Trey Anthony Studios.

A mentor and role model, anthony, who went to high school in Brampton, Ontario, regularly visits schools to inspire youth, including her alma mater Notre Dame Secondary School. She volunteers with the Black Queer Youth Group, speaks to students about body image and other issues facing female adolescents, and gives away tickets to her shows to youth and women in shelters.

In 2009, anthony founded, *The Trey Anthony@One Centre* in Toronto, a women-focused, creative wellness facility. The Centre offered workshops and classes on creative writing, well being and spirituality.

“What is my own personal call to action to make a difference in this world, and not only the world but in my own life?” It is this approach that trey anthony applies to all aspects of her life and why she is a much sought after speaker. It was one reason among many why she was selected to give an address at TEDX Toronto 2010, on September 30, which received a standing ovation.

trey is now on tour with the popular touring show *‘da Kink in my Hair*, which is scheduled to open in Atlanta September 2013 featuring a star studded cast. She is also busy working on pre production of her new play, *Black Mothers don’t say I love you* and a documentary film.

[www.treyanthonystudios.com](http://www.treyanthonystudios.com) [dakinkinmyhair.com](http://dakinkinmyhair.com)



*Billy G. Merasty* ✨  
b. May 16, 1960

Billy G. Merasty, of Cree and Metis origins, was born in Brochet, in North Western Manitoba. His Cree-speaking parents lived in the old nomadic way, where they hunted and trapped in the winter time, and then fished during the summer months. His early years were spent living with his parents, hunting and fishing on the Manitoba side of Reindeer Lake. Billy considers it to be his greatest fortune to have been nurtured in this nomadic world, in a large loving Cree family where strong principles of hard work, and a great sense of courtesy for all people, were honed and established. It is this early experience that makes him truly unique in this world, and what makes him very proud to claim his own history in this country.

As he began to learn the English language upon entering school in grade 1, he fell in love with words and books. This new learning inflamed his imagination, adding further to the inspiration that came from the natural storytellers in his family who were able to remember many great stories and carry an entire oral culture within their living memories. These experiences left him with a deep curiosity to search, listen, learn, and absorb.

Billy Merasty comes from a distinguished line of First Nations artists. His uncles, the late ballet dancer Renee Highway and the writer Tomson Highway provided gay-positive role models for the young Two-Spirited man growing up in a homophobic small town in northern Manitoba.

Billy left Brochet, when he was 14 to go to School in Cranberry Portage, The Frontier Collegiate Institute. He attended school there from grades 9 to 11, until his life was threatened by the local town boys and he was forced to transfer to another

school. Billy recalls that the last year of high school was very tough and the only thing that kept him going was his instinctual determination to finish school. He began grade 12 at Swan River Regional Secondary School and then, after begging to be transferred out, he ended the year at Crocus Plains Regional Secondary School in Brandon, from which he graduated and received his high school diploma.

A few months after finishing high school Billy began a journey that would lead to a career as an actor. In November he hitch-hiked out of Thompson, and left for Winnipeg in search of his future. Shortly thereafter he left again, this time for Toronto, and eventually ended up in New York City. He wanted to explore the world, strengthen his sense of identity, and rebuild his peace of mind.

In the summer of 1983, he enrolled in the Native Theatre Summer School in Ontario. And upon graduation, he began his professional career

that includes theatre, television, film, and radio. He enrolled in Ryerson University's Theatre Department in the 1986/87 year, but left the program in the second year after being offered a lead role in a feature film.

Merasty began his career on stage. He appeared in his uncle Tomson Highway's popular *Dry Lips Outta Move to Kapaskasing* at Toronto's Theatre Passe Muraille. He has since appeared in numerous stage performances. He won a Theatre Excellence Award from the Detroit Free Press for his performance in Lanford Wilson's *Raindance* at Jeff Daniel's Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Michigan. In addition, Merasty has acted in numerous productions of the Native Earth Theatre, including *Ravens*, and in *The Sage, Dancer and the Fool*, *The Beavers*, *Diary of a Crazy Boy*, *Fireweed* (which he also wrote), *Lady of Silences*, and, most recently, *Trickster of 3rd Ave. East*.

Merasty has also worked extensively on television. Some notable appearances include playing Donald Marshall Jr. in Paul Cowan's CBC/NFB production, *Justice Denied*. He played Nathan, a series regular, on *Liberty Street*, a role which won him the James Buller Award from the Centre for Indigenous People. His role as 'Zachary John' in *Honey Moccasin* won him the Best Actor prize at the Red Earth Aboriginal Film Festival in 1998.

On the big screen, Merasty has appeared in Atom Egoyan's *Exotica*, in Denis Arcand's *Stardom*, in Robert LePage's *Le Confessional*, and in George Hickenlooper's *Casino Jack*.

Merasty wrote his first play, *Fireweed*, in 1992 and has spent several years, off and on, working on his second, *Godly's Divinia*, which he describes as a kind of native Romeo and Juliet.

In 2010 Billy was inducted into the Order of the Buffalo Hunt from the Manitoba Legislature in recognition for my many years as an Aboriginal role model from Manitoba.

*Bio provided by role model*



**Rick Mercer**  
b. October 17, 1969

Rick Mercer began his career in comedy performing and writing with a series of one-man stage shows, beginning with *Show Me the Button*, which debuted at the National Arts Centre in 1990 and went on to tour the country. Subsequent stage performances were in *I've Killed Before, I'll Kill Again* (1992) and *Canada: A Good Place to Hide* (1995).

Mercer launched his television career in 1994 as one of the creators, performers, and writers on the hit topical weekly show **This Hour Has 22 Minutes**. In 1998 he joined Gerald Lunz and Michael Donovan to create the satirical dramatic series **Made In Canada**, where he again starred and contributed as



a writer. In 2001 his CBC Television special **Talking To Americans** became the highest rated Canadian comedy special of all time with 2.7 million viewers. *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Le Monde*, and the *Los Angeles Times* all ran articles about the impact of **Talking to Americans** and Mercer went on to discuss it on ABC's **Nightline** and NBC's **The Today Show**.

A recipient of well over 25 Gemini Awards for television writing and performance, Mercer was given the Sir Peter Ustinov Award at the Banff Television Festival, named Journalist of the Year at the Atlantic Journalism Awards, Artists of the Year from the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council, and has received a number of Canadian Comedy Awards. He is the sole civilian recipient of the Canadian Armed Forces Commander Land Forces, Command Commendation in recognition of his support of Canadian peacekeepers, and in 2004 he received the National Arts Centre Award at the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards.

Mercer went to Afghanistan in the fall of 2003 to entertain the troops and tape **Rick Mercer's Christmas in Kabul** a special for CBC Television. He has returned twice to Afghanistan to visit the Canadian Forces.

As a solo performer he has hosted the East Coast Music Awards, The Gemini Awards, Juno Awards, the history series It Seems Like Yesterday, the annual Canada Day show from Parliament Hill, and in 2008 he hosted the CBC Television special The Next Great Prime Minister for the second time.

Mercer has written for *Time*, *Maclean's*, *The Globe and Mail*, and the *National Post*. His first book, *Streeters*, hit the top of the *Globe and Mail's* best-seller list, and his second book, *Rick Mercer Report: The Book*, published in the fall of 2007, also went to the top of the national best-seller list. Rick latest book is *A Country Worth Ranting About* that was published in September, 2012 and became another best-seller.

He has appeared in the movies **The Vacant Lot**, **Understanding Bliss**, **Secret Nation**, and **Bon Cop, Bad Cop** and is in the upcoming **The Young and Prodigious Spivet** with Helena Bonham Carter and Judy Davis.

In 2006 Rick and Belinda Stronach founded the charity Spread the Net, which raises funds to stop the spread of malaria by providing mosquito nets for African children. Each season the finale of **The Rick Mercer Report** is the Spread the Net Student Challenge which has raised now over one million dollars. Other charities he has been active in include Hope

Air, PFLAG, and Toronto's Casey House, a hospital for people living with HIV/AIDS.

He is on the board of The Historica-Dominion Institute, an organization dedicated to promoting the study of Canadian history, identity and citizenship.

Rick holds Honorary Doctorates from Memorial University, Laurentian University, University of British Columbia, McMaster University, Bishop's University, Brock University and in 2012 received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Guelph.

Rick Mercer is a native of St. John's, Nfld.

*Bio provided by CBC*



Tegan & Sara Quin  
b. 1980

Tegan and Sara's 13-year career has seen them build an avid global following of fans and fellow musicians alike. Their unique ability to bridge the pop and indie worlds has allowed their music to cross all traditional boundaries of genre, from being covered by The White Stripes to collaborating with superstar DJs such as Tiesto and David Guetta. They are internationally-celebrated songwriters, performers, and artists.

Tegan Quin and Sara Quin were born in Calgary, Alberta in 1980 and began playing guitar and writing songs at age 15. Following the release of their first independent full-length album in 1999, *Under Feet Like Ours*, they caught the attention of Neil Young's iconic manager, Elliot Roberts, who quickly signed

them to his Los Angeles-based label, Vapor Records. Tegan and Sara's first international release on Vapor, *This Business Of Art*, was followed by extensive worldwide touring, including opening slots with Neil Young himself and a first appearance on The Late Show with David Letterman.

In 2002, the band released *If It Was You*, a foundational moment in Tegan and Sara's creative path and musical identity. Its fresh sonic template and critical success in the US set up their fourth studio album, *So Jealous*, which ultimately provided their global breakthrough. On the heels of 6 separate song placements on Grey's Anatomy, a US radio hit in "Walking With A Ghost", and a North American tour opening for The Killers, *So Jealous* cemented Tegan and Sara's status as one of Canada's pre-eminent songwriting forces and musical exports.

In 2007, the release of *The Con* brought even more critical and commercial acclaim to Tegan and Sara. Their sixth studio album, *Sainthood*, was released in

2009 and was accompanied by a self-published three-volume book set titled *ON, IN, AT*, which chronicled a year in the life of Tegan and Sara, in both words and pictures. *Sainthood* was ultimately nominated for a Juno Award and the Polaris Prize. One of the album's singles, "Alligator," was remixed by a wide cross-section of artists including Four Tet, Passion Pit, Ra Ra Riot, and VHS or Beta.

In 2011, Tegan and Sara released *Get Along*, a CD/DVD set that included a live record and a collection of 3 films giving a rare and intimate look into their lives and music.

Tegan and Sara have played countless festivals around the world. Their music has been featured in major network television programs including 90210, Parenthood, Grey's Anatomy, Veronica Mars, The Vampire Diaries, and One Tree Hill. They have performed multiple times on Letterman, Leno and Conan. They have collaborated with artists in all genres.

Though their music is not overtly political, Tegan and Sara are very politically and socially engaged. They are outspoken advocates for LGBT equality, and have done countless fundraisers for youth organizations, music education, literacy, cancer research and LGBT advocacy. The sisters enjoy reading, hair, ships, vampires, hot dogs, talking and relating to elderly people, self-soothing, rearranging furniture, and giving excellent advice. Tegan lives in LA and Vancouver, Sara lives in NYC and Montreal.

*Bio provided by role models*



**Lucas Silveira** ✨  
b. July 30, 1979



Lucas Silveira is the openly trans lead singer of Toronto alternative-rock band The Cliks. Born in Canada to a Portuguese-Canadian family, he lived from the age of four to the age of ten on Pico Island, part of the Azorean archipelago. He has been interviewed by the Associated Press, the Boston Globe, and many radio stations, quickly becoming one of the most visible transpeople in the music industry.

Lucas Silveira's revolution began with a fearless attitude that embraced radical change. Lucas founded The Cliks in 2004 when his musical and self identity transitioned from being a solitary folk singer/songwriter lesbian, to an 'over the top' rock n' roll front man. This shift reflected a vision he had carried his entire life. He found the courage to make significant

life changes and create a vehicle for the music in his head.

The Cliks have two internationally successful record label releases (Snakehouse 2006/Dirty King 2009), and have participated in two major tours (True Colors 2007/2008, The Cult 2007/2008). Lucas has received the New Now Next: Artist On The Brink award and Chart Attack's Sexiest Man In Canada in 2010 (the first transman to win this award).

Silveira understands the link the media has made with his trans identity and the band's music, stating that he knows he is a pioneer and eventually the novelty of his gender identity will wear off. He has said that he wants to be seen first and foremost as a musician rather than an identity spokesperson. Silveira has also gotten much attention from the fact that, in his transition from female to male, he has said that he sacrificed the use of male hormones to maintain his singing voice, creating a distinct vocal sound and range.



Adapted from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Cliks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Cliks)



Michel Tremblay  
b. June 25, 1942

opera, and song lyrics. Of his published works, many have been acclaimed in Canada, the United States and around the world, in addition to being translated into more than 30 languages. Moreover, there are many institutions that have honoured the artistic contributions of the author: a six time recipient of a Canada Arts Council grant, he has received more than 50 awards during his career, including the Governor General's Award for the Performing Arts, in 1999, for his work as a whole. In 2008, he was named chevalier of the Legion of honour of France.

Michel Tremblay was born in Montreal, Quebec, where he grew up in the Plateau Mont-Royal neighbourhood of the city. His working class roots and his homosexuality would determine much of his future work.

