



# PINK

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(PINK Nominees)



VANCOUVER  
**PRIDE**  
SOCIETY

**Pink - Sexuality (Sexual Health) This award recognizes an individual whose work has promoted sexual health.**

**Perry Boldt**

Perry Boldt began his most recent chapter of community volunteer work after he moved to Vancouver from his home city of Ottawa in 2004. Soon after, he saw the Downtown Eastside for the first time, and was shocked to see so many people living in poverty and afflicted with mental illness, addiction, abuse and HIV/AIDS. In the lead-up to the Olympic Games he watched a news story about the astounding rate in HIV infection/transmission in the DTE, which it described as comparable to a third-world country.

One night over dinner with a friend, he learned about the Dr. Peter AIDS Centre and the work it was doing to help the very people the news story described. Its ground-breaking work in treatment and prevention for the city's most vulnerable -- combined with its AIDS-epidemic roots in being a catalyst for educating the public about HIV/AIDS -- while caring for so many gay men, made supporting the DPAC seem like a meaningful opportunity contribute. Doing so was a way to honour the LGBTQ generation who's shoulders we stand on, help spark conversations about the topic of HIV/AIDS among people in his own generation, and in some small way, help improve the lives of people in the DTE who have also been profoundly impacted by the virus. With the support of a small but mighty team of volunteers and collaboration with the event's co-founder Ricardo Coral, he organized two editions of a fundraising event called the Hangout. The events aimed to bring together gay guys of his generation in a fun, social environment and raise awareness and funds for the DPAC's work. Through a short speaking program, it also sought to engage attendees to reflect on how far we have come in the fight to against HIV/AIDS, while acknowledging that much work remains and complacency isn't an option.

Perry is also a member of the Resource Development Committee for Qmunity, where he had his first STI tests in Vancouver (and many subsequent ones, often with friends or sexual partners in tow). He recently hosted a donor engagement event in his home with his partner Cameron Zinger to build further support for QMUNITY, an organization he believes is a cornerstone in sexual health and other support services for BC's LQTBQ community.

Perry is currently the Assistant Director of Communications for the Canada Border Services Agency's Pacific Region.

### **Sr. Merry Q**

Sr. Merry Q. Contrary first met the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence ([www.thesisters.org](http://www.thesisters.org)) in 1996 while on a youth retreat. The Sisters are an international group of volunteers founded in San Francisco in 1979 who take lifelong vows to promote joy and rid the queer community of guilt and shame through charity, political activism and community service. From a core group of gay men, the Sisters have expanded to over 1,000 members on four continents that include all genders, orientations and beliefs.

It took 13 years before Merry Q. decided to take the plunge and become a nun. She did so in the presence of her sponsor, Sr. Merry Peter (a former Toronto sister) and members of the Vancouver LGBTTS Community during a Radical Faerie gathering in 2009. Soon after, she founded a mission of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence in Vancouver. By February of 2010, three others felt the call and joined her, founding the Vancouver Abbey of the Long Cedar Canoe (<http://yvrsisters.ca>), the first official presence of the Sisters in Canada in almost two decades.

Sr. Merry Q. was twice elected as Reverend Mother, providing guidance and leadership to this quickly growing Abbey. Her story, and that of the Abbey, was the focus of a full-length film called “Bad Habits: The Return of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence” by award-winning Canadian documentarian Kevin O’Keefe, which has won critical acclaim at film festivals across Canada and the United States.

From the start, Sr. Merry Q. grounded the fledgling Abbey in the Sister’s long tradition of promoting harm reduction using humour to open conversations in which people could talk freely about safer sex, personal choices and challenges without shame or judgment. She also helped the Abbey listen to the Vancouver community and identified where the sisters could be the most effective. Sr. Merry Q. and the Sisters have raised more than \$7,000 for AIDS Vancouver, Positive Living BC and A Loving Spoonful and over \$300 plus a trunk full of blankets to provide supplies to those living rough on the streets of Vancouver, especially LGBTTSQ youth. The Abbey has spread its joyful message beyond the downtown core, participating in Pride events and ministry in East Vancouver, Surrey, New Westminster, Kelowna, Victoria, Sechelt

and Salt Spring Island. They also maintain a very active web presence and use social media to engage queer youth, elders and families and support new missions of the Sisters in Edmonton and Montreal.

An example of their creative outreach is their safer sex art contest. The winning design will be displayed on the Abbey's condom packages alongside tips for negotiating safer sex. This reflects Merry Q.'s emphasis on celebrating healthy, fun and passionate sex lives. Sr. Merry Q. Contrary also celebrates heroes within the Vancouver LGBTQ community through public "Sainting Rituals" that recognize the sometimes overlooked contributions of activists, health workers, artists and others.

In her life and work, Sr. Merry Q. Contrary exemplifies the sisters' vows to be a bedazzled, glittering mirror reflecting back the joy, courage and fabulousness we are all sometimes too shy to claim ourselves.

### **Bradford McIntyre**

I am both an out gay man and out about my living infected with HIV (now 29 years).

**BIO:** A long time survivor living with HIV since 1984, I announced (came out) publicly on national TV, on the Dini Petty Show, World AIDS Day, December 1, 1994 that I was living infected with HIV.

For nearly 20 years, I have been involved creating HIV and AIDS awareness, volunteering my time (health permitting) participating in HIV/AIDS causes through all venues: events, conferences, workshops, seminars, along with local, national and international speaking engagements. I have appeared on national television and radio, in numerous newspaper and magazine interviews and documentaries. My articles on HIV and AIDS, including the stigma and discrimination that many people experience, have been published in newspapers, magazines and on web sites around the world. My work creating HIV and AIDS awareness globally has provided for many people, a face living with HIV and this has helped to bring hope to people infected that they too can live!

In 2003, I plunged into internet technology and successfully launched my personal website, to further educate people and disseminate HIV/AIDS information worldwide. The website is now an internationally recognized HIV and AIDS information and resource website, with over 3,000

pages and receives 150,000 – 200,000 hits a month; having reached 14 million in over 176 countries. My website allows me to showcase the work individuals, groups and organizations are doing regarding HIV/AIDS and related issues. On a daily basis, I collaborate with individuals, groups and organizations, locally, nationally and internationally; including their news, events, press releases, conferences, workshops and more via my computer at home, without any funding).

Currently, I serve (3 years), as Vice-Chair (Volunteer) on the Board of Directors (Board seat: Self proclaimed HIV positive seat) of AIDS Vancouver Society. As well as, my being an HIV Positive spokesperson for AIDS Vancouver, I Chaired the Governance Committee (2 years) and am on several other committees. For the past two years, I have both planned and been the Master of Ceremonies of the Vancouver AIDS Candlelight Memorial, hosted by AIDS Vancouver and sponsoring organizations.

Every year since 2002, I have been nominated for an AccolAIDS Award (Positive Living Society of British Columbia) for my outstanding contribution within the BC AIDS movement (AccolAIDS is now a biannual event). On November 27, 2012, I was awarded (in Ottawa) the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for excellence in the field of HIV/AIDS, in Canada

**Involvements:** I was a Pride Parade Entry Representative/Participant: Vancouver Pride 2004 - In the Name of Love! – I marched proudly along the Vancouver Pride 2004 parade route carrying my homemade sign which read: OUT ABOUT HIV, HIV+ 20 years.