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**choice is mine:
tatiana maslany**

Orphan Black star, Emmy Award winner and Toronto Top 50 on why reproductive rights matter.

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**send the right
message**

PPT launched an LGBTQ+ allyship campaign. And it went viral.

safe access now

planned parenthood toronto | 2017



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**ABORTION
ADVOCACY**

mifegymiso, safe access zones, peer education, and more

choice is ours.



letter from the executive director

If you're reading this, I know that you believe in revolutionizing the sexual health dialogue. You're in the right place. Meet **choice is ours.** the revitalized newsletter by Planned Parenthood Toronto. Here you'll get the inside scoop. We'll keep you up-to-date on all things PPT.

This first issue focuses on our recent successes in abortion advocacy. But, if you've been a long-time PPT supporter, you'll know that, for us, choice encompasses so much more. Future newsletters will give us the opportunity to explore all the angles of choice together.

in this issue.

If you're a Tatiana Maslany fan (and I'm a big one!) you'll love her insights on reproductive rights. We're thrilled to have had the opportunity to connect with Tatiana to discuss her impassioned support of Planned Parenthood Toronto.

We also cover two exciting abortion policy announcements that we helped make happen. But most of our reproductive support happens on the ground in our clinic, so you'll also hear the story of Kira, a volunteer who's given her time for 11 years. Then, you'll get a first hand look at two PPT success stories: our new LGBTQ Youth Initiative campaign, and our satellite location EdgeWest.

Finally, we're thrilled to announce our February Fundraiser. Although we won't be releasing any of the exclusive details until the new year, I can't wait to meet you all there.

We want this newsletter to meet your needs. I look forward to hearing your feedback on this first issue. Please send comments to ppt@ppt.on.ca.



Safe Access Zone Announcement, left to right | Indira Naidoo-Harris, Minister of the Status of Women; Attorney General Yasir Naqvi; Sarah Hobbs Blyth, Executive Director PPT; Notisha Massaquoi, Executive Director Women's Health in Women's Hands

Yours in choice,

Sarah Hobbs Blyth

GIVE TO THE COMPASSIONATE IUD FUND

Did you know that even at-cost IUDs range from \$50-\$400? These prices are out of reach for many of our clients. Because of your donations, Planned Parenthood Toronto can offer compassionate birth control to those who can't afford it. By donating to PPT, your dollars mean safe, effective and *free* birth control for low income youth.

Donate at www.ppt.on.ca/donate

choice is mine.

PPT: Why has it been important to you to champion reproductive rights?

TM: I've gone to Planned Parenthood for years now. I'm always surprised about how little education there can be in terms of our bodies and our rights over our bodies. I just feel very strongly about what Planned Parenthood does in terms of education and creating an open dialogue—how it acts as a safe space to ask questions that are difficult, and to go through things that are complicated and personal. We deserve to decide for ourselves what we need, what's best for us.

PPT: What does choice mean to you?

TM: Choice means knowing every option, knowing everything that's available, to go with *your* instinct and *your* knowledge of the world to head down whatever path you want to. Choice is such a personal thing. It can bring us together as a community, and it allows us to be complex in all of the things that we are.

PPT: In the series finale of your hit show *Orphan Black*, your character Sarah is considering her pregnancy options outside of Planned Parenthood Toronto; what was it like to play a character in that situation?

TM: It was an extremely defining moment for Sarah and has massive ramifications for her life. She's making her decision and choosing for herself what she wants. She's been told her whole life that she doesn't know best, that she shouldn't want things for herself, and making this decision is a very empowering moment for her. There was so much going on when we were filming that last season with the American election happening mid-way through it, and so I think we all became very focused on talking about choice.

PPT: Why do you think people should donate to Planned Parenthood Toronto?

TM: How many reasons can I give? I think it's the most valuable resource for young people, for people who are interested in reproduction, sexuality, reproductive health, health in general. All of this is so vital to our freedom. It's an incredibly moving thing to help any cause that seeks to empower people and gives them freedom and choice. Planned Parenthood is under attack right now. I think that's all the more reason for us to be putting our money towards it—to fight for Planned Parenthood. It's just so important.

Tatiana Maslany

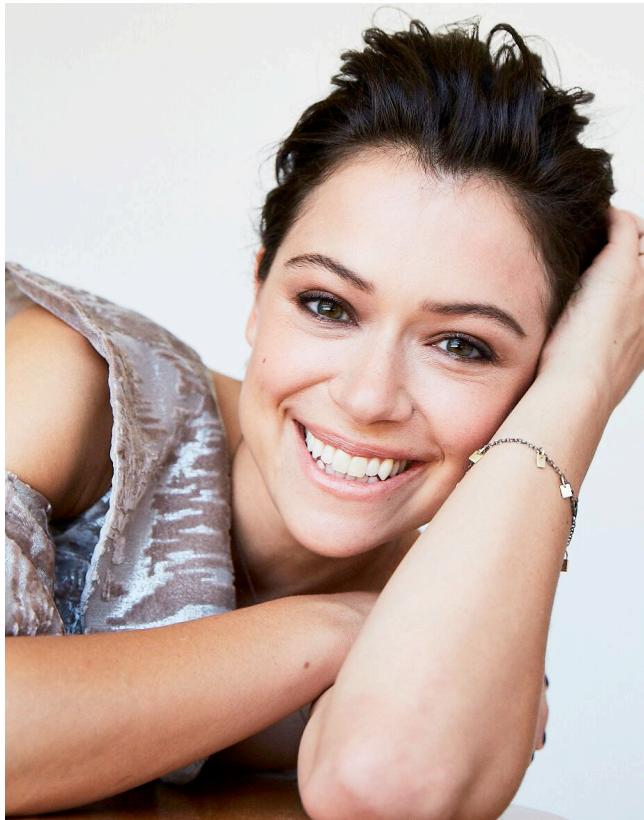


photo by Angelo Sgambati

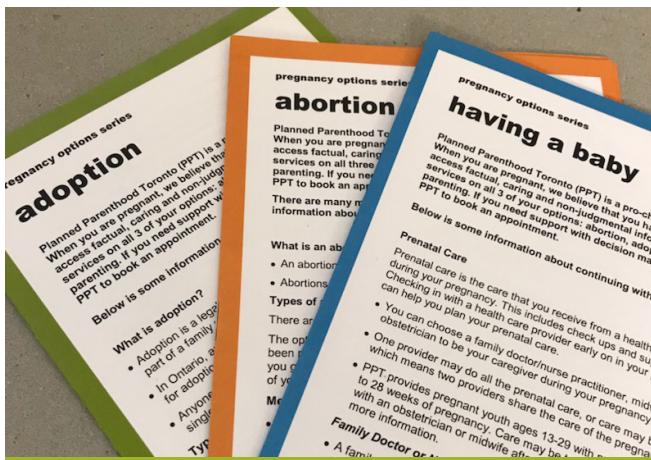


It's an incredibly moving thing to help any cause that seeks to empower people.

Tatiana Maslany is an Emmy Award-winning Actress who has garnered numerous accolades for her film and television roles. This year brought Maslany to the large and small screen, with starring roles opposite Jake Gyllenhaal in the film *STRONGER*, and Dane DeHaan in *TWO LOVERS AND A BEAR*; both of which hosted their North American premieres at the Toronto International Film Festival. Her role in BBC America's recently concluded *Orphan Black* has earned her many awards and nominations. Maslany was also named one of Toronto Life's 50 Most Influential in 2016.



above | PPT volunteer Kira on her last shift after 11 years of service with peer education coordinator Dennis
below | pregnancy options fact sheets available at PPT



■■ Pro-choice, to me, means an informed choice. Giving people all the information to make the choice that's best for them.

-Kira, health services peer volunteer

safe access now

ppt is at the helm of the pro-choice movement.

When Kira was in her teens, her good friend got pregnant. Kira had always aspired to be a nurse, so she was the obvious choice to turn to for support. As the two teens tried to navigate the situation, they seemed to face judgment at every turn. Then, Kira found PPT. Once her friend received the unbiased information and referrals she needed, Kira decided to become a PPT volunteer. She thought, "I need to get involved because I need to pay Planned Parenthood back."

So began her eleven years as a health services peer educator. The peer education model at PPT is truly innovative. Since many people feel most comfortable sharing with their peers, volunteers like Kira create a safe space for youth in complex and vulnerable situations. For example, Kira has provided resources to a refugee youth seeking healthcare after a sexual assault, to a Catholic youth navigating an unwanted pregnancy, and to a young woman in search of affordable prenatal care.

The peer model has grown over time, and Kira's grown with it. "Back when I started, the doctor had to deliver [pregnancy test] results, so it's cool that we're seeing people through the process now,"

cont'd

she remarked. "If the test is negative it's a great chance to talk about birth control options and STIs, and if it's positive we then talk about options. We divide the options into adoption, abortion, undecided and parenting. You take it from there, whatever they need."

We know that the reason that we're trusted as reproductive health experts is due to peer volunteers like Kira. Because we respect youth and their ability to make decisions about healthcare, PPT is sought out and trusted to give a community health perspective on major policy decisions regarding choice.

On August 3rd, PPT spoke to one such policy announcement. PPT's Sarah Hobbs Blyth stood alongside the Minister of the Status of Women to announce OHIP funding for the newly approved abortion pill mifegymiso. Sarah commended increased access to no-cost abortion services, explaining that, "the people of Ontario deserve reproductive healthcare regardless of income or location."

The exciting policy announcements did not stop there as on October 4th Sarah, alongside the Attorney General, announced the first reading of the *Safe Access to Abortion Ser-*

publicly funded, accessible health centres to ensure primary oral health care accessible to vulnerable people in Ontario." The bill we are proposing are strong and successful, and that committed to ensuring women's right to make her own sexual and reproductive health right, and one our government will allow for safe access zones where abortion services are available with page Dana.