Few writers have marked the literary and theatrical landscape as Michel Tremblay has done for forty years. Since *The Sisters-in-Law* (*Les Belles-Sœurs*) and until the very last novel at *Au hasard la chance*, this author, playwright, translator, and adapter has composed with brilliance and accuracy a corpus of work that is imposing, decisive, and unavoidable. This abundant and relevant work is composed of more than 30 plays, 3 musicals, 25 novels, 1 collection of short stories, 4 books of short stories, 7 screenplays, 40 translations or adaptations of foreign authors, 1 libretto for

Michel's early plays, including *Hosanna* and *La Duchesse de Langeais*, had a profound and lasting effect on Quebec. Prior to the Quiet Revolution of the early 1960s, in Michel's eyes, Quebec was a poor, working-class province dominated by an English-speaking elite and the Roman Catholic Church. Michel's work was part of a vanguard of liberal and nationalist thought and expression that helped topple social barriers and transform Quebec into a new, vibrant, and modern society.

Many of Michel's most famous plays and works centre on Gay and Lesbian characters. Women in his works are strong characters, who are possessed with demons that they must vanquish.

*Bio provided by role model*



Dany Turcotte  
b. 1965

Dany was born in Saguenay, Quebec.

Dany Turcotte first appeared on stage at 19 years of age. As a student of Arts and Media Technology at the General and Vocational College of Jonquière, he met Dominique Lévesque, who was to become his most loyal sidekick. He is one of the five founding members of the Sanguin Group, a comedy group that performed extensively throughout Quebec between 1986 and 1990. After the breakup of the group in 1991, Dany Turcotte, with his loyal accomplice, created the tandem Lévesque and Turcotte. The duo would enjoy immense success with 4 original shows, more

than 2000 performances, and with an audience in excess of 1 million! Twenty years of touring garnered the duo many nominations for the ADISQ Gala (Awards of the Quebec Association of Music, Performing, and Video Industry) and the Olivier's Gala (Awards of the Association of Professionals of the Comedy Industry). In 1999, Dany Turcotte won the Olivier Award for best comedic character for his legendary *Dany Verveine*.

In addition to his projects, Dany Turcotte has always found time to lend a hand to many community and social organizations. He was spokesperson for 12 years for the Dystro-walk in Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean. In 2006, he ascended Mont Kilimanjaro in support of CARE. He has been one of the spokespeople for Gai écoute (Quebec LGBTQ service organization). For his efforts, in 2009 he received the Fight Against Homophobia Award, which has been awarded to many active celebrities such as Janette Bertrand and Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

Dany has participated in numerous Juste Pour Rire

(Just for Laughs) galas and television shows. In the summer of 2006, he became host of his own CBC television show, *La petite séduction* (*The Small Seduction*), a resounding success.

*Bio provided by role model*



## BUSINESS



*Barbara Bruce*

Barbara Bruce is a Two Spirit Michif-speaking Metis entrepreneur born in St. Laurent, Manitoba. She is the middle child of eleven children. Barbara attributes her personal and professional success to the strong identity as a Metis of Ojibway/Cree ancestry, despite the fact that she attended school in a Roman Catholic mission school that did not acknowledge or value Metis culture and traditions.

Barbara attended the University of Winnipeg and Red River College. She has extensive experience working in Metis and First Nations communities and organizations, including the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF), where she held several positions, including Executive Director. Through her work, she has

travelled across Manitoba and Canada visiting many Metis, First Nations and Inuit communities. This inspired her to co-found first a retail store, Northern Traditions, and later the Northwinds Art Wholesale Company, both dedicated to promoting Indigenous art and handmade crafts. Her marketing experience and excellent planning skills led her, in 1997-98, to organize “Spirits in the Sun,” the first Canadian Indigenous Arts Festival, held in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Barbara’s entrepreneurial spirit led her to establish other business ventures, including Blue Sky Planners and Consultants (Co-Founder & Director) and Winds of Change Consulting (President).

Today, Barbara is a founding and managing partner of AMR Planning & Consulting Inc., founder and president of All My Relations Inc. and co-owner of Bruce & Boivin Consulting Group Inc. Additionally, as an integral member of the Aboriginal business community, Barbara has served on the boards and in executive positions of many Aboriginal and non-



Aboriginal organizations and corporations.

Barbara has combined creative business sense with a strong commitment to the traditional values and teachings of her ancestors. She was given the name “Flies High Thunderbird Woman,” which reflects her dedication to incorporating spirit and ceremony into her personal and professional life.

In recognition of her achievements, she was honoured as one of the Kookum (grandmother) at Keeping the Fires Burning, Ka Ni Kanichihk’s annual event. Barbara received the Manitoba Human Rights Achievement Award for her work in employment and cross-cultural training. Sagkeeng First Nation presented Barbara with an eagle feather and beaded jacket for her work in economic development for Aboriginal people at a special honoring ceremony.

Her commitment to social justice was acknowledged internationally when she was asked to be part of a team of peace monitors and election observers during the South

Africa elections. Her work in cultural capacity building brought her to work in such locations as Fiji and Australia, speaking and providing workshops.

In her leisure hours, she earned a second-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and was one of the first Aboriginal women to instruct that discipline.

Barbara has been married to her partner, Mallory, for seven years, and is co-parent to Mallory’s two daughters and proud Kookum to 5 grandchildren.

*Bio provided by role model*



*Jan Lederman* ✨  
b. May 20, 1953

Jan was born in Assiniboia, Saskatchewan and moved to Regina at age 10. Upon graduation from Marian High, Regina's catholic private girls' school, Jan moved to Winnipeg in 1971 to study English literature at the University of Manitoba. Although she had long planned a career in journalism, she end up in law school at the U of M and graduated with a JD in 1977. The history of Jan's career since then demonstrates the relentless pursuit of her passion for learning and a knowledge and understanding of effective business practices developed and refined over thirty years of work in law, business and the voluntary sector.

Jan began her legal career doing civil and

criminal litigation, but she soon focussed exclusively on business law, with an emphasis on mergers and acquisitions, trade, finance, securities and governance matters. She was named to the 2013 Edition of Best Lawyers© in Canada in Mergers and Acquisitions Law and Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law. Jan also acts for co-operatives, non-profits and charities and teaches Charity Law at the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law.

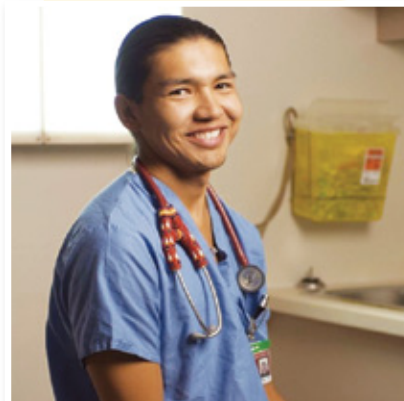
Jan has been a director of a number of public and private companies and charitable organizations. Jan served on the board of Assiniboine Credit Union for a number of years, including as President from 1993 to 1996. She also was on the board of United Way of Winnipeg and became board Chair in 1998, a position she held for two years. Her work helped redefine the business model, not just for United Way of Winnipeg, but for United Ways across North America. In recognition of her contributions, Jan was presented with the Andre Maillot Award, United Way of Canada's most prestigious

volunteer award, at the organization's national conference in 2001.

