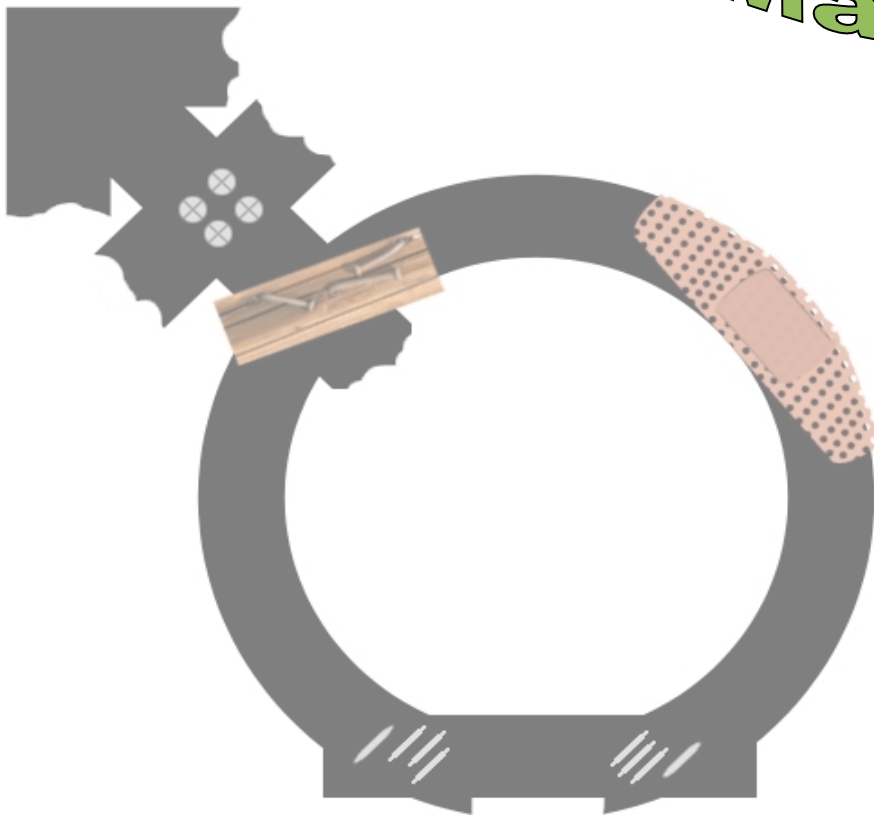


Gender News Gender News

Serving Saskatchewan's
[insert gender identity here]
Community

Issue #1
May, 2011



Is Sask's
Transgender
Healthcare
System
Broken?

-The Trans-Caveman
-Bill 160, Human Rights
-TransGuys & Ovarian Cancer
-"Injustice at Every Turn"

Gender News is a publication of  **TransSask**
Support Services

Gender News is produced monthly by TransSask Support Services and its volunteers (www.transsask.org).

Editorial Coordinator: Mikayla Schultz (mikayla_skye@yahoo.ca)

Editorial & Production Volunteers: Vacant

Women's Issues Consultant: Vacant

Men's Issues Consultant: Vacant

North Area Representative (Prince Albert, Buffalo Narrows, La Ronge, Creighton, etc.): Vacant

West/Central Representative (North Battleford, Rosetown, Kindersley, etc.): Vacant

Central Representative (Saskatoon and Area): Rhen Jesson (rhenaiya@gmail.com)

East/Central Representative (Yorkton, Melville and Area): Vacant

South/West Representative (Swift Current, Maple Creek, Shaunavon, etc.): Vacant

South/Central Representative (Regina, Moose Jaw, Assiniboia, etc.): Mikayla Schultz (mikayla_skye@yahoo.ca)

South/East Representative (Weyburn, Estevan, Carlyle, etc.): Vacant

Receive *Gender News* and other event notices in your email inbox by sending a blank email to transsask-subscribe@yahoogroups.com; or join our Yahoo Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/transsask> (Yahoo account is required for this last option)

ALL Reader's Contributions are Welcome.

Opinions are of the article writers and not necessarily those of *Gender News* or TransSask Support Services.

Advertise, up to 1/4 page, single issue – minimum donation of \$5. Make donations payable to TransSask Support Services Inc.

Gender News/TransSask Support Services,
PO Box 3911, Regina SK, S4P 3R8

For more information, to submit articles or for advertising inquiries, contact Mikayla Schultz (mikayla_skye@yahoo.ca) – (306) 351 6066

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
May 20, 2011

Contents:

-Saskatchewan Transgender/Transsexual Health Care Program, Page 3

-Grave of Stone Age 'Gender Bender' Excavated at Prague, Page 4

-News Release: Human Rights Groups Oppose Bill 160, Page 5

-Ovarian Cancer and the TransGuy, Page 6

-Report on the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, Page 8

-What's Happening in Your Town?, Page 10

- Featured Organization: TransSask Support Services, Page 13

- Coming in the next issue of *Gender News*, Page 14

From the Editor

As awareness of the Transgender and Transsexual Community grows around the world, it becomes apparent that there needs to be a way to support this trend of enlightenment for the people of Saskatchewan. We question the identities of transgenders and transsexuals in our society; of course, as human beings we are all curious. Our eyes are opened to gender in its many aspects, and we may even question our own gender identity or expression at times. In comes *Gender News*. This publication will explore our culture through the context of gender, and what that might mean to each person of Saskatchewan. From local events to National and International news; from expert opinion to your voice. *Gender News* endeavours to take a holistic approach to the topic of gender, and include perspectives from all gender identities: women, men, transgenders, transsexuals, two-spirits, intersex, androgynes, and everyone in between (and outside of these as well). By coming together with a single voice, we will begin to understand each other a little bit better. I welcome you to the inaugural edition of *Gender News*, and I am excited about what the future may hold.

