

## Kelowna and Area Pride Resources

Please note that this list was compiled largely via web searches so it is possible that services may have changed contact information or may no longer be in operation at the time of this compilation. Before you refer someone to any of these organizations, if you are unsure whether or not the organization still exists, please first contact the group yourself. Thanks!

### UBC Okanagan Resources

#### **UBC-O Pride Resource Centre**

UNC133 - 3333 University Way

Kelowna, BC V1V 1V7

<http://ubcsuo.ca/section/29>

[thepridecenter@gmail.com](mailto:thepridecenter@gmail.com)

The UBCSUO Pride Resource Centre provides a positive space for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, intersex and queer students on campus. The PRC works to create a sense of community amongst LGBTTTQI students and their friends and allies, provide peer support, and eliminate marginalization and exclusion based on sexual orientation or identity.

### LGBTTI-Specific and Supportive Resources in the Okanagan

#### **The Centre**

1476 Water Street

Kelowna, BC

<http://gayokanagan.com/centre/>

The Centre is the focal point for the LGBT community in the Okanagan. Since its opening in July 2008, it has been a safe and consistent venue for the many community groups and functions, and provides a supportive environment for those seeking information, or simply a place to go. We want The Centre to be a place where everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, feels safe.

#### **Okanagan Rainbow Coalition**

Box 711, Stn A, Kelowna, BC

V1Y 7P4 (Mailing Address)

991 Richter Street

Kelowna BC

V1T 7P4

250.860.8555 (The Gay Line)

[okrainbow@hotmail.com](mailto:okrainbow@hotmail.com)

The Okanagan Rainbow Coalition (ORC) serves the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities by way of peer counselling, events, entertainment and

information. They run the Gay Line, a phone line which offers information, referrals and support, and publish OutWords.

The ORC provides funding, mentoring and assistance to the Out With Friends Youth Group. This group supports and encourage youth participation within the community and serves as a resource for questioning and queer youth. Members of Out With Friends meet weekly and in addition to coordinating various events around the community has a mission to:

- Provide information and support to youth, and by extension family, in the community
- Proactively deter youth from harmful influences and promote healthy development and a sense of belonging
- Be accessible

More details on their [Facebook Page](#)

### **Okanagan Pride**

<http://www.gaycanada.com/okanagan-pride>

2048 Parson Rd Unit E1

Kelowna, BC

V1W 2XL

250.712.0694

[okanaganpride@yahoo.ca](mailto:okanaganpride@yahoo.ca)

Organizes Pride Day in the Okanagan (Kelowna, Penticton & Vernon)

### **North Okanagan Gay & Lesbian Organization**

[www.noglo.com](http://www.noglo.com)

Box 1419,

Vernon, BC

V1T 6N7

250.542.4842 or 250.558.6198

NOGLO helps bring queer social events (mainly dances) to the North Okanagan. The proceeds from our dances go to all manner of charities & non-profit societies which enhance the gay & lesbian community in the area. NOGLO is totally committed to providing a safe, harassment-free, and fun environment at all the events which we organize or sponsor.

### **SOGALA South Okanagan Gay and Lesbian Society**

<http://www.sogala.com/>

113-437 Martin St Ste 170  
Penticton, BC  
V2A 5L1  
250.493.9289

Our aim is to provide activities and events that bring together and celebrate the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender population. Our membership spans all ages, a varied list of professions and resides in the communities of the beautiful southern Okanagan Valley of British Columbia, Canada.

### **Okanagan Gay & Lesbian Business Association**

<http://www.gayokanagan.com/>

c/ o 795 Lawrence Ave  
Kelowna, BC  
VIY 6M1  
250.860.3749

The Okanagan GLBA works to promote business and services to the LGBTQTTI communities. They maintain a web listing of resources for the LGBTQTTI community in the Okanagan and for visitors to this region.

### **PFLAG (Families and Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Persons; formerly Parents and Friends of Lesbians And Gays)**

<http://www.pflagcanada.ca/>

PFLAG Canada is a national non-profit organization, founded by parents who wished to help themselves and their family members understand and accept their non-heterosexual children. PFLAG Canada is a national voice that speaks for a more accepting Canadian society by providing support, education and resources on issues of sexual orientation and gender identity. Through our PFLAG Canada Chapter and Contact network, we actively assist in the recognition and growth of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, intersex, queer and questioning persons, their families and friends, within their diverse cultures and societies.

