

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **NORTHWOOD STAFF CELEBRATE NATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA**

**May 17, 2013, Halifax** – The Diversity Committee at Northwood celebrated National Day Against Homophobia and gender identity today by inviting Gérard Cormier to speak about the effects of homophobia in today’s society. Mr. Cormier started his presentation by asking what employees were doing at certain dates in history throughout the last 44 years – something he likes to call “The Dating Game”.

“I like to share historical dates about the homosexual movement that allows people to understand that change doesn’t simply happen overnight. It’s through knowing where history has taken us - that allows us to move forward”, states Cormier.

Diversity Chair, Faye LeBlanc organized today’s presentation which was streamed live video to both Dartmouth and Bedford sites. “It’s great to be able to celebrate today with staff from all three Northwood locations participating in an effort to stand up together – against homophobia and transphobia.”

May 17th is symbolic day due to its significance in improving the status of gays and lesbians. It is the anniversary of the date on which the World Health Organization (WHO) put an end to over a century of homophobia in the medical field, by removing homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses.

Northwood has had a Diversity Committee for over five years, actively participates in Halifax Pride and has received a NSRAP Corporate Stewardship Award for their efforts in providing an inclusive space for LGBTQ seniors and staff.

Gérard Cormier is an Executive Staff Officer for the Outreach Programs & Equity Services for the Nova Scotia Teachers Union. Both of his parents live at Northwood.

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