– Mikayla Schultz, Editor

Saskatchewan Transgender/Transsexual Healthcare Program

Article by Mikayla Schultz

There isn't one! Case closed. End of discussion!

I mean, we could have one, just that Sask Health has not chosen to adopt one yet. Meanwhile, hundreds of transgender and transsexual individuals around Saskatchewan are left scrambling for what little care exists. I have contacted our Health Minister, [Don McMorris](#), and his response to inquiries for health care was to acquire a Client Representative in my Health Region. Of course, this was AFTER my then Client Representative told me there was nothing she could do for me, because the information I was seeking, or the services I required, just did not exist in Saskatchewan. However, [Lorne Sier](#), Mental Health Consultant to Sask Health, did offer an answer for my inquiries about primary counseling for transgenders, "go to Toronto." Okay Mr. Sier, I will just hop on my bicycle, my whopping \$600 Social Assistance cheque in hand, and off to Toronto I go...for a single one hour consultation, three times over the course of a year. Unfortunately, it is not that simple for most of us. The thing is, most health professionals in Saskatchewan are willing to support transgender and transsexual patients. The problem is, they just don't know how. So where can one find this information?

"most health professionals in Saskatchewan are willing to support transgender and transsexual patients...they just don't know how."

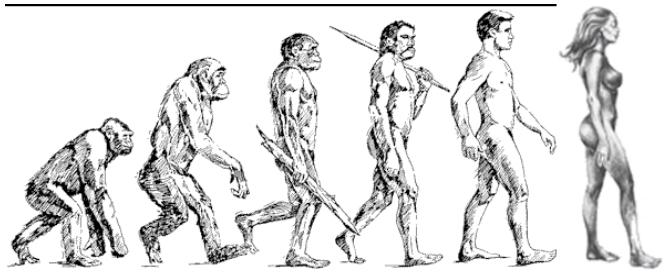
There are several health services organizations that provide standards or protocols in treating transgender and transsexual patients on a variety of health care issues. In Canada, Vancouver Coastal Health has established the Transgender Health Program (<http://transhealth.vch.ca>). This program oversees the development of guidelines for care, with program staff and contracted specialists assisting with review of best practice research and standards developed by other transgender health programs. They provide an extensive list of [Clinical Protocol Guidelines for Transgender Care](#) at their website. The Sherbourne Health Centre (<http://www.sherbourne.on.ca>) in Ontario provides a wide range of programs, services and resources to the transgender community. Their approach is to reduce many of the traditional barriers to care that transgender, transsexual and others questioning their gender identity often experience. There is also the [Gender Identity Clinic at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health \(CAMH\)](#) in Toronto (<http://www.camh.net>). The clinic provides extensive health services to transgender and transsexual individuals and follows the World Professional Association for Transgender Health's (WPATH - <http://www.wpath.org/>) *Standard of Care for Gender Identity Disorders*. Of course, Canada has its own association as well, the Canadian

Professional Association for Transgender Health (CPATH - <http://www.cpath.ca>), which has collated many of the [guidelines available across Canada](#). Additionally, the Canadian Rainbow Health Coalition (CRHC) provides at their website (<http://www.rainbowhealth.ca>) a [huge list of documents](#) addressing the many issues of the Transgender and Transsexual Community. The CRHC is a community-based movement dedicated to improving the emotional, physical, spiritual and mental health and wellness of people who have experienced significant inequities based on their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Outside of Canada, there are numerous sources which one may access, including Fenway Health in Boston (<http://www.fenwayhealth.org>), which has an [extensive list of transgender and transsexual related health resources](#); and The Center of Excellence for Transgender Health (<http://transhealth.ucsf.edu/trans?page=home-00-00>) at the University of California, San Francisco, has just recently released [The Primary Care Protocol for Transgender Patient Care](#), a web-based resource that goes beyond hormone treatment and surgery options to cover important topics such as sexual health and fertility, cancer and cardiovascular disease, patient intake and insurance issues, and harm reduction.

So, you see, the information is out there, and now the onus is on Saskatchewan's medical community to provide the services which are required. "The Ministry of Health has a mandate to support Saskatchewan residents in achieving their best possible health and well-being." I would argue, the [Saskatchewan Ministry of Health](#) is not meeting its own mandate when it comes to the health care needs of Saskatchewan's Transgender and Transsexual Communities. The time is now!

Grave of Stone Age (gender bender) excavated in Prague



From the files of
CzechPosition.com

Czech archaeologists have discovered what they are calling a “third gender grave” — a unique late Stone Age grave of a transsexual or gay man — dating from between 2500-2800 BC and the era of the so-called Corded Ware culture in the Czech Republic. Speculation about the sexual orientation of the buried man was sparked by the unorthodox positions in which his skeleton was found, in a society which was a real stickler for grave etiquette.



