Centre for Human Rights, Equity, and Accessibility

2017-2018 Report



I am pleased to present this report on the activities undertaken by the staff of the Centre for Human Rights, Equity and Accessibility (CHREA) in 2017-18. This is our first report in this format and we hope you will find it interesting. If you would like to discuss any of these activities in greater detail please feel free to contact us.

-Tara Harrington, Human Rights Advisor



We lead conversations and initiatives related to human rights at Trent University. Our work includes the following areas:

Monitoring and advising on Trent University's
Accessibility Policy and compliance with the
Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

Monitoring and advising on Trent University's Discrimination and Harassment Policy and responding to human rights complaints.

Supporting the Presidential Advisory Council on Human Rights, Equity, and Accessibility (PACHREA) and its subcommittees.

Providing education and outreach to the Trent University community on issues related to human rights, equity, and accessibility



Ben McColl, Special Projects Coordinator, facilitating a workshop at Durham.

In the 2017-2018 academic year, CHREA facilitated workshops on:

Positive Space.

Valuing Diversity.

Knowing Your Rights.

Accessible Document Creation.

Employment Equity.

"The Centre is supportive, collaborative and willing to assist with any questions we have as we collectively journey the accessibility path at Trent".

-Tanna Edwards, Project/Administrative Assistant

Accessibility

Represented the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) AODA Coordinators' Sub-Group on a COU Accessible Procurement Working Group.

Offered Virtual Office Hours—a weekly opportunity for faculty and staff members to access interactive, real-time support in converting documents to accessible formats.

CHREA continued to work with departments such as Facilities Management and Libraries to prepare for upcoming legislative requirements, as well as to offer input on creating inclusive practices that will enhance accessibility for Trent community members.



Andrea Walsh, Institutional Accessibility Advisor, outside her office in Otonabee College.

Durham Campus

This year the members of the Centre continued to work with staff, faculty and students at Trent Durham. CHREA staff were invited to participate in Clubs, Groups and Services Day and offered workshops to staff, faculty and students on Positive Space. The Human Rights Advisor responded to individuals with concerns about human rights issues.

Education and Outreach

CHREA staff participate in education and advocacy groups locally, provincially and nationally; serving on the Accessibility Advisory Committee (City of Peterborough), the Ontario Network of Accessibility Professionals, the Ontario University Employment Equity Network and the Canadian Association for the Prevention of Discrimination and Harassment in Higher Education.

In addition, staff led or participated in a number of conference workshops including the Kawartha Teaching and Technology Conference and a one-day forum hosted by the Canadian Alliance on Race and Disability that examined the intersection of racism and disability.

"CHREA has been a valuable partner to work with on campus, especially in my role coordinating the Student Support Certificate. They provide expertise in inclusion and share this readily with the Trent community. Feedback from their sessions consistently highlight their responsiveness to participants' needs and flexibility in their delivery and discussions".

- Kate MacIssac, Mental Health and Wellness Strategist

