

BRIGHT LIGHTS AWARDS

2024

Nomination: 1. Expanding access to team-based care Sundridge & District Medical Centre, Almaguin Highlands Family Health Team

The creation and implementation of a Transgender & Non-Binary Healthcare and Support Services Task Force of the Muskoka and Area OHT(MAOHT). A multi sectoral community-based effort to understand the needs for a vulnerable population, and to gain knowledge of the services currently available while moving to ensure these are coordinated for the betterment of our community.

Muskoka and Area OHT Transgender & Non-Binary
Healthcare and Support Services Task Force

TESTIMONIALS



Dr. Sarah MacKinnon, MD, CCFP

Lead Physician of the Sundridge & District Medical Centre & Muskoka and Area OHT Transgender & Non-Binary Healthcare and Support Services Task Force Member

"This group which includes people with lived experience, healthcare professionals, and healthcare and social service providers have come together to work towards better provision of healthcare for people who are Transgender and or Non-Binary. Currently, the group is working on an inventory of services, identifying gaps in healthcare, and has applied for various grants to increase services to Muskoka and Area. As a family physician, this group has provided our medical team with valuable resources. As the parent of a transgender teenager, their work gives me hope for equitable healthcare access now and in the future. I strongly support this Task Force for their nomination to receive the AFHTO 2024 Bright Lights Award."



Ella Stone

Muskoka and Area OHT Transgender & Non-Binary Healthcare and Support Services Task Force Member

"Now I'm crying! Not just because it's such a beautiful message but also because it just shows how incredibly badly the community has been needing this! The second I saw your post about starting this group I immediately wanted in! I am so proud to be part of this and I think I can safely say I speak for the entire trans community when I say we can't thank you enough for doing this. Thank you so very very much!"



Seth Compton

Muskoka and Area OHT Transgender & Non-Binary Healthcare and Support Services Task Force Member

"As someone who identifies as Transgender and advocates for youth and seniors in North Bay this email has me in tears at my desk. Thank you!!! All of you. I can't wait to see where this goes. I appreciate you all."

MAOHT has received presentations by the Centretown CHC's Trans Health program in multiple forums. Based on information provided, we estimate there are approximately 193 trans/non-binary (NB) individuals residing in Muskoka and area full-time and another 244 trans/NB individuals residing seasonally in Muskoka District. In response a task force has been championed and initiated by its co-chairs, Dr. Sarah Mackinnon (Family Physician – Sundridge & District Medical Centre) and Rebecca Paul (Executive Director, Almaguin Highlands FHT). Its inclusive design has garnered strong active support in the community and provides a catalyst to work across sectors and jurisdictions to improve service access.