“From history and ethnology, we know that when a culture had strict burial rules they never made mistakes with these sort of things,” the head of the archaeological research team Kamila Remišová told journalists at a press conference.

The civilization from which the late Stone Age man hailed covered much of northern Europe, from the river Rhine in Germany to the Volga in Russia, and was also known as a single-grave and battle-axe culture due to separate burials and the men’s habit of being buried with — by then largely symbolic — stone axes.

Whereas male skeletons from that culture are usually found buried on their right side with their heads facing the East, this grave in Terronská Street in Prague 6 is interred on its left side with the head facing the West, the traditional position for female burials. An oval, egg-shaped

container usually associated with female burials was also found at the feet of the skeleton. None of the telltale objects that usually accompany male burials — such as weapons, stone battle axes and flint knives — were found in the grave.

“We believe this is one of the earliest cases of what could be described as a ‘transsexual’ or ‘third gender grave’ in the Czech Republic,” archaeologist Kateřina Semrádová told Czech Position. She said that archaeologists have uncovered similar cases where men were buried as women and women as men dating from the much earlier Mesolithic period, when men hunted mammoths.

Semrádová added that a woman buried as a man — because she was probably a warrior — had been found in the Czech Republic dating from the third century BC. Siberian shamans, or latter-day witch doctors, were also buried in this way but with richer funeral accessories appropriate to their elevated position in society.

We believe this is one
of the earliest cases of
what could be described
as a “transsexual” or
“third gender grave” in
the Czech Republic.'

“Our true nature is free of any and all notions of
gender, of any notions of difference whatsoever.”

– Andrew Cohen, American Writer

NEWS Release

Human Rights Groups Oppose Bill 160

Wednesday, April 20, 2011

Representatives of grassroots organizations across Saskatchewan joined together [on the steps of the Saskatchewan Legislature](#) this morning to oppose the Government's [Bill 160, An Act to Amend The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code](#). Representatives from the [Saskatchewan Federation of Labour's \(SFL\) Human Rights Committee](#), made up of the SFL Women's Committee, the [Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry](#), the Queen City Tenants Association, the [Gay and Lesbian Community of Regina](#), the [University of Regina Women's Centre](#), [Amnesty International](#), and the [Prairie Lily Feminist Society](#), voiced [their concerns about the proposed legislation](#).

The groups objected to the lack of appropriate consultation prior to the introduction of Bill 160. While some groups met with the [Human Rights Commission](#) to hear about proposed changes at the Commission, many were not made aware of the changes coming in Bill 160. The SFL Human Rights Committee has asked Minister of Justice, [Don Morgan](#), and the Chief Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission for a meeting to discuss their concerns, but neither has agreed to meet.

"Bill 160 will make the human rights complaint process less accessible to groups that face discrimination and harassment"

"We are extremely concerned about how Bill 160 will make the human rights complaint process less accessible to groups that face discrimination and harassment. We are talking about the most vulnerable groups, including women, visible minorities, people with disabilities, and those living in poverty. We see no benefit in making it more difficult to have complaints heard," said Cara Banks of the Prairie Lily Feminist Society.

Troubling aspects of Bill 160 include placing more stringent time constraints upon victims of human rights violations, abolishing the Human Rights Tribunal—which would leave Saskatchewan as the only province in Canada without a Human Rights Tribunal—and concentrating more decision-making powers of the Human Rights Commission into the hands of the Chief Human Rights Commissioner. If passed, the changes to the Code will allow the Chief Commissioner to dismiss human rights complaints with much more ease, and without an appeal process. He would also be able to direct complaints to engage in mediation.

"Access to justice is a fundamental right of citizens in a democratic society. Human rights processes should be designed to support the victims of human rights abuses, in particular by giving them the option to speak out about what has happened to them at a tribunal with human rights expertise. Taken as a whole, Bill 160 will silence the voices of the most vulnerable in our society. If we don't hear about their abuse, how can we eliminate it?" said Larry Kowalchuk of the SFL Human Rights Committee.

The groups called on the government to commit today to withdrawing Bill 160 from consideration in the legislature, and to conduct a comprehensive, transparent, and public consultation process informed by a public policy paper.

TransSask Support Services has joined this coalition of organizations in support of their opposition to Bill 160, An Act to Amend The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code. It is important that the human rights complaint process does not hamper our efforts to ensure the rights of all citizens of Saskatchewan, as we move towards the inclusion of 'gender identity' and 'gender expression' as categories of discrimination in The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code.

TransGuys & Ovarian Cancer

Confronting a “Silent Killer”

In [May of 2010](#), the [Canadian Cancer Society](#) estimated that in Saskatchewan 5,200 new cases of cancer and 2,400 deaths will occur in 2010, of this 2,400 Saskatchewan women will be diagnosed with cancer and an estimated 1,100 women will die of cancer. As with women, female to male transgenders and transsexuals (female born men, or trans men) are at risk for Gynecologic Cancers, including ovarian, uterine/endometrial, cervical, fallopian, vulva, vagina, and peritoneal. Compared to some cancers, ovarian cancer is relatively rare, but it accounts for a disproportionate number of cancer deaths because it is too often diagnosed at an advanced stage. If it is found early, it can be a highly treatable disease. For trans men, ovarian cancer poses an extra challenge due to not only increased risk factors and decreased access to health care but also to the increased levels of discrimination faced by the trans community.

Polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS)

PCOS is a hormonal condition believed to be caused by an overproduction of insulin, which in turn stimulates the ovaries to produce testosterone. PCOS is associated with increased risk for a number of health problems, including glucose intolerance and diabetes, heart disease, endometrial cancer, and ovarian cancer. The main symptoms of PCOS are similar to the changes that happen when FTMs start taking testosterone:

- acne
- obesity
- growth of facial and body hair
- no menstrual period or infrequent period; infertility or reduced fertility

For reasons that are not understood, several studies of FTMs that had not taken testosterone found increased incidence of PCOS among FTMs (compared to the usual rate among people born female). For this reason, it is recommended that all FTMs not taking testosterone be evaluated for PCOS, and that FTMs taking testosterone be asked questions about any signs and symptoms of PCOS that existed before starting hormones. This can be useful in evaluating and trying to reduce risks for the health problems associated with PCOS, including endometrial and ovarian cancer.

--[Transgender Health Program, Vancouver Coastal Health](#)

According to the [National LGBT Cancer Network](#) in New York, approximately 1 in 72 people born with ovaries will be diagnosed with cancer of the ovary during their lifetime. Although it accounts for only about 4% of all diagnosed cancers in people born female, it is the fourth leading cause of cancer death for people with ovaries. [Ovarian Cancer Awareness & Treatment in Saskatchewan](#) (OCATS) states that although ovarian cancer patients who have been diagnosed early at stage 1 have excellent survival rates, as high as approximately 80 percent, the majority are not diagnosed until stages 3 or 4 when survival rates are low, and many of these advanced stage ovarian cancer patients die within 5 years. Those at risk of ovarian cancer are frequently over 50, have never had children, have a family history of ovarian, breast, prostate or colon cancers, or are of Jewish descent. However, not all cases of ovarian cancer fall into these categories.

[Hudson's FTM Resource Guide](#) states, “female to male transsexuals, as a population, have not

been studied in a large enough sample size and over enough time to determine the long-term risks of cancer associated with testosterone use for transition and lifetime maintenance of male secondary sex characteristics.” A small study by the [American Cancer Society](#) has discovered that, “[people born female] who took androgens [testosterone] were found to have a higher risk of ovarian cancer.” According to the [Transgender Health Program of Vancouver Coastal Health](#), “excess testosterone is converted via aromatase to estrogen[, and trans men] taking testosterone over a long period of time may be at increased risk for estrogen dependent cancers such as ovarian cancer.” Due to many barriers to accessing appropriate health care, including discomfort over revealing gender or sexual identity, not every trans man who is on testosterone is under a doctor’s care and receiving a consistent dosage, risking testosterone overdose resulting in this excess of converted estrogen.

One of the greatest barriers for trans men to overcome is the disparities in quality health care for transgender and transsexual individuals in Saskatchewan. Individuals may receive a lower quality of care because of a lack of necessary knowledge by health professionals, stigma from gay/lesbian and heterosexual communities, social and economic marginalization, discrimination about perceived sexual orientation, gender prejudices, and the notion that transgenderism is pathological. Additionally, some trans men, because of their gender identity, might fail to see themselves as being at risk of ovarian cancer because they may not associate with body parts that are physically present at birth.

[SOUTHERN COMFORT](#) is a 90-minute feature-length documentary about the life of Robert Eads, a 52-year-old female to male transsexual who lives in the back hills of Georgia. Having been diagnosed with ovarian cancer, Robert was turned away by more than two dozen doctors who feared that taking on a transgendered patient might harm their practice. Southern Comfort follows the final year of Robert's life as he confronts a hostile world of gender bias.

TransGuys & Ovarian Cancer continued

The National LGBT Cancer Network offers the following suggestions for trans men:

BEFORE beginning hormone (“T”) therapy:

1. Assess your personal risk factors.

Get evaluated for Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS), find out if you have a family history of ovarian cancer, and learn the risk factors for ovarian cancer.

2. Familiarize yourself with the early symptoms of ovarian cancer.

Even within the general population, a diagnosis of ovarian cancer is often delayed. In hormonally and surgically treated trans men, diagnostic delay may be further enhanced by inattention. Self awareness and arming yourself with as much information as possible about symptoms and prevention has to be a priority!

3. Get evaluated for Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS) before going on testosterone.

Since several studies of FtMs that had not taken testosterone found increased incidence of PCOS among FtMs (compared to the usual rate among people assigned female at birth), we recommend that all FtMs not taking testosterone be evaluated for PCOS, if possible. This can be useful in evaluating and trying to reduce risks for the health problems associated with PCOS, including endometrial and, possibly, ovarian cancer.

AFTER Initiating Hormone Therapy:

1. Monitor your hormone levels closely.

Medical monitoring of hormone therapy could prevent an excess of testosterone and estrogen and help detect any health problems. While, ideally, everyone would have access to affirming and consistent treatment, we understand that, in reality, many trans men are put in the position of having to acquire hormones through means other than licensed physicians.

