



To help bring visibility and support to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities, the Positive Space Program was launched last week. Organizers say the program brings visibility and support to these communities. The joint project of the Office of Equity and Community Issues and the Antigonish Women's Association aims at recognizing the responsibility of the local community to work towards being a safe and accepting environment for people of all genders and sexual orientation.

(Ryan Gillis photo)

Positive Space Program launched

The 'Positive Space Program,' a joint project of the Office of Equity and Community Issues and the Antigonish Women's Association, was recently launched at Bloomfield Centre.

The lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender community is a diverse group of professionals, students, youth and seniors. The Positive Space Program celebrates this diversity, and recognizes the responsibility of the community to work towards being a safe and accepting environment for persons of all gender identities and sexual orientations.

Along with ensuring a safe and equitable region, the campaign focuses on the creation of a genuinely inclusive community. According to organizers, the goal is to reduce the climate of disapproval and fear of same-sex attraction and the ostracism of variable gender expression.

The Positive Space Program

brings visibility and support to LGBT communities. Participants in the program will receive a sticker or a pin to post at the entrance to their work, living, or study area, or to wear on their person. The sticker or button indicates that they are LGBT-positive and able to provide information and referrals. The presence of the stickers and buttons in the community raises awareness of the differences that exist and sensitizes others to the presence of both subtle and overt forms of heterosexism and transphobia.

The program's training workshops will begin with two pilot sessions. Participants, who are willing to provide feedback to the broader community before the training sessions start, are being sought.

The dates for workshops are Monday, Nov. 1, 6:30-9 p.m., Bloomfield Centre, Room 415 (pilot); Wednesday, Nov. 10, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Bloomfield Centre, alumni

lounge, (pilot); Monday, Nov. 15, 6:30-9 p.m. Bloomfield Centre, council chambers; Friday, Nov. 19, 1:30-4 p.m., Bloomfield Centre, alumni lounge.

Registration for each workshop is limited to 15 participants.