Jan currently is Chair of the Board of Governors of the University of Manitoba, Chair of Innovate Manitoba Inc., and Regional Vice-Chair (North America) of the Lex Mundi Corporate Organizations and Securities Group, and a director of Economic Development Winnipeg. She has been the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee Award, in 2002, and the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Award, in 2012.

Jan is married to Karen Busby, Professor of Law at the University of Manitoba.

*Bio provided by role model*



**Dr. James Makskis, M.D.**

b. March 19, 1982

James is a proud Cree who was born and raised on the Saddle Lake First Nation in Northern Alberta. James obtained a Doctorate in Medicine (M.D) from the University of Ottawa in 2010, and became certified under the Aboriginal Family Medicine Training Program, University of British Columbia in 2012. Currently, he practices Family Medicine on the Saddle Lake First Nation in Northern Alberta.

Although James recognized at age four or five that he was 'different', it wasn't until his first year at university that he 'came out' to his mother. "It was hard because it's a big burden to share, one that not everyone has to do in their life. Yet, right from the beginning there was so much support and love and I was really fortunate in that way."

James is a gifted, articulate, and talented presenter, who at the age of 24 was the recipient of the 2007 National Aboriginal Achievement Special Youth Award. He is dedicated to working with youth in First Nations communities and beyond. He encourages all LGBTQ youth to dream big and to be proud of who they are. “Once they can accept themselves, others will follow. Once they take this first step, they can talk to other two-spirited people and Elders for support.”

In his role as National Spokesperson for the National Aboriginal Health Organization’s Lead Your Way youth role model program (2007-2009), he made a huge impact on all present at the 2007 Dreamcatcher Youth Conference. There he appeared in front of hundreds of Aboriginal youth wearing his sister’s ceremonial dress. He then explained how each person has many layers to their identity. Then he proceeded to shed his ‘layers’, first peeling off the dress to reveal his doctor’s lab coat and stethoscope, and then shedding that ‘layer’ to reveal a traditional shirt. James believes that First Nations traditional culture and teachings have much to offer in overcoming homophobia and discrimination as two-spirited people always had a place within First Nations society.

James is a committed volunteer who has been involved in a number of community programs, working with street people in Edmonton, and supporting gay, lesbians and two-spirited Aboriginal youth. James serves on several boards including, the inaugural Aboriginal Wisdom Committee of Alberta Health Services, Indspire (formerly the National Aboriginal

Achievement Foundation), the Two Spirit Circle of Edmonton Society, and the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada.

In recognition of his work with two-spirited youth, James and his partner, Robert, will be featured in a same-sex partner, educational installment at the new Museum of Human Rights in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

*Bio provided by role model*



## EDUCATION



*Kristine R. Barr* ✨

b. July 20, 1972

When Kristine was elected as a school trustee with the Winnipeg School Division in 1998, she was recognized as the first openly lesbian school trustee in Manitoba. She was re-elected subsequently in 2002, 2006, and 2010. She has served as the Chair of the Board and has chaired most standing committees, including the Policy/Program and Finance/Personnel Committees. She put forward a motion to create the Student Advisory Committee to ensure that students had the opportunity to liaise with the Board of Trustees and that their voices were valued and respected as key stakeholders in the Winnipeg School Division.

In 1999, soon after her election, Kristine spearheaded a campaign to make schools safer for LGBT youth, including the implementation of mandatory human rights and anti-homophobia workshops for all school division staff. This was very controversial at the time and she faced criticism and death threats from those who did not believe that sexual orientation and gender identity should be discussed in schools.

Kristine graduated from Maples Collegiate in 1990 and completed her Law degree at the University of Manitoba in 2005 receiving her call to the bar in 2006. Kristine currently practices labour law with the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) in the Manitoba regional office. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Winnipeg, with a major in Women's Studies and Administrative Studies.

Kristine is currently serving as a member of the Manitoba Health Appeal Board, and prior to this provincial appointment, Kristine chaired the Social Services Appeal Board from 2005-2012.

## Education cont'd

Kristine is committed to social justice, equality and human rights issues and has served as the Provincial and National Chair of SOGIC, the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Conference of the Canadian Bar Association. She has volunteered at free community legal clinics at the Rainbow Resource Centre and the Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre. Kristine was a founder of the Teen Talk program at Klinik Community Health Centre where she previously worked as a Program Coordinator and coordinated the provincial teen pregnancy campaign "If you think it can't happen to you, think again".

Kristine married her life partner, Kael, in May 2006 and supported him through his transition from female to male. Together they are leaders in both the LGBT and legal communities. Kristine resides with Kael and her two step-sons, Leo and Sean, their dog Mac and their cat Ginger. As a family, they enjoy spending time out at the cottage, travelling, and hanging out with family and friends.

Kristine is a games enthusiast and plays Scrabble competitively in tournaments, and enjoys friendly games of Canasta, Cribbage and board games.

*Bio provided by role model*



*Emanuel (Manny) Calisto*   
b. December 14, 1965

Manny was been raised on the prairies, but his life began on a small island in the centre of the Atlantic Ocean. Manny was born in Soa Miguel, in the Azores. When he was seven his family emigrated from Portugal to Canada, and fate brought them to Winnipeg. They settled in the core area before moving to the West End. Manny attended Principal Sparling School where, in Grade Five he decided he wanted to do what Mrs. Hendrickson did; be a teacher. He then attended Sargent Park Junior High. When he was in Grade Nine his family moved yet again to the Maples where he graduated from Maples Collegiate.

Manny received his Bachelors of Education from the University of Manitoba. He was a

classroom teacher in the Seven Oaks School Division for more than 20 years and then became a Vice Principal. In 1998, Manny made the decision to come out at work. At that time he was the only teacher he knew in his school division who was out in the classroom. His decision to come out was based on his belief that his students needed to know that it was possible to be gay; happy; respected and successful. Manny would say that he didn't so much 'come out' as he 'came in' to a community of family, friends and colleagues who have been a source of inspiration and support over the years.

Manny has dedicated much of his professional life to helping other educators understand their role and responsibility in creating safe, caring and inclusive learning environments for all students, especially those who identify as LGBTTQ. As an advocate for diversity he has promoted the inclusion of LGBTTQ perspectives in school curriculum and facilitated numerous

workshops for educators on how to make schools more welcoming for LGBTQ youth and families.

Manny has been a member of the Winnipeg Pride Committee, Board Member of the Manitoba Association For Rights and Liberties, facilitator with the Manitoba Teachers' Society Teacher Action Team and the co-creator of his school division's Safer Schools Network. He and his husband were one of the co-chair couples of Canadians for Equal Marriage (Manitoba Chapter).

Manny shares his love of travel, activism and dancing with his husband, Bradley and their daughter Mickenzie who is studying to be a teacher.

