

## **GERARD VELDHOVEN**

GERARD VELDHOVEN IS A LONG-TERM LGBT ACTIVIST WHO HAS PERSONALLY ADVOCATED FOR INCREASED QUALITY OF LIFE AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE RAINBOW COMMUNITY. IN THE SPIRIT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL CHANGE, VELDHOVEN HAS CHAMPIONED THE RIGHTS OF LGBT PEOPLE IN PICTOU COUNTY AND ALL OF NOVA SCOTIA. HE HAS PIONEERED PRIDE WEEK FESTIVITIES IN MORE THAN ONE COMMUNITY WHERE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS HAVE BEEN LACKING. AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE PICTOU COUNTY CENTRE FOR SEXUAL HEALTH (PCCSH), A MEMBER-CENTRE OF SEXUAL HEALTH NOVA SCOTIA, VELDHOVEN'S DEDICATION EXTENDS WELL BEYOND LGBT RIGHTS AND EQUALITY. HE IS A VOLUNTEER ON THE PRIDE WEEK COMMITTEE, AND THE RACE AND DISCRIMINATION COMMITTEE WITH THE TOWN OF NEW GLASGOW AND WRITES A WEEKLY COLUMN PRINTED IN SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS ON LGBT ISSUES. GERARD IS A COURAGEOUS PIONEER AND HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED PROVINCIALY AS A LEADER AND PROGRESSIVE VISIONARY.