

CHRISSY TAYLOR

I am a new and fresh face at the Vancouver Pride Society (VPS). For the past four years I have been working for the Wish Drop In Centre Society, supporting survival sex trade workers in the Downtown East Side. I work from an anti-oppressive framework recognizing that oppression is rooted in all levels of society. My volunteer experience through the UBC Equity program gave me opportunity to educate and facilitate workshops on Anti-Oppression and Equity issues including LGBTTTQ issues.

I am a recent graduate from UBC in Psychology and Family Studies. My academic papers focused on themes such as; marginalization, LGBTTTQ rights, sexuality and gender, medicalization of sexuality, sexual dysfunctions, sexualized violence, sex work laws and the effects on violence. While at UBC, I coordinated the Vagina Monologues, which promotes the end to sexualized violence and gender violence. Through this position, I helped facilitate workshops that included topics such as; anti-oppression, safer sex, and trans 101. I also had the pleasure to work as an assistant for CampOUT, helping in the administration of the program.

In 2010, I brought my unique perspective and extensive experience to the VPS, with a focus on bringing further diversity to the organization and board. I was hired as the Volunteer Coordinator Intern for VPS and was then brought onto the board as a Director at Large after my contract ended. I currently hold the position of Chair of the Outreach Committee and have been involved in organizing and aiding numerous outreach events over the past year. I aim to continue to develop and nurture our current relationships with prides throughout BC and the Pacific Northwest but also create more outreach locally, focusing on building a stronger community throughout the city.

Through my various positions in VPS, I have been able to pursue my growing interest in human rights, specifically within the LGBTTTQ community. Most recently, when attending the Inter-Pride Conference in Brussels in 2011, I was fortunate to become a member of the Inter-Pride Human Rights Committee, which creates awareness and education around LGBTTTQ rights around the world. In Brussels I connected with various delegates from around the world to talk about what could be practically done to aid countries that are struggling to get basic human rights for their LGBTTTQ citizens.

Through my volunteer and board experience, I am keenly aware of the leadership required to continue moving the organization forward. I am confident I can provide that leadership and work together with the board and community to ensure transparency and accountability as the organization grows. In my leadership role on the Executive, I would continue to expand accessibility and representation of VPS to include the diversity of our community. This includes actively listening to the voices of those that continue to be marginalized within our own community. I would strive to continue to make VPS an advocate for human rights both locally and internationally, while having as much fun as possible, celebrating how far we have come