



Happy 2 years, queers!

Coastal Queer Alliance is a local non-profit organization committed to creating resources, augmenting representation, and facilitating collaborative opportunities for the queer community.

Coastal Queers is coming into its third year this spring & we're SO excited for what 2023 has in store! Check out some of the highlights from last year.

How have we been augmenting representation?

We're committed to ensuring that queer folks know where to reach us, and what we're all about. This can mean taking up a little corner of the world wide web or surfing real waves - either way, we want our community to show up and be present for those who are still looking for us.



How have we been creating resources?

Queerness in a small town shouldn't need a roadmap - but sometimes, it does. Under resourcing can mean that queer folks don't have the access they need to gender affirming care, life saving medication and competent physicians. CQA is leading the way and building these maps to get you what you need to thrive.



coastalqueers.ca

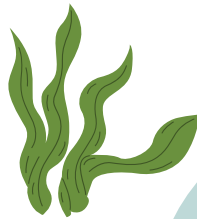


CQA has officially launched a website! Social media and Instagram can't contain all the amazing work that we're doing, or tell the story of CQA and our community. Coastalqueers.ca is a queer landing space online for our community, filled with resources, education, programming, and our mission and history. Please take a look, and share widely with anyone you think would feel at home here.

Healthcare

Since then, we've been hard at work creating health care resources and we launched a project in 2023 to address these concerns. The resources we've created address the barriers specific to our community and highlight options for accessing outsourced care through mail in programs and independent lab requisition access.

Please check out the resources on our website and instagram, and share widely.



Coastal Queers has recognized since day one that accessing health care in our community as a queer is riddled with significant barriers.

In October of 2022, CQA spoke at Community Based Research Center's annual summit on queer health care about the barriers queer folks experience accessing care in our community. We spoke about the lack of physician knowledge, long wait times at the lone clinic, being misgendered, doctors having no queer competency skills, having to leave town to access life saving care, and the lack of an STI testing clinic.

Coastal Queers is grateful to live, learn, unlearn, and bring community together in the ḥaḥuuti of the λaḥuukʷiḥath. We are committed to a continuous process of learning from and mplifying the voices of First Nations individuals and governance, and acting with accountability to the laws of the land and waters that have been set out by the Nations whose lands we operate within.



How have we been facilitating collaboration?

One of the key parts of CQA's mandate is to bring queer folk together in safe, exciting spaces. Over the past year, we came together for queer skate, clothing swaps, movie nights, pop ups and button making - we did it all in 2022 and we're only doing more in 2023.



Queer Surf was one of the first programs that CQA ever ran in 2021! Our goal then, and our goal now remains the same - reduce barriers in surfing and help create a supportive community for all genders, sexualities, and ability levels to get in the water together. We continued to do this in 2022 by providing free transportation to and from the beach, free gear and free lessons. This happens because of the great season partners we have in Surf Sister and Surfside Grill, and all the great businesses who donated raffle prizes to help support.

Because of this support, Queer Surf 2022 has helped over 350 people get in the water in a safe, joyful and supportive way.

Queer Surf 2023

Queer surf 2023 is coming up quick - **June 22** will be the big annual kick off. Everyone is welcome, please follow us on @coastalqueers on instagram for the most up to date info. If you're interested in supporting Queer Surf, please visit our [Queer Surf](#) page.



PACK THE MAQ

Thank you to all of our local artists, businesses, and volunteers who contributed to making this event a success. When we support queer folks putting on queer events where everyone is welcome to come and learn, we become a stronger community!

In November of 2022 we hosted our biggest event yet - Pack the Maq! We're passionate about producing thoughtful, safe, FUN events that combine lots of different facets of the queer experience and offering something for everyone. We get to showcase the talent and diversity of the queer community and have an amazing time while we're at it.

Making good times even better, CQA supported in the delivery of naloxone training to 27 people. We recognize the many intersections that queer people have in identity, including those who use drugs, and want to provide everyone the tools to have a safe, fun, sexy time - whatever that looks like for them!





What's up next for Coastal Queers?