2. Be your own advocate.

Unfortunately, the health and wellness of many trans men depend largely on how well we can speak up for ourselves and voice our concerns. We are the experts on our lives and how we feel about our bodies.

3. Be Aware of any signs and symptoms of PCOS that existed before starting hormones.

This may be difficult, as the main symptoms of PCOS are similar to the changes that happen when trans men start taking testosterone, including: acne; obesity; new growth of body hair and facial hair; no menstrual period or infrequent periods; infertility or reduced fertility.

4. Continue to undergo regular health screenings.

Trans men who have not undergone hysterectomy and genital reconstruction should continue to receive regular Pap tests and pelvic examinations. Taking testosterone may increase the risk of ovarian cancer if the level exceeds the person’s receptor capacity and is converted into estrogen. (This is especially significant for people obtaining hormones from unlicensed sources, not from a medical provider.)

5. Consider surgery.

In the absence of definitive information about trans men’s risks for ovarian cancer and the difficulties many trans men experience in accessing gynecologic health care services, some experts advocate for the surgical removal of the ovaries (and uterus and cervix) as part of gender-confirming therapy. Of course, we understand that this is a very personal decision and all the risks and benefits must be considered when making a decision.

For more information on
Ovarian Cancer Symptoms, Screening and Treatment
visit www.ocats.ca



Ovarian Cancer Awareness & Treatment in Saskatchewan

**A support & action group for
everyone affected by
Gynecologic Cancers**

www.ocats.ca

Regina
Ph (306) 775-1848
Fx (306) 775-1853

Saskatoon
Ph (306) 966-6980
Fx (306) 966-6978

ocats@ocats.ca

Find us on Facebook

Support groups in:

Regina
Canora
Fort Qu'Appelle
Indian Head
Estevan
Humbolt
Saskatoon

“Injustice at Every Turn”

MINNEAPOLIS, MN - February 4, 2011 – The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) today released a comprehensive new report, “Injustice at Every Turn,” revealing the depth of discrimination against transgender and gender non-conforming people in a wide range of areas, including education, health care, employment, and housing. The NTDS is the first large-scale national study of discrimination against transgender and gender non-conforming Americans, and paints a more complete picture than any prior research to date.

A REPORT OF THE NATIONAL TRANSGENDER DISCRIMINATION SURVEY: Conclusion

It is part of social and legal convention in the United States to discriminate against, ridicule, and abuse transgender and gender non-conforming people within foundational institutions such as the family, schools, the workplace and health care settings, every day. Instead of

57% experienced significant family rejection

recognizing that the moral failure lies in society’s unwillingness to embrace different gender identities and expressions, society blames transgender and gender nonconforming people for bringing the discrimination and violence on themselves.

over four times the national average of HIV infection

Nearly every system and institution in the United States, both large and small, from local to national, is implicated by this data. Medical providers and health systems, government agencies, families, businesses and employers, schools and colleges, police departments, jail and prison systems—each of these systems and institutions is failing daily in its obligation to serve transgender and gender non-conforming people, instead subjecting them to mistreatment ranging from commonplace disrespect to outright violence, abuse and the denial of human dignity.

63% experienced a serious act of discrimination

The consequences of these widespread injustices are human and real, ranging from unemployment and homelessness to illness and death.

22% reported harassment by police

22% were denied equal treatment by a government agency or official

This report is a call to action for all of us, especially for those who pass laws and set policies and practices, whose action or continued inaction will make a significant difference between the current climate of discrimination and violence and a world of freedom and equality. And everyone else, from those who drive buses or teach our children to those who sit on the judicial bench or write prescriptions, must also take up the call for human rights for transgender and gender non-conforming people, and confront this pattern of abuse and injustice.

Additional Findings...

(53%) of respondents reported being verbally harassed or disrespected in a place of public accommodation

- Those who expressed a transgender identity or gender non-conformity while in grades K-12 reported alarming rates of harassment (78%), physical assault (35%) and sexual violence (12%)
- 90% of those surveyed reported experiencing harassment, mistreatment or discrimination on the job or took actions like hiding who they are to avoid it.
- The vast majority (78%) of those who transitioned from one gender to the other reported that they felt more

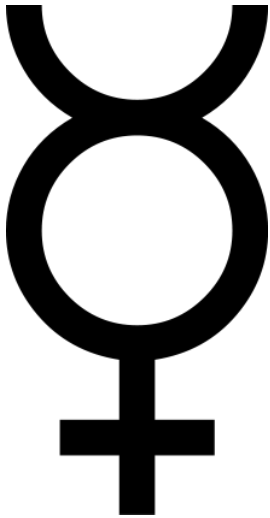
postponed medical care due to discrimination (28%) or inability to afford it (48%)

comfortable at work and their job performance improved, despite high levels of mistreatment.

