

Defining Diversity

Diversity is commonly understood in terms of dimensions that include but are not limited to race, age, place of origin, religion, ancestry, Aboriginal status, skin colour, citizenship, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, disability/ability, marital, parental or family status, same-sex partnership status, creed, language, educational background, literacy level, geographic location, income level, cultural tradition and work experience. (Source: Ontario Healthy Communities).

For comments,
questions or story
ideas contact:
diversity@cltoronto.ca

Bridging Diversity Committee

Sue Lynch, Sponsor
Karen Bell, Co-Chair
Wendy Dyke
Bob Ferguson (DSTO)
Winnie Ho
Layla Ibrahim
Josh Kolic
Liliana Ruiz
Dwayne Shaw
Sarah Winter

Bridging Diversity Newsletter Wins Provincial Award!



*Ilaneet Goren and Bob Ferguson with the
Community Living Ontario Newsletter Award*

The Bridging Diversity team was honoured this fall to have our Newsletter chosen as Community Living Ontario's

Overall Newsletter Award at their Annual Conference, held this year in Richmond Hill.

The newsletter award is judged on quality of writing, originality and content of the entire newsletter, sensitivity to language and labeling of people, and consistency with Community Living Ontario's vision statement. The newsletter should report on more than just the organizations activities, and should speak to and educate the broader community about issues that are important to people and/or related to an intellectual disability.

Congratulations to Ilaneet Goren for leading this work over the last two and a half years.

Culturelink wins Community Partnership Award



*Central Region Executive Director Frances
MacNeil presenting CultureLink's
Executive Director Ibrahim Absiye with the
Partnership of the Year Award*

The *Community Partner Award* is a new award presented to a corporation, individual or organization that has significantly contributed to the community inclusion efforts of the Association. CultureLink was the inaugural recipient of this award. CultureLink has been working closely with Community Living Toronto for

many years on outreach and community development projects under the Bridging Diversity Initiative, to help ensure newcomers with intellectual disabilities and their families and caregivers have barrier-free access to Developmental Services in Toronto.

From promoting inclusion and reducing isolation within newcomer and ethno cultural communities, to creating opportunities for newcomers to become ambassadors for inclusion through our IDEA project, to most recently, helping ensure Syrian refugees who have family members with intellectual disabilities access supports, Culturelink has been an important link in helping Community Living Toronto build relationships with many communities.

Also because of our partnership, Community Living Toronto has been able to recruited volunteers and employees to our organization through CultureLink. Community Living Toronto is very pleased to present Culturelink with this award and is looking forward to our continued partnership.



BRIDGING
Diversity

sprOUT Toronto

Peer group for LGBTQ people with an intellectual disability over the age of 18.

Meets every second Monday of the month at the 519 Church St. Community Centre
6 - 8 pm

Call to register:
416-222-1153 ext. 138

Religious, Cultural and Human Rights Observances

Happy New Year

For a full calendar of multicultural observances visit: www.timeanddate.com

Please visit the Bridging Diversity page on SharePoint for more multicultural and multi-faith dates.



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Rabia Khedr Appointed to Ontario Human Rights Commission



Rabia Khedr and CLToronto's Layla Ibrahim (r) hosting a booth at the Reviving the Islamic Spirit Conference.

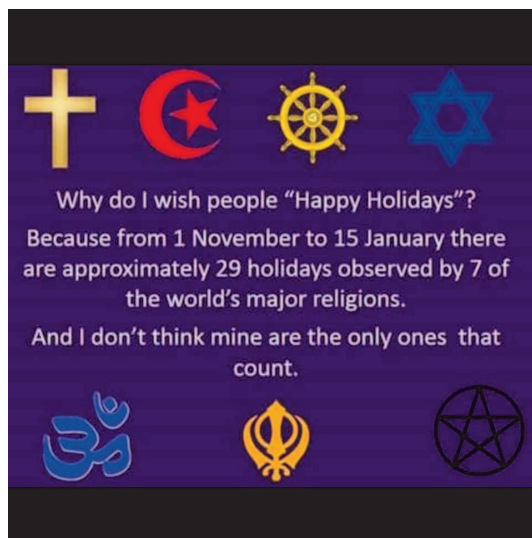
The Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario has appointed five new part-time commissioners to the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

We are pleased that one of the new appointees is Rabia Khedr, founder of the Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities. Our Bridging Diversity team has worked with Rabia over the course of a number of years, including her participation as a panel member on the Faith, Disability and Inclusion Forum held last year.

Here is an excerpt from the Ministry of the Attorney General Ontario press release:

Commissioner Rabia Khedr is a dedicated volunteer and advocate for diverse communities, women and individuals with disabilities. She is a human rights consultant with diversityworX, founder of the Canadian Association of Muslims with Disabilities and a member of the Mississauga Accessibility Advisory Committee, which she chaired for eight years. Commissioner Khedr has also been on the board of directors for the Ontario Women's Health Network and a member of the Region of Peel Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Appointments to the Ontario Human Rights Commission are made by the Lieutenant Governor with the advice of the Executive Council of Ontario, in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code.



ANNISAA Women's Health Conference

Community Living Toronto was an exhibitor at the ANNISAA Women's Health Conference held on October 22nd at the Ontario Science. This conference aims to address issues regarding the health and well-being of women. Community Living Toronto has participated in the conference in previous years and was honoured in being invited back.



Sarah Winter and Wendy Dyke