

# Homophobia is for the ignorant

KUDOS TO THE MINDEN UNITED CHURCH for its ongoing speakers' series on the acceptance of homosexuality.

While Canada is a global leader when it comes to same-sex rights and is one of a handful of countries in the world to have legalized same-sex marriage, homophobia is still a fairly rampant and ongoing problem in this country.

And in a region like Haliburton County, which has a reputation for being staunchly socially conservative, the church's actions are both brave and progressive.

Let there be no mistake that homophobia is for the ignorant and meager of intellect.

It is discrimination against a group of people based on their genetic traits.

Homophobia is no different than say, sexism or racism.

Just as women in this country fought for suffrage – for the right to vote, for the right to be recognized as full and competent human beings, equal to their male oppressors – and just as African-Americans fought vehemently for their civil rights during the 1960s, so now homosexuals in the Western world are fighting for their rights.

And really, what is homophobia?

Let's take a quick second to dissect it, dear readers.

It's of course human nature that we are apprehensive and afraid of things that are different, things we don't understand.

Homosexuality, however, is really quite common. Different statistical sources will say that somewhere between five and 10 per cent of the human population is homosexual, but it's difficult to really tell since so many people are left in the closet because of general societal discrimination.

Yes, dear readers, it's overwhelmingly possible that someone you love, be they friend or family, is homosexual.

Also, it seems that homophobia is often tied to religion. This is both ironic and hypocritical since every major organized religion preaches love and acceptance of all as part of its dogma.

Hmmm.

Also, while homophobics will accuse homosexuals of being perverted, it is really homophobia itself that is a perversion, if one thinks about it logically.

Why should anyone be thinking about what other people do in the privacy of their bedrooms?

Really. That's kind of messed up. It's none of their business.

As the late Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau once said, "the state has no place in bedrooms in of the nation."

And love him, hate him, or hold indifference to him, Trudeau was right.

No one has any place in any one else's bedroom.

Hopefully, the Minden United Church will inspire other organizations throughout the county to engage in such important and intelligent social dialogue