- A staggering 41% of respondents reported attempting suicide compared to 1.6% of the general population, with rates rising for those who lost a job due to bias (55%), were harassed/bullied in school (51%), had low household income, or were the victim of physical assault (61%) or sexual assault (64%).
- Respondents lived in extreme poverty. Our sample was nearly four times more likely to have a household income of less than \$10,000/year compared to the general population

55% report being harassed by homeless shelter staff or residents

Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, may be found at http://transequality.org/PDFs/NTDS_Report.pdf



In Greek mythology, Aphrodite (Venus) had a child with Mercury (Hermes). The child was named Hermaphroditus and possessed both male and female genitalia. Mercury's symbol has a cross representing femininity and a crescent moon representing masculinity. The two are placed at opposite ends of the circle to strike a balance between the male and female parts.

Vocabulary

An-drog-y-nous (adj). Derived from the Greek words *άνδρoς* (*andros*, meaning man) and *γυνή* (*gyné*, meaning woman)—referring to the combination of masculine and feminine characteristics. This may be as in fashion, sexual identity, or sexual lifestyle, or it may refer to biologically inter-sexed physicality, especially with regards to plant and human sexuality.

For humans, an **androgyn**e (pronounced /'ændrədʒaɪn/, *AN-drə-JYNE*) in terms of gender identity, is a person who does not fit cleanly into the typical masculine and feminine gender roles of their society. They may also use the term *ambigender* to describe themselves. Many androgynes identify as being "between" woman and man, or as entirely genderless. They may identify as *non-gendered*, *genderneutral*, *agendered*, *between genders*, *intergendered*, *pangender* or *gender fluid*.

– <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Androgyny>

"Androgyny is not trying to manage the relationship between the opposites; it is simply flowing between them." – June Singer, American Scientist

TransSask Presents: Visitors Series

Monday nights at 7:00
Gay & Lesbian Community of Regina (GLCR - "the club")
2070 Broad Street, Regina

TransSask Presents: Visitors Series is an opportunity for individuals and organizations to engage the LGBT community with their projects, questions, etc. Visitors are invited to present information on a variety of topics, as we explore the effects and benefits to transgender and transsexual individuals as well as the whole of the LGBT community, and in turn discover how the LGBT community may support the project or organization being discussed. This is a great networking and educational opportunity for both the LGBT and larger (non-LGBT) communities which could lead to future focus groups or round table discussions, furthering specific causes in partnership between the two communities.

ALL individuals and community organizations are invited to be a Visitor.

For more information, contact Mikayla Schultz (mikayla_skye@yahoo.ca)

For a list of upcoming Visitors, go to www.transsask.org

What's Happening in Your Town?

Submit your upcoming event announcements to the Editor (mikayla_skye@yahoo.ca)
(click on most event titles for more information)

Weekly Trans Community Gathering

Every Tuesday, 5:30
USSU Pride Centre
University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon

pride.centre@ussu.ca
306.966.6615

Weekly Trans Discussion Group

Every Tuesday, 11:30
UR Pride Centre for Sexuality and Gender Diversity
University of Regina

contactus@urpride.ca
306.586.8811 ext 207



Wednesday, May 4, 7:00pm
(1st Wednesday of every month except July and August)
Connaught Library (in the basement meeting room)
3435 13th Ave.
Regina, SK.

For more information, contact Mary Anne Bachelu
306-586-1168 - mbachelu@accesscomm.ca

TransSask Presents: Visitors Series



TransSask Every Monday at 7:00pm
Support Services Trans Support Group and
Community Gathering

GLCR – 2070 Broad St. Regina, SK.

An opportunity for ALL individuals and community organizations to engage the LGBT community with their projects, questions, etc. and explore the impact upon transgender, transsexual and gender-variant individuals.

For more information, contact Mikayla Schultz
(mikayla_skye@yahoo.ca)

For a list of upcoming Visitors, go to www.transsask.org

The Avenue Community Centre Gala



Friday, May 6 · 6:00pm
Radisson Hotel
Michelangelo Ballroom
Saskatoon, SK

The Avenue Community Centre presents:

- GALA Awards & Auction 2011
- Art, Off The Wall
- Affinity Community Service Awards & The Avenue Community Centre Special Merit Awards.

- Wearable Art Show & Competition
- Silent Auction Fund-raiser
- Entertainment
- Delicious buffet
by the Radisson's award-winning
Chef, Trevor Robertson
\$85 (with a \$40 tax receipt)

For more information or to order tickets please call the Centre at 306.665.1224 or toll-free 1.800.358.1833

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta!



Thursday, May 5 at 8:00pm
Diva's Private Club
220 - 3rd Avenue South (Alley Entrance)
Saskatoon, SK
Hey Amigos!

Join us Thursday, May 5, 2011 @ 8:00 PM to celebrate Cinco de Mayo! Show your Mexican pride and dress for the occasion!

NO COVER

Zombie Douglas Improv Comedy will be performing from 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

It's time to go LOCO so make sure you have a siesta beforehand!

"Everyone has people in their lives that are gay, lesbian or transgender or bisexual. They may not want to admit it, but I guarantee they know somebody."

– Billie Jean King, American Athlete

Miss Gay Regina XX, Jenny Talia's, Stepdow



Friday, May 6, 7:00pm -
Sunday, May 8, 2:00pm
2070 Broad St, Regina, SK

Jenny's Stepdow is Coming! Be there!

