



31 August 2017

Community Development and Recreation Committee
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

Dear Committee Members:

A healthy and vibrant community-based sport and recreation programme is vital to the health, wellness, and well-being of both individuals and of communities in the City of Toronto. Such programmes help to ensure that there are safe and welcoming places for everyone to get out and play throughout their lives, materially connect with their fellow citizens, and develop joint senses of responsibility for the overall health of the participants' various communities and the social fabric of Toronto as a whole. **OUTSPORT TORONTO**'s mission over the last several years has been to work with its members, partners, and allies toward exactly those ends for the LGBT community within Toronto.

As Chair of **OUTSPORT TORONTO**, I fully support the work that has been done and will be done within the context of the Parks, Forestry, and Recreation Sport Plan, its three pillars of Capacity Building, Awareness, and Inclusive Sport, and their intended outcomes. I have personally contributed to the development of this plan through years of attending Toronto Sport Council summits and participating in the valuable conversations there, various liaison opportunities with Parks, Forestry, and Recreation staff over the years, and most recently as part of the City of Toronto Sport Plan Reference Group. As a member of the Toronto Sport Hall of Honour Selection Committee, I pay particular attention to those submissions that highlight contributions to community-based sport and recreation, because I believe strongly in its importance to healthy societies and individuals.

I would be pleased to participate in the City of Toronto Sport Plan Resource Group to contribute to the plan's success, and help ensure its goals are met for not only the LGBT community, but all Torontonians. I also believe that this shared leadership model for the actualisation of the plan is critical to its success.

Yours truly,

Shawn Sheridan
Chair, **OUTSPORT TORONTO**