Annual General Meeting & Pride

CQA is excited to announce we have some awesome things in the works for pride this year, and the best place to learn about it? At the AGM!

For the past two years CQA intentionally chose to put our capacity and time into developing resources, connections and support for the queer community. We know that the queer community, and Tofino as a whole, wants to celebrate Pride - but we didn't feel great about acting like we had something to celebrate once a year without supports available year round.

In 2023, we want to look at the do's and don'ts for how to support pride in our community, how to resource queers year round, and how to support CQA in continuing to provide accessible, brilliant, safe events by queer folks for queer folks.

AGM DETAILS

WHEN?

April 27

WHERE?

Tofino Theatre

WHAT TIME?

6PM

CAN'T MAKE IT?

Join on [Zoom!](#)

door prize from Merge!



Are you a non-queer individual or non-queer business owner that wants to support pride?

Great! Don't try to do it on your own. Come to the AGM and look out on IG and coastalqueers.com where there will be more information for businesses about how to support Pride coming your way in May.



RAINBOW CAPITALISM

How it doesn't exist in our communities, and why it never needs to

What is rainbow capitalism?

Rainbow capitalism is the action of businesses claiming to support the queer community (particularly during June, Pride month) while financially benefiting from merchandise and events that appropriate queer identities and cultures.

Examples of rainbow capitalism look like:

- Putting a rainbow up in your storefront for pride month, only to take it down after June is over
- Changing business logos to incorporate a rainbow as your only act of support for the queer community
- Hosting events that capitalize/profit off of queer culture (ex: drag shows, pride parades) without having financial proceeds being directed back into the queer community
- Only asking the question "How can I support the queer community?" during the month of June

Your monthly piece of learning!

(If you're a business owner in our local community, this one's for you!)



continued --->



RAINBOW CAPITALISM

Why is rainbow capitalism shitty?

Rainbow capitalism is harmful to the queer community for a multitude of reasons.

-Non-queer folks creating queer events is harmful. CQA puts intention into every single event to create spaces where queer folks do not experience barriers while attending - if you don't even know what those barriers are, you aren't the person to put the event on!

-Events that generate profit by capitalizing off queer culture without that profit being directed back into the queer community, when financial support is one of the most continuous needs that our local queer community requires, is fake, false and see through! Don't try it <3

-If you are only starting to think about the queer community during the month of June, you're not the person to lead the way on creating an event! Come support the people who think about queer people year round, and learn about how we can work together.

-CQA is the only queer organization in our community and we have worked really hard to create connections for queers out here. When we started CQA there was absolutely zero visibility for queers in our community. If the only reason you are thinking about queerness in your business now is because it seems to be more accepted in town, and you see queer events happening - you literally have us to thank for that.

The good news is - rainbow capitalism has not yet bloomed in our community. And, it never needs to! There are a multitude of ways businesses can meaningfully support the queer community year round.

THANKS! to a few of our biggest supporters

- >Hotel Zed
- >Clayoquot Biosphere Trust
- >Surf Sister
- >Coastal Restoration Society

You help us do what we do, and we couldn't do it without you. We are so grateful for your continued support. :) <3

Okay, rainbow capitalism sucks. What can I do instead?

Great question! If you're looking to support the local queer community, here are some easy ways to get started:

-Come to our AGM on April 27, tell your friends to come to our AGM, & post about our AGM on social media. Social media, newsletters, and our website can only tell you so much of the story. Our best learning happens when we gather as a community with the intention of growing together.

-Donate to the initiatives we have already created, and help support the programs we dream of starting - Queer Surf & button making are only the beginning. Monetary donations keep non-profits running. Click [here](#) to donate today!

-Swap out the gendered signage on your washroom doors in your workplace for something more accurate and less discriminatory. This is one of the easiest barriers to reduce for gender-diverse people visiting your business. (click [here](#) for more information on updating washroom signage!)

-Increase your knowledge of queer identities through a simple [half hour module](#). Things are changing! (Or rather, the space is being opened up for folks to exist in a multitude of wonderful and expansive ways) Become familiar with some of the language and identities in queer community, and take autonomy over your own education!