Friday May 6:
Kitties and Kink: Carebears After Dark
(Candidate Show/Pageant and Open Show)
Door at 7:00 Showtime 9:30PM
Cost \$5

Saturday May 7:

Jenny's Smile Time-Happy Hour: A Kids' Show for Adults
(Command performances only, and Jenny's stepdown)
Door at 7:00 PM Showtime 8:00 PM SHARP
Cost \$5

Sunday May 8:

Victory Brunch at the GLCR at NOON
Cost \$15 - tickets available from the candidates Scooter and Ruby, and Jenny.

If you have any questions, please contact Jenny at
jenny_talia_icpxvii@hotmail.com or text at 306-530-7650

Bridge City Chorus - 20th Anniversary Concert and Dance



Saturday, May 14 at 7:30pm

Sutherland Hall
Central Avenue and 112th St
Saskatoon, SK

Come join us for a night of song and celebration

Tickets are available from chorus members and from the Avenue Community Centre (665-1224)

\$10 advance for under/unemployed

\$15 advanced

\$20 on May 14th

OCATS Annual Art Exhibit & Sale



Saturday, May 21 ·
9:00am - 3:30pm
Knox Met United
Church, Lower Level
2340 Victoria Avenue
(Vic Ave Entrance)
Regina, SK

Over a dozen artists have been selected from the OCATS members to participate in this annual art exhibit featuring the expressions of women.

Amazing door prizes from artist donated gifts!
Stop by for free coffee & tea and cookies!

Freaky Friday Turn-about Drag Show



Friday, May 13 at 10:00pm

Diva's Private Club
220 - 3rd Avenue South
(Alley Entrance)
Saskatoon, SK

Showtime 10:00pm

Cover: Members Free, Guests \$2.50

Ladies Night @ the GLCR



Friday, May 13 at 8:00pm

GLCR Nightclub
2070 Broad St.
Regina, Saskatchewan

Shooter specials!

Snacks!

Let's make this a great time!
Bring your lady friends!

80's night! A Dress Up Dance Party!



Saturday, May 14 at 9:00pm

Free Flow Dance Centre
224 25th St. W.
Saskatoon, SK

Get out those leg warmers, parachute pants and oversize tee shirts! Yes! It is time once again to go back.... waaaayyyy back to the

80's! Come in your best 80's gear and dance the night away at the Free Flow Dance Centre! Prizes for best dance moves and costume!

There will be a cash bar, fancy lights and a surprise live performance!

Come one, come all and bring your friends!

\$5 door fee

All proceeds go towards Free Flow Dance Theatre Company!

TransSask General Meeting



Monday, May 16 – 7:00pm
GLCR, 2070 Broad St.
Regina, SK

This is our first "official" meeting. We will be appointing our Board of Directors, electing officials (Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, etc.) and engaging in a discussion of the future and direction of TransSask Support Services.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

This is your opportunity to get involved in support of the Transgender/Transsexual community.

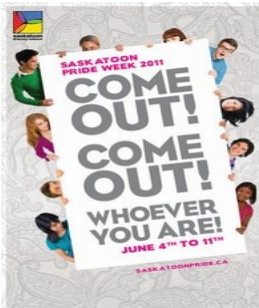
"LIBERATION"

*for one means liberation for all.
GLBTQ and Allies - Exploring our
Lives & Spiritual Journeys
Together*

Last Thursday of the month at 7:30pm

Sunset United Church
177 Sunset Drive
Regina SK, S4S 6Y7
Phone: 306-586-3613
sunsetunited.office@sasktel.net
Visit us at: www.sunsetunited.ca

2011 Saskatoon Pride Parade & Community Fair



Saturday, June 11 · 11:00am - 6:00pm
Civic Square (City Hall), 222 3rd Ave. North

Event schedule --
11am: Parade marshaling begins.
Community Fair opens. Beer Garden opens.
12:00pm: 2011 Pride Parade launches

1:00pm: Rally
1:15pm: Mr & Miss Divas, AutoManic & Carmen Roderiquez
1:45pm: Jeffery Straker <http://www.jefferystraker.com/>
3:00pm: Del Barber <http://www.myspace.com/delbarber>
4:15pm: We Were Lovers
<http://www.myspace.com/wewereloversmusic>
5pm: Community Fair Closes
6pm: Beer Garden Closes

2011 Prince Albert Pride Festival

BEYOND THE RAINBOW, LET YOUR COLORS SHINE

2011 Pride Festivities in Prince Albert are happening!
Parade, Flag Raising, & Family BBQ!

Pride Parade Saturday will be June 25th starting at 1pm.
Line-up for Parade at 12:30pm on 4th Ave and River Street West, with the parade ending at City Hall.
Flag raising to follow.

Join us for a Family BBQ in Kinsmen Park on
Sunday, June 26, from Noon to 4pm.

Call Jennifer for more info @ 1-587-784-4611 or email
pa_pride@yahoo.com

Rosebud Variety Night Round 3!



Saturday, May 28 at 7:00pm

Free Flow Dance Studio
224 25th St W
Saskatoon, SK

Please join us for round 3 of our
**AMAZING! HILARIOUS! AND
HIGHLY ENTERTAINING!** Rosebud
Variety Night! With a veritable bevy of
variety acts!