PFLAG Kamloops  
2280 Nechako Drive  
Kamloops, BC  
V2E 1S5  
Contact Persons: Ruth Zacharias 250.828.0732, 250.314.5485  
and Judy Lusk 250.851.9385  
pflagkamloops@hotmail.com

PFLAG Kelowna  
22-436 Bernard Ave  
Kelowna, BC

VIY 6N7

250.317.3175

(NOTE: although this listing for Kelowna was found on a website, there is no listing for PFLAG Kelowna on the national PFLAG website thus this contact is likely out of date. Contact the Kamloops branch of PFLAG for more information.)

### **Living Positive Resource Centre, Okanagan**

<http://www.livingpositive.ca/>

250.862.2437

The Living Positive Resource Centre, Okanagan, through community partnerships and collaboration, will work to reduce the incidence of new HIV/AIDS/HEP C and other blood-borne pathogens and to improve the quality of life for those infected and affected.

During this time we have offered support, awareness, education and prevention programs for HIV/AIDS throughout the community, and more recently have begun education and support programs to meet the needs of those living with hepatitis C. As the front-line agency for HIV/AIDS/Hepatitis C, we are often the first point of contact for clients. Our role is to provide information and referrals, hospital visits, counselling, social service advocacy, self-care workshops, financial counselling, health maintenance, nutrition information, and information on accessing health services.

### **Okanagan Aboriginal AIDS Society**

<http://oaas.ca>

250.862.2481

The Okanagan Aboriginal AIDS Society is committed to providing the highest quality education, prevention and support services for HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C to Aboriginal Communities in the Okanagan Valley.

### **Kelowna Women's Resource Centre**

[www.kelownawomensresourcecentre.com](http://www.kelownawomensresourcecentre.com)

#107-347 Leon

Kelowna, BC

V1Y 8C7

250.762.2355

The Kelowna Women's Resource Centre is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting women's equality. In our role as a social development agency, we provide a range of information on issues of concern and interest to women. Affiliated with this group, the Rainbow Women's Group (Lesbian, Bisexual, Questioning Women) offers information, support and some social events for lesbian, bisexual, and questioning women in the Thompson Okanagan. One of the biggest problems within our community can be isolation from our peers and a feeling of desperation "Am I the only one here?" This group provides a connection to other like minded women in the LGBT community in the Okanagan.

### **Okanagan Bears (OK Bears)**

[okbears@home.com](mailto:okbears@home.com)

A Bear club for bears and their admirers living in the Okanagan Region of BC, especially Kelowna.

### **Kelowna Lesbian/Bi Social Group**

[kelownalez@yahoo.ca](mailto:kelownalez@yahoo.ca)

A casual group of lesbian/bi women in Kelowna who get together for monthly events like Billiards Night, Coffee Nights, Movie Nights, Dances in Kelowna & Vernon. All lesbian/bi women are welcome to join us for social OUTings and events!

For more resources in the Okanagan and beyond, see also:

<http://www.queerbc.com/regional/okanagan.htm> - resources in the Okanagan (Queer BC)

<http://www.youthquest.bc.ca/resources.htm#Thompson/Okanagan/Cariboo> - resources in Thompson Rivers, Okanagan, and Cariboo (YouthQuest! BC)

## Selected Provincial Resources

### **Qmunity**

<http://www.qmunity.ca/>

Prideline BC – 1.800-566.1170

Prideline is QMUNITY's peer support/information/referral phone line. They operate weeknights from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. serving our communities both locally and province wide. Staffed by trained volunteers Prideline offers information on social and community events; tourist information; referrals to social service agencies, support groups, queer-friendly doctors or therapists; and information on services offered at QMUNITY. In addition Prideline offers peer support services - someone to talk to about your concerns or issues ranging from coming out, relationship conflict, work place difficulties, and parenting issues to calls touching on same sex domestic violence and suicide.

### **The Transgender Health Program**

Three Bridges Community Health Centre

301-1290 Hornby Street

Vancouver, BC,

V6Z 1W2

604.734.1514 or

1.866.999.1514 (BC only)

[www.transhealth.vch.ca/](http://www.transhealth.vch.ca/)

The Transgender Health Program brings together transgender people and loved ones, health care providers, health planners, and researchers to work on improving transgender health services in BC. We welcome anyone who has a transgender health question or concern. Our services are free, anonymous, and confidential. The website is a great resource.