*Bio provided by role model*



Albert McLeod  
b. December, 1955

Albert McLeod was born into a Cree-Scottish half-breed family who lived in Cormorant, a small village forty miles northeast of The Pas, Manitoba. The previous three generations of his family worked extensively in the Hudson's Bay Company fur trade as trappers, fisherman, and company employees. The Cree women of his extended family contributed greatly to the success of the half-breed and European traders they had married.

At the age of 16, Albert "came out of the closet" and soon quit high school after experiencing homophobia, shunning and racism. He went through a period of isolation, substance use, and depression which led him to relocate to Brandon and then to Winnipeg to complete his education and to find work. In 1979, Albert moved to Vancouver and soon met



other Aboriginal gays and lesbians who had also left their reserves and home Provinces to find acceptance and opportunity. While there, Albert joined the Greater Vancouver Native Cultural Society (a social support group for GLBT Aboriginals); today, he is a member of the society's College of Elders.

Upon returning to Winnipeg in 1983, Albert co-founded the Nichiwakan Native Gay Society, a volunteer group which held dry socials and cultural events for the Aboriginal GLBT community. The group's founding was in response to the suicide deaths of two gay First Nation youth. Society members proudly marched in Winnipeg's first Annual Lesbian and Gay Pride Day in 1987 and later sent eleven delegates to the inaugural Annual International Two Spirit Gathering which was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in the summer of 1988.

When an increasing number of Aboriginal people were being diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in the early 1990's, Albert became a co-founder of the Manitoba Aboriginal AIDS Task Force and the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (a national network of Aboriginal AIDS service organizations). He travelled extensively to Aboriginal communities promoting awareness and participated in many regional and national HIV/AIDS committees. In 2006, he co-founded the Two-Spirited People of Manitoba, a non-profit organization which advocates for appropriate services for Two-Spirit people. Albert continues to champion Two-Spirit rights and lectures on a variety of topics including Aboriginal culture and identity, suicide prevention, traditional healing, HIV/AIDS, and human rights.

To acknowledge his grandmother's legacy, Albert attained Status Indian membership with the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (Nelson House) in 2011. He attributes his success to his 27 years of sobriety; his parents (whose traditional values nurtured his identity); and to the Ojibwe people who welcomed him into their culture, providing him with the tools to survive and flourish in his homeland. Albert believes that the Two-Spirit rights movement is inherently interwoven with that of the First Nation, Inuit and Metis peoples. "Our Veterans fought for the freedoms and rights that we enjoy today; no individual, group or political party can take them away".

*Bio provided by role model*



Paul Sherwood  
b. 1960

Paul Sherwood was born in Manitoba to Franco-Manitoban parents and is the eldest of five children. Early in his life, Paul had the opportunity to live in Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick before returning to Winnipeg at the age of 10. These early experiences help to shape his character and his identity. He is fiercely proud of his Manitoba origins and is close to his extended family, but at the same time he always had a sense of belonging elsewhere, not afraid of being different, and of seeing things with a different eye.

Paul was an academically inclined high school student, but his adolescence was difficult and conflicted because he was hiding

a huge secret. Paul knew he was gay, but he did not want to give up other important aspects of his life. The suicide of one of his school friends (who was believed to be gay) hit him hard and left him depressed for a few years. Paul was afraid to come out and he feared his only choice was to live life as a pseudo-straight, someone who was not quite right, with nobody understanding why.

He completed high school studies in French at Collège de Saint-Boniface, and then enrolled in science at the University of Manitoba. By his early thirties, Paul had embarked on a career in education, teaching in French Immersion and Franco-Manitoban schools. He also pursued other interests. He now played hockey and several other sports (so unlike his teen years!). He managed a farm and a retail store. He began to travel across Canada. He joined the Les blés au vent choral group and he became involved in a political party. He met a perfect girlfriend (who remains a good friend today) and even thought of marrying her and starting a

family. Everything seemed to be falling into place, but he knew deep down that all this rested on quicksand.

The coming out of the closet of a close family member was a catalyst for Paul Sherwood to do the same. Less than two years later, in the summer of 1993, Paul came out at 33 years of age, and his life began anew. For Paul, that summer was likely the most important transformative moment of his life.

Following his coming out, Paul became involved in several gay organizations. In 1996-1997 he helped establish a Manitoba LGBTQ sports group (Out There Sports) and he joined the Rainbow Harmony Project (an LGBTQ choir) from its start in 1999. He also joined Rainbow Educators of Manitoba. Paul continues to be involved in LGBTQ causes because he believes that every young person deserves to have a happy and full life in which his or her sexual identity is integral.

He has remained active in the Franco-Manitoban community, organizing

numerous cultural events in Franco-Manitoban schools, conducting workshops on Francophone identity across Canada. He has served several years on various community boards such as Francofonds, and he continues to be active in the *Les blés au vent* and *Rainbow Harmony Project* choral groups. In 1985 he was a co-recipient of the Prix Riel.

For almost fifteen years, Paul Sherwood has shared his life with his partner Rafael. He looks forward to growing old with his “best buddy” as they embark on new adventures with family and friends!

*Bio provided by role model*



*Catherine Taylor*  
b. May 23, 1954

Catherine Taylor was born on May 23, 1954 in Ottawa, Ontario. Catherine is an Associate Professor in the Professor, Faculty of Education and Dept of Rhetoric at The University of Winnipeg. She specializes in critical education as an approach to community-building and empowering students who are marginalized within the school system. She completed her PhD in Critical Pedagogy and Cultural Studies at the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

Catherine sees education above all as an opportunity to contribute to social change. This outlook is reflected in her teaching and research and it has allowed her make enormous contributions with respect to addressing needs of LGBTQ students and challenging homophobia in Canada's schools. The "Every Class in Every School" research she conducted with Dr Tracey Peter for Egale Canada investigating school climate and how to improve it for LGBTQ students and parents surveyed over 3700 Canadian students on this topic. The result of the study and the report that followed has been dramatic and powerful. It has served as a call to action for addressing homophobia in schools throughout Canada and is the inspiration for this Kit.

She started the "Every Teacher Project" in 2011. It seeks to identify and collect the expertise of Canadian teachers on LGBTQ-inclusive education. The research team is working in close partnership with Manitoba Teachers' Society and every provincial, territorial, and

national teacher organization in Canada has signed on to the project. Catherine is also leading a project that is part of a \$2 million study designed to determine what kinds of interventions promote resilience and improve climate for LGBTQ students in different school contexts.

Catherine's passion and deep commitment to equity, social justice, and creating safer schools for all students is in part fueled by her own experiences as a member the LGBTQ community. She knows how important it is for LGBTQ students to know that they are accepted and valued. She recalls her own experience in high school in Brockville:

*'It meant the world to me when I was a shy kid whose family moved around a lot, and I had just gone back to school after dropping out of grade 12, and my English teacher dared to tell her class that the poet who wrote: "Lay your sleeping head, my love, / Human on my faithless arm...." was gay. W.H. Auden was gay.*

*I remember even now every detail of that classroom scene, and my enormous excitement*

*to find that the respectable adult world of teachers and poets was not uniformly opposed to my existence. The world in that moment turned from black and white to colour, from impossible to possible, and I began to see a future...I went to university because of that teacher. I only wish she'd dared to say "W.H. Auden was gay" back when she taught me in grade 9...'*

*Bio provided by role model*



## POLITICS



Photo credit: GLBT History Month

*Georgina Beyer*  
b. November, 1957

As an elected a Member of Parliament in New Zealand, Georgina Beyer was the first openly trans person in the world to hold a national office. Beyer's transformation from stripper and sex worker to politician is a testament to her remarkable fortitude.

Beyer, born biologically male, spent her early childhood on her grandparents' farm in rural New Zealand before moving to Wellington with her mother and stepfather. From an early age, Beyer recalls feeling like a girl trapped in a boy's body.

In her twenties, Beyer began working in the Wellington gay nightclub scene as a singer and drag queen performer and then as a sex worker. During a trip to Australia, she was attacked and raped by four men. Beyer refers to this experience as her defining moment.

In 1984, she had sexual reassignment surgery and forged a successful career as a film and television actor in Auckland. She was often typecast as a drag queen or streetwalker. From Auckland, Beyer moved to the small conservative town of Carterton, where she took a job as a youth social worker.

In 1993, Beyer was elected to the Carterton District Council. Two years later, she was elected Mayor of Carterton, where she served for five years. In 1999, she won a seat in the New Zealand Parliament. While in Parliament, Beyer helped pass the Prostitution Reform Act, which decriminalized prostitution and protects sex workers and their clients. She was instrumental in securing same-sex civil union benefits for New Zealanders.

Beyer chronicled her life in *Change for the Better: The Story of Georgina Beyer* (1999). A documentary film about her, *Georgie Girl* (2002), won international awards.

Beyer was a keynote speaker at the International Conference on LGBT Human Rights in Montreal in 2006. She retired from Parliament in 2007, saying, “I can now look for fresh challenges.”

In the fall of 2010, Beyer did a cross-Canada tour sponsored by Egale Canada. As part of this tour, Egale invited her to speak as the Guest of Honour at their Annual Gala and Awards Ceremony held in Toronto, Ontario. She also travelled to Lethbridge, Alberta and Vancouver, British Columbia for screenings of *Georgie Girl* with accompanying panel discussions on trans topics.

Adapted from [www.glbthistorymonth.com](http://www.glbthistorymonth.com)



*Jennifer Howard*  
b. March 12, 1971

Jennifer Howard is a life-long Manitoban, who was born and raised in Brandon. She graduated from Brandon University and moved to Winnipeg in 1998.

Jennifer Howard is a well-known and strong advocate who has worked actively within the community and in government on social justice issues such as poverty reduction, health care, neighbourhood safety, and equality for women.

Jennifer came out at age 19 at time where there were very few openly gay people in Brandon. She helped organize a group called GLOBE (Gays and Lesbians of Brandon and Elsewhere) which provided a weekly help phone line staffed by

## Politics cont'd

peer counselors who talked to people who were coming out or who were new to the area.

Jennifer got involved in student politics, and ran for the first time for political office in the 1997 federal election. Even though she lost, she discovered that politics was the best place for her to use her skills to work for equality and social justice.

Outside of politics she has worked in the not-for-profit field working for women's equality and with health care organizations. Previously, she was the Executive Director of the Women's Health Clinic - a non-profit community health centre dedicated to improving the health and well-being of girls and women. Jennifer has held positions with the Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence and the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women. She was also a policy advisor to Premier Gary Doer on health care issues in 1999.

Jennifer has served on the Boards of numerous organizations, including the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba, the

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (Manitoba), the Rainbow Resource Centre and the University of Winnipeg. Jennifer was named a Woman of Distinction in 1999 by the Brandon YWCA. She has also received a Community Builder Award from LAMBDA, the gay and lesbian business and professional organization.

In 2007, Jennifer was elected the MLA for Fort Rouge and in 2009, she was appointed as Minister of Labour and Immigration. In 2011 she was appointed the Government House Leader - the first woman in Manitoba to hold this position. In 2012, she became Minister of Family Services and Labour, and then Minister of Finance in 2013.

Jennifer lives with her partner, Tara, and their son, Harry. They were married in the fall of 2013.

*Bio provided by role model*





*Glen R Murray*  
b. October 26, 1957

Raised in Montreal by an Irish father and Ukrainian mother, Glen attended John Abbott College and Concordia University where he served as President of the student Union. Upon graduating, Glen moved to Winnipeg and led a successful campaign to include sexual orientation in the Manitoba Human Rights Code. Motivated by the deaths of several of his close friends to HIV/AIDS, Glen helped establish Winnipeg's Village Clinic, an integrated, community-based prevention and treatment centre. Glen helped found the Canadian AIDS Society and worked with the World Health Organization to develop an international strategy for the delivery of community HIV prevention initiatives.

Glen Murray's political life began in 1989 as a city councilor in Winnipeg and in 1998 he was elected the 41st mayor of Winnipeg and became the first openly gay mayor of a large North American city. During his tenure, Glen was the Chair of the Big City Mayors Caucus where he led the successful campaign to transfer the equivalent of 5 cents a litre of the federal tax on gas to municipalities for infrastructure projects.

Glen Murray resigned as mayor in 2004 to run federally in the riding of Charleswood – St James – Assiniboia and lost by a narrow margin. He described the experience as “the best campaign he ever ran”.

Later in 2004, Glen moved to Toronto to become a visiting fellow at Massey College. In 2005 Glen was appointed by Prime Minister Paul Martin as chair of a National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy where he helped respond to climate change in Canada. In 2007 Glen became President of the Canadian Urban Institute.

## Politics cont'd

In 2010, Glen Murray was elected as Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Toronto Centre. Glen served as Minister of Research and Innovation, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities and currently serves as the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Glen's dedication to public service has led to several awards including the Queen's Jubilee Medal, the 2003 "Fight for LGBT Justice and Equality" award from Egale Canada and for his work with the aboriginal community he was given the highest honour of an Eagle Feather.

Glen lives in Toronto Centre with his partner Rick. A 1992 NFB documentary, *A Kind of Family*, describes the relationship of Murray with his foster son, a 17-year-old street youth in Winnipeg.

*Bio provided by role model*



*Jim Randeau*  
b. April 6, 1959

Jim was born in Winnipeg. As the son of a member of the air force he had the opportunity to live in Ontario and Europe, as well as live and work throughout Manitoba. After university he worked as a teacher at schools in Norway House and Cranberry Portage, and was an instructor at the University of Winnipeg. He later became the Adult/Work Education Coordinator for the Frontier School Division, helping establish 18 adult learning centres and libraries throughout the province and developing an award-winning school-to-work transition program for young people from northern Manitoba.

Although he knew he was gay for many years he hid it from himself, his friends, and

family until he was in his late 20s. He then got involved in his community by volunteering at Clinic, and coming out to his circle of friends. Finally in his early 30's he came out at work which was still a risky prospect at the time.

He was first elected to the Manitoba Provincial Legislature in 1999 and received his first Cabinet appointment in 2003 as the Minister of Healthy Living within the Department of Health. In his 10 years as a Cabinet Minister he held several portfolios including: Industry, Economic Development and Mines; Science, Technology, Energy and Mines; Healthy Living, Youth and Senior; and Healthy Living, Seniors and Consumer Affairs.

Since becoming involved in politics he has been able to champion the expansion of rights for same sex couples in the areas of marriage and adoption including chairing the public hearings concerning the laws. He has also been able to support the Rainbow Resource Center by ensuring appropriate funding to support schools and other organizations across the province.

It was a proud moment for him when he was able to marry his partner of 22 years in front of his family and friends in 2008. Along with their Jack Russell, they continue to enjoy a great life in their province.

He is proud to have had the opportunity to be a mentor, break down barriers and misconceptions, and continue to working to improve life in Manitoba for ALL to enjoy.

*Bio provided by role model*



## RELIGION



**Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M.**  
b. June 2, 1950

The Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M. has been the Senior Pastor at the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) of Toronto for 30 years. Rev. Hawkes is a native of Bath, New Brunswick and a graduate of Mount Allison University (B.Sc. & B.Ed.). As the pastor of the Toronto MCC, Rev. Hawkes has been at the forefront of the city's ministry to the LGBTQ community. He serves as spiritual leader to a faith community of some 575 congregants at regular Sunday worship. As well, he has served the community at large with distinction, championing several human rights initiatives.

In 2007, Rev. Hawkes was appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada. Rev. Hawkes is the first LGBTQ activist to be received into the order.

Rev. Hawkes has tirelessly served the cause of justice for gays and lesbians. He has helped thousands of LGBTQ individuals and their families come back into spiritual relationship with God. This is demonstrated through the popularity of the MCC of Toronto's Christmas Eve Service held at Roy Thompson Hall, Toronto's premier cultural venue. It is one of the largest Christmas Eve services in Canada with an average of 2500 people in attendance.

He has constantly challenged the church to examine important issues, such as prejudice against LGBTQ individuals and communities, inclusive language, and the ordination of women. He has played a significant role in promoting the inclusion of sexual orientation in the *Ontario Human Rights Code* and the *Canadian Human Rights Act*. He was a past co-chair for the Campaign for Equal Families. Rev. Hawkes is a champion for equal rights for LGBTQ individuals and continually challenges the status quo with regards to racism, poverty, and housing.

In 2006, Rev. Hawkes was appointed to the Ontario Citizens Panel for Increasing Organ Donation.

Adapted from [http://www.mcctoronto.com/WhoWeAre/brent\\_hawkes.htm](http://www.mcctoronto.com/WhoWeAre/brent_hawkes.htm)



## SPORTS



*Angela James*  
b. December 22, 1964

Angela James is a Canadian former ice hockey player who played at the highest levels of senior hockey between 1980 and 2000. She was a member of numerous teams in the Central Ontario Women's Hockey League (COWHL) from its founding in 1980 until 1998 and finished her career in the National Women's Hockey League (NWHL).

Angela was born in Toronto and grew up in the Flemingdon Park area. One of only a few Black kids in the neighbourhood, she lived with her mom and two half-sisters. Angela quickly developed an interest in sports. Her godfather gave her a baseball bat and glove to celebrate her first holy communion. She excelled at hockey, baseball and synchronized

swimming as a young child. Her mother wanted her to focus on swimming due to the lack of opportunities for girls in hockey in the 1970s. Her passion was for hockey, however, and she was constantly playing ball hockey with the neighbourhood boys from the time she was in kindergarten. Angela first played organized hockey in a Flemingdon Park boys house league at the age of eight, and then only after her mother threatened legal action as officials opposed her inclusion. She excelled in the league, so much so that part way through her second year, the league changed the rules and girls were no longer allowed to play. Angela then played for a Catholic girl's team, made up of girls from all over the city.

Angela attended Valley Park Middle School and graduated from Overlea High School. She then went on to Seneca College where she played baseball and hockey. After earning a diploma in Recreation Facilities Management from Seneca College, Angela was hired by the school as a sports programmer in 1985.

Internationally, Angela played in the first women's world championship, a 1987 tournament that was unsanctioned. She played with Team Canada in the first IIHF World Women's Championship in 1990, setting a scoring record of 11 goals and leading Canada to the gold medal. She played in three additional world championships, winning gold medals in 1992, 1994 and 1997. Controversially, she was left off the team for the first women's Olympic hockey tournament in 1998. She played her final international tournament in 1999.

Angela has been called "the first superstar of modern women's hockey", and has been hailed as a pioneer who brought the women's game into the mainstream. Longtime women's hockey administrator Fran Rider stated that Angela brought credibility, without which the women's game would never have gained recognition as an Olympic sport.

An eight-time scoring champion and six-time most valuable player during her senior career, Angela has been honoured by several organizations. She was named Toronto's Youth of the Year in 1985 and was presented the city's Women in Sport Enhancement Award in 1992. Hockey Canada named her the 2005 recipient of its Female Hockey Breakthrough Award. The Flemingdon Park arena was renamed the Angela James Arena in 2009, and the Canadian Women's Hockey League presents the Angela James Bowl to its leading scorer each season. Angela has been honoured by numerous halls of fame. She has been inducted into several Halls of Fame, including the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association Hall of Fame in 2005, and the Black Hockey and Sports Hall of Fame in

2006. She was one of the first three women inducted into the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Hockey Hall of Fame in 2008 and one of the first two inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2010. She was inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame in 2009.

Angela always knew who she was. She had a girlfriend in grade 10, but kept it quiet until they ran into a classmate and her girlfriend in the park. Then she knew she wasn't alone and she stopped hiding who she was – although there weren't any clubs or support groups back then. Angela has been 'out' since she was 15. She met her partner, Ange, in 1994, and the couple formalized their relationship in a commitment ceremony two years later. They have three children. Ange carried their first child in 1999, Christian, while Angela gave birth to fraternal twins, son Michael and daughter Toni, in 2005.

Angela continues to work for Seneca and is now a Senior Sports Coordinator at its King campus. She is also a certified referee in Canada, and a coach.

*Bio provided by role model*



**Mark Tewksbury**  
b. Feb. 7, 1968

In 1992, Mark Tewksbury burst onto the international scene following a thrilling come-from-behind victory in the 100-metre backstroke at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games. This gold medal performance capped a remarkable 16-year athletic career which included three Olympic medals, seven world records, a cover appearance on TIME Magazine, and inductions into three major Halls of Fame.

Today Mark is recognized as a leader of social change. Author of three books, including *Inside Out: Straight Talk from a Gay Jock*, Tewksbury is one of the few openly gay Olympic champions in the world. With other leading Canadian advocates and athletes, Mark took a difficult but necessary step in holding the International Olympic Committee accountable to its own ideals by co-founding OATH (Olympic Advocates Together Honourably). In 2006, he was

the President of the 1st World Outgames held in Montreal and recognized as one of *OUT* magazine's Top 100 People. He was named Person of the Year for his fight against homophobia by Foundation Emergence in 2007.

In 2008, Mark was asked by the Government of France to speak on LGBT issues at the United Nations in NYC and he was an ambassador for the historic Pride House at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games, ensuring the LGBT community had a presence for the first time at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. For his ethical leadership and active humanitarianism, Mark has received Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from the University of Western Ontario and the University of Calgary.

Mark is the Chef de Mission of the Canadian Olympic team competing in London, England in 2012 as well as an Honorary Advisory Board Member of the Egale Canada Human Rights Trust, supporting Egale's work in helping to make Canadian schools safer and more inclusive, respectful, and welcoming learning and working environments for all members of school communities.

*Bio provided by role model*



*Sarah Vaillancourt*

b. May 8, 1985

Sarah Vaillancourt was born in Sherbrooke, Quebec. Sarah has been a member of the Women's National Hockey Team since 2003, since she was 18 years of age. In April 2013, she announced her retirement from the national team. As a member of the team, she is a double Olympic gold medal winner in 2006 and 2010. In 107 international matches, she has amassed 45 goals and 53 assists for a total of 98 points.

Sarah has never hidden her sexual orientation. She has spoken publicly about being a lesbian. Sarah Vaillancourt the Olympic medalist wishes to help young people that wish to come out of the closet and free themselves

from their great secret. She has been frequently invited to schools speak to young people about LGBTQ issues. She has also granted interviews in the United States on the subject.

Sarah Vaillancourt hopes to become an English teacher and continue to play hockey for the Montreal Stars in the Canadian Women's Hockey League.

*Bio provided by role model*





# LGBTQ SYMBOLS



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## BISEXUAL PRIDE FLAG



The first Bi Pride Flag was unveiled on Dec 5, 1998. The intent and purpose of the flag is to maximize bisexual pride and visibility. The pink color represents sexual attraction to the same sex only (gay and lesbian), the blue represents sexual attraction to the opposite sex only (straight), and the resultant overlap color purple represents sexual attraction to both sexes (bi). The key to understanding the symbolism in the Bi Pride Flag is to know that the purple pixels of color blend unnoticeably into both the pink and blue, just as in the 'real world' where most bi people blend unnoticeably into both the gay/lesbian and straight communities.

<http://www.rainbowresourcecentre.org/symbols.htm>

## GENDER



Gender Symbols are common astrological signs handed down from ancient Roman times. The pointed Mars symbol represents the male and the Venus symbol with the cross represents the female. Since the 1970s, gays have used double interlocking male symbols to represent gay men. Double interlocking female symbols have often been used to symbolize lesbianism, but some feminists have instead used the double female symbols to represent sisterhood among women and three interlocking female symbols to denote lesbianism. In the 1970s, some lesbian feminists used three interlocking female symbols to represent their rejection of male standards of monogamy.

<http://www.rainbowresourcecentre.org/symbols.htm>

## RAINBOW PRIDE FLAG



The Rainbow Flag as we know it today was developed by San Francisco artist Gilbert Baker in 1978. At the time, there was a need for a gay symbol which could be used year after year for the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade. Baker took inspiration from many sources, from the hippies movement to the black civil rights movement, and came up with a flag with eight stripes. Colour has always played an important part in the gay rights movement—Victorian England symbolized homosexuality with the colour green, lavender became popular in the 1960s, and pink from the pink triangle has caught on as well—and the colours of the gay flag were no different. Baker explained that his colours each stood for a different aspect of gay and lesbian life:

Hot pink for sexuality,

Red for life,

Orange for healing,

Yellow for the sun,

Green for nature,

Blue for art,

Indigo for harmony,

Violet for spirit.

Black—A San Francisco group suggested a modification to the traditional rainbow flag by adding a black stripe to the bottom of it to commemorate everyone lost to the AIDS virus over the years.

<http://www.lambda.org/symbols.htm>



## TRANSGENDER/INTERSEX



The Transgender Pride flag was designed by Monica Helms, and was first shown at a pride parade in Phoenix, Arizona, United States in 2000. The flag represents the transgender community and consists of five horizontal stripes, two light blue, two pink, with a white stripe in the center. Monica describes the meaning of the flag as follows:

“The light blue is the traditional colour for baby boys, pink is for girls, and the white in the middle is for those who are transitioning, those who feel they have a neutral gender or no gender, and those who are intersexed. The pattern is such that no matter which way you fly it, it will always be correct. This symbolizes us trying to find correctness in our own lives.”

Other transgender symbols include the butterfly (symbolizing transformation or metamorphosis), and a pink/light blue yin and yang symbol.

Popular transgender symbols, used to identify transvestites, transsexuals, and other transgender people, frequently consist of modified gender symbols combining elements from both the male and female symbols. The most popular version, originating from a drawing by Holly Boswell, depicts a circle with an arrow projecting from the top-right, the male symbol; a cross projecting from the bottom, the female symbol; and with an additional crossed arrow, combining the female cross and male arrow, projecting from the top-left.

Adapted from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transgender\\_symbol#Transgender\\_symbols](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transgender_symbol#Transgender_symbols)



## TRIANGLES



The pink triangle was one of the Nazi concentration camp badges, used by the Nazis to identify male prisoners in concentration camps who were sent there because of their homosexuality. Every prisoner had to wear a triangle on his or her jacket, the colour of which was to categorize him or her according “to his kind.” Jews had to wear the yellow star (in addition to any other badge representing other reasons for incarceration), and “anti-social individuals” (which included vagrants and “work shy” individuals) had to wear the black triangle. The inverted pink triangle, originally intended as a badge of shame, has become an international symbol of gay pride and the gay rights movement, and is second in popularity only to the rainbow flag.

The black triangle was later adopted as a lesbian or feminist symbol of pride and solidarity, on the assumption that the Nazis included lesbians in the “asocial” category.

Adapted from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pink\\_triangle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pink_triangle)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black\\_triangle\\_%28badge%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_triangle_%28badge%29)

# TWO-SPIRITED SYMBOLS



*Icon used by 2-Spirited People of the First Nations*

*Icon used by Two-Spirited People of Manitoba*

**Safe and Caring Schools-  
A Resource for Equity and  
Inclusion in Manitoba Schools  
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