We are very pleased to announce the introduction of our
"VIP Table" by auction... Front row seats for you and 3
guests with maid or butler service all night long (all night). A
guaranteed "heckle-free zone" with the best views in the
house. Enjoy "full service with perks" including a photo with
performers at the end of the night! The VIP Table auction
will take place before the show begins.

Doors are at 7pm, Show is at 8pm. There will be an
intermission and a 50/50 draw and as always, a fabulous
MC. Tickets are \$10 at the door. See you there!

Camp fYrefly

Make Your Summer Last a Lifetime!

Camp fYrefly-Saskatchewan will take
place **August 18-21** in Saskatoon.

Camp fYrefly-Saskatchewan is
dedicated to the guiding principle of helping sexual minority
and gender variant youth move from being "at-risk" to a
place where they can be resilient and positively address the
challenges of adolescence and young adulthood.

Contact us for the new Camp fYrefly-Sask and help us get
the word out in your school and/or community!

campfyreflysask@hotmail.com

<http://www.usask.ca/education/fyrefly>

"Except for their genitals, I don't know what
immutable differences exist between men and
women. Perhaps there are some other unchangeable
differences; probably there are a number of
irrelevant differences. But it is clear that until
social expectations for men and women are equal,
until we provide equal respect for both sexes,
answers to this question will simply reflect our
prejudices."

-- Naomi Weisstein, Professor of Psychology,
Neuroscientist, and Author

Featured Organization

TransSask Support Services

Gender News recently spoke with the Director of TransSask Support Services, Mikayla Schultz. (Yes, that is me)

Gender News: What is TransSask Support Services?

Mikayla Schultz: TransSask Support Services is a province wide support and resource network for transgender, transsexual, gender-variant individuals and anyone with questions about gender identity and gender expression in Saskatchewan.

GN: Province wide? In which communities around Saskatchewan can TransSask be found?

MS: As a new organization, we are still looking to establish representatives around the province. So far, there is myself in Regina, and in Saskatoon is Rhen Jesson. We would like to have representatives and contact people in most of the major locations around Saskatchewan, like Prince Albert, North Battleford, Yorkton, Weyburn, Swift Current, just to name a few.

GN: If someone wanted to be a representative in their city, how would they become one?

MS: Well, there really isn't a long approval process one must go through. Just send me an email asking to be a representative, and that is about it.

GN: What would be some of the responsibilities of being a representative of TransSask?

MS: First and foremost, a contact person for trans folk in their area. Someone for people who are questioning their gender identity can contact and talk to. It is really important that people know they have someone to talk to about the problems they may be faced with. Maybe even set up a peer support group, so trans folk can meet with each other on a regular basis. Also, as a TransSask representative, you would engage your community, go to local events, talk to others about transgender and transsexual people and the issues they face, hand out pamphlets, and many other things.

GN: What are some of the services you provide to the Transgender Community?

MS: Actually, we provide services to everyone in Saskatchewan, not just the Transgender and Transsexual Community: peer support for transgender AND [emphasizes] transsexual people, many don't realize those two terms are different; we can also provide resources and answer questions from anyone who wants to learn more about the topic of gender, in general; and we can also go out to different places to do presentations and stuff.

GN: Oh! So, you offer services to everyone?

MS: Yes, essentially. We are willing to work with and support anyone who wants to learn more about transgenders, transsexuals, gender-variant individuals, men, women and anyone looking for support or information about gender topics.

GN: Do you have to be transgender to be involved with TransSask?

MS: No. No, definitely not. We welcome anyone who is interested in helping out the Transgender and Transsexual Community. You don't have to be transgender to know about the issues we face or to teach others about them.

GN: If someone had questions or wanted to be a part of TransSask, how can they contact you?

MS: Well, we have a website at www.transsask.org and there is a form they could fill out there; or they can email us at info@transsask.org. We can also be found on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and many other social networking sites on the web. Just send us a message or something.

GN: Isn't it true that you are me, and I am you?

MS: Ya, that's true. But it was a great way to get some information out there.

GN: Well, thank you for talking to me.

MS: No, thank you.



TransSask is Saskatchewan's province wide Transgender support and resource network. We believe ALL citizens of Saskatchewan, no matter their gender identity or gender expression, are deserving of dignity and their basic human rights

Find us online at www.transsask.org
or email us at info@transsask.org
You can also find us on:



IN the Next ISSUE of Gender News

- Results of the Federal Election, and the Future of Trans Rights
 - Transwomen and Breast Cancer
 - Where's the 'T' in LGBT?
 - Trans in Saskatchewan's Prison System
- and much, much more!

...

We look forward to your comments and suggestions on how we can improve
Gender News

All reader's contributions/articles for the next issue are welcome
We are also looking to feature Art, Poetry, etc. in upcoming issues

Send submissions to the Editor at mikayla_skye@yahoo.ca

Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month

...

Receive future issues of *Gender News*,
event announcements and other information from TransSask
in your email inbox each month by joining our Yahoo! Group (mailing list) at

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/transsask/>

(Yahoo account needed to join)

Or, by sending a blank email to

transsask-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

(no Yahoo account required)

Gender News is produced each month by TransSask Support Services and its volunteers.

To get involved, visit us at www.transsask.org