



For Immediate Release

Youth Services Bureau raises Rainbow Flag to demonstrate emergency shelter a safe place for GLBTTQ youth

August 24, 2009—The Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa (YSB) and the Village Committee are working together to break down barriers for gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans, two-spirit and questioning (GLBTTQ) youth by raising two rainbow flags at the YSB's young men's shelter.

Speaking at the event will be **a youth** describing his experiences as a gay youth and an immigrant; Youth Services Bureau Executive Director **Alex Munter**; and **Ian Capstick** from the Village Committee. Also available for interviews will be a young woman who faced similar struggles as a lesbian living on the street.

What: Raising of the Rainbow Flag

When: August 25, 10 AM

Where: Young Men's Emergency Shelter (*see address below)

Statistics show that gay, bisexual, and trans youth face discrimination in terms of housing and employment. As a result, gay youth are over-represented among youth living on the streets and in shelters. Raising rainbow flags will show youth that YSB's shelters are safe and non-judgmental places for them.

YSB is one of the largest and most comprehensive non-profit agencies serving youth in Ottawa. At over 20 locations across the city, YSB serves over 2,500 youth and families every month in the areas of housing, community services, mental health, youth justice, youth employment, and health services.