

# News Release

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## Bluewater Health Celebrates PRIDE

**SARNIA & PETROLIA – June 18, 2018** – Bluewater raised the PRIDE flag at 11:30 am today, for the first time in its history, as a step toward identifying and reflecting on the uniqueness and individuality of its patients and employees resulting in enhanced support and caring for all individuals at Bluewater Health. The flag will fly until Friday, June 22. In addition to the flag-raising, Bluewater Health is hosting an information fair from noon to 3:00 pm today with community partners.

As part of its multi-year commitment to better understand the unique health concerns of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Two-Spirit, Intersex, Asexual (LGBTQ2IA) people, Bluewater Health has invited a number of community groups. Lambton Public Health, North Lambton Community Health Centre, PFLAG, Sarnia Pride Alliance, Sarnia Speaks, Spectrum (Sarnia-Lambton Rebound) and Transgender Support Sarnia-Lambton will all have booths at the fair.

“Bluewater Health is continuing its work to embed better healthcare access for all Sarnia-Lambton residents,” says Shannon Landry, Chief Nursing Executive. “I’m especially proud of our support of PRIDE Month, since it is guided by our staff-led Healthy Living Team, demonstrating our people want an inclusive culture.”

“This represents the beginning of our journey to address the needs of this specific part of our community,” says Colleen Cook, Director, Human Resources. “We have offered Gender Identity and Diversity training through *Rainbow Health Ontario, Sherbourne Health Centre* to different levels of our organization, and plan to form a community resource committee. We look forward to continuing to work with our Healthy Living Team to ensure we continue to enhance inclusivity for staff as well as patients.”

Bluewater Health, with locations in Sarnia and Petrolia, cares for the residents of Sarnia-Lambton. With close to 2,500 staff, Professional Staff and volunteers, Bluewater Health provides an array of specialized acute, complex continuing care, allied health and ambulatory care services. Bluewater Health’s Mission is: *We create exemplary healthcare experiences with patients and families every time.* For more information about Bluewater Health, visit [www.bluewaterhealth.ca](http://www.bluewaterhealth.ca) or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube.

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For more information contact:

Julia Oosterman  
Chief, Communications & Public Affairs  
Bluewater Health  
519-328-3136

