

WHAT IS OPEN CLOSET?

Open Closet is a safe space and free drop-in social support group for youth between 14 and 18 years of age who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, queer or questioning their sexual orientation and/or gender identity (LGBT2Q+).

The group started in early 2002 and has served approximately 1,100 youth. Open Closet is open to youth from each of the six counties we serve - Perth, Huron, Lambton, Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford.

Join us for discussions, movie nights, special guests from the community & more. Trained facilitators host the weekly group and provide a structured, supportive meeting place for youth. When needed, referrals (for additional services) can be provided.

We meet at 186 King Street, London, Ontario, every Friday night from 7-9pm, at Regional HIV/AIDS Connection (RHAC). The group normally gathers in the lobby of 186 King Street and a facilitator greets the youth at 7pm and brings them up to the meeting space in the RHAC office.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Call between 9am and 5pm,
Monday-Friday to make an inquiry.

From London, call:

519-434-1601

Or from any of the six counties we serve –
Perth, Huron, Lambton, Elgin, Middlesex
and Oxford – call toll free:

1-866-920-1601

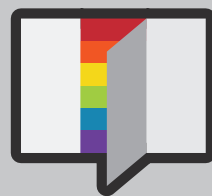
Email us anytime at:

opencloset@hivaidconnection.ca

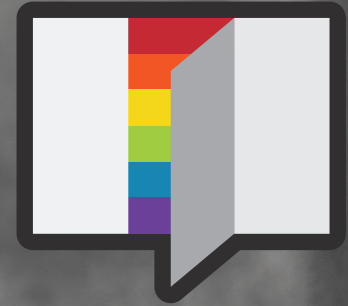
We accept local referrals from friends,
family, schools, and organizations.

We are located at:

186 King Street, London, ON



**OPEN
CLOSET**



a social support group
FOR
LGBT2Q+ YOUTH

PROGRAM EXAMPLES

- Coming out to parents, family & friends
- Gender identity
- Safer sex, HIV/AIDS & other STI information
- Culture, religion, & spirituality
- Dealing with depression and isolation
- Who am I in this community?
- Internalized homo/bi/transphobia
- Self-acceptance & self-esteem



**YOU ARE
NOT ALONE.**

We're dedicated to identifying,
advocating for and serving the
needs of London and area
LGBT2Q+ youth.

OUR GOALS ARE SIMPLE

- **Create** a safe space for youth to participate in discussions and receive support while dealing with matters related to sexual orientation and/or gender identity.
- **Offer** an opportunity to connect with one another as a community.
- **Engage** in semi-structured activities that promote self-awareness, respect, self-esteem and self-confidence.
- **Educate** ourselves about the impact of internalized homo/bi/transphobia.
- **Recognize** the need for connection, alliances and pride for a healthy self-concept.
- **Identify** factors that support the development of healthy LGBT2Q+ relationships within the context of oppressive social environments.
- **Support**, share, learn and listen to other "coming out" stories.
- **Practice** communication skills - how to share thoughts and feelings in ways that promote connection.
- **Discuss** relevant social issues that both pertain to and define greater LGBT2Q+ communities.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Hate Helpline: 519-951-1584

Youthline: 1-800-268-9688

RHVP (Crime Stoppers):
519-661-8477 or 1-800-222-8477

Distress Centre: 519-667-6711

Sexual Assault Centre: 519-439-0844



Regional
HIV/AIDS
Connection

Community Inspired. Courage Driven.

Visit www.hivaidconnection.ca for
additional information and resources.