Acting Speaker (Mr. Ted Arnott): That con-

sideration.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PROTECTING A WOMAN'S RIGHT
TO ACCESS ABORTION
SERVICES ACT, 2017

LOI DE 2017 PROTÉGANT
LE DROIT DES FEMMES À RECOURIR
AUX SERVICES D'INTERRUPTION
VOLONTAIRE DE GROSSESSE

Ms. Naidoo-Harris, on behalf of Mr. Naqvi, moved
second reading of the following bill:

Bill 163, An Act to enact the Safe Access to Abortion Services Act, 2017 and to amend the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act in relation to abortion services / Projet de loi 163, Loi éditant la Loi sur l'accès sécuritaire aux services d'interruption volontaire de grossesse et modifiant la Loi sur l'accès à l'information et la protection de la vie privée en ce qui a trait aux services d'interruption volontaire de grossesse.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ted Arnott): I look to the minister to lead off the debate.

Hon. Indira Naidoo-Harris: It is my pleasure and honour to rise today and share time with the Attorney General, and to add my support to Bill 163, the Safe Access to Abortion Services Act, 2017.

above | 2nd reading of the *Safe Access to Abortion Services Act, 2017*

below | images from PPT's social media campaign in support of safe access



vices Act, 2017. PPT was a force in the production of this Bill, which creates a 150m radius around abortion providers where anti-choice protest is prohibited. With others we signed an open letter compelling its need, we consulted on the drafting of the Bill, we ran a public campaign urging its support, and we provided a deputation in the Bill's favour. During deputation Sarah stressed our need for the Bill, explaining that, "Our unapologetic advocacy for reproductive freedom puts a target on our back." Once the Bill passed, the Attorney General personally thanked PPT for our contribution.



PPT Director of Health Services Racquel, Executive Director Sarah, Ontario Attorney General Yasir Naqvi, and PPT Communications Coordinator Chelsea



EdgeWest (above) is a youth-centred integrated service model. Now in its 2nd year, the Edge model is expanding with the development of EdgeOV.

what is the Edge model?

youth-focused, youth-informed integrated services

Healthcare for youth must have youth at the centre. That's the defining principle of our satellite location **EdgeWest**.

Developed in partnership between PPT and Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood and Community Health Centre, EdgeWest is a unique healthcare experience that delivers on youth-positive values in every interaction.

This means youth can access a full range of primary, mental, and sexual health services that are sex-positive, LGBTQ-positive, anti-oppressive, non-judgmental, confidential, and accessible.

Youth were involved in the design of the clinic and EdgeWest continues to prioritize the opinions of those it serves. As one client puts it, "It's incredibly comforting, truly a huge relief to know I have somewhere to go, especially when I don't know what is wrong with my body and there's nowhere else I can get the attention I need."

Known as *the* health hub for youth in the West end, EdgeWest has maxed out its capacity. We are currently seeking funding opportunities so we can expand.



future site of EdgeOV

Following its overwhelming success, the EdgeWest model will be replicated for youth facing barriers to access in the Oakwood-Vaughan area. Staffed by doctors, nurse practitioners, social workers, health promoters and more, the EdgeOV clinic is a timely community health intervention.

Planned Parenthood Toronto is a contributing partner on this initiative alongside Unison and Davenport-Perth CHCs. We bring our youth-centred expertise to this exciting new project. EdgeOV will serve vulnerable youth, as well as others facing barriers. PPT will support the development of a non-judgmental, anti-oppressive health delivery model with a robust dedication to sexual and reproductive choice.

The province of Ontario invested \$1.6 million in this new satellite clinic. In a statement, Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long-term Care, explained his commitment "to ensuring all Ontarians have access to high-quality primary care, closer to home."



send the right message

an lgbtq allyship campaign for youth

The room was full of smiling LGBTQ youth and allies, as PPT's LGBTQ Youth Initiative celebrated the launch of Send the Right Message on September 26th, 2017. This LGBTQ youth-led campaign provides resources for straight and cisgender youth who want to help improve the lives of LGBTQ people. Topics include privilege, practical tools for supporting LGBTQ+ identities as a straight or cisgendered ally, and how to be accountable if you mess up.

Check it out at sendtherightmessage.ca



they go by them

PPT's LGBTQ Youth Initiative volunteers recorded and edited an educational video on respecting pronoun use. The video, titled *They Go By Them*, went **viral** on social media with over 300K views. It was also selected to screen at the Rainbow Reels Film Festival in Waterloo. Sadly, Internet hate was relentless, showing just how important this campaign is.



EnVision keynote

The Send the Right Message Youth Advisory Committee was honoured with an invite to keynote the Toronto District School Board's EnVision Conference. EnVision brings together LGBTQ youth in middle and high school to engage with issues, search for answers, and learn more about offering effective anti-homophobia and anti-transphobia work in the classroom.



i'm sylvan

**i volunteer
at ppt**

"I'm proud to have helped create a campaign like Send the Right Message. After I started medically transitioning, some of my close friends assumed that I would be straight. They didn't understand the fluidity of sexuality and gender identity. Hopefully a resource like this can help them."

— Sylvan Tang,
LGBTQ Youth Initiative
member

february fundraiser

be the first to know.

**special guests, date, and location tba.
tickets starting at \$25.**

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2017

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