

## **Former Hamilton Pride Chair to Run for Provincial NDP**

**By Jae Adams**

**Gay 905**

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Lyla Miklos announced last week that she will seek the NDP nomination for the riding of Hamilton West. The riding has been held by the NDP's David Christopherson since 1990. Christopherson announced that he would not be running in the next election, expected in the spring or fall of 2003.

Lyla Miklos would bring excellent organizational and political credentials to the position. A resident of Hamilton for over 20 years, Miklos is a 28 year-old bisexual woman who recently served as Chair of the 2002 Hamilton Pride Festival. Miklos has been involved with Pride for 5 years. Miklos' workhorse ethic also extends to her career at Chum Television where she works as a Programming Coordinator for Bravo!, Space and Drive-In. Miklos even has her own stage music-themed radio program on Mohawk College Radio (C101.5 FM). Not content with all those responsibilities, she is also actively involved in community theatre (where she exercises her "kick-ass" vocal chords).

A queer activist in the Hamilton area for nearly a decade, Miklos helped create Mohawk College's first official support and social club for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered (GLBT) students – Mohawk Pride. Lyla now sits on the GLBT Committee for the City of Hamilton and is an active member of The Toronto Bisexual Network and Bisexual Women of Toronto. For the past three years Lyla has been a friend of The First Unitarian Church of Hamilton, a religious organization with a long and proud tradition of supporting the GLBT community of Hamilton.

Never shy to share her opinion, Miklos has indicated several important causes close to her heart. Not coincidentally, these issues are also hot topics around the NDP watercooler. Homelessness, healthcare, education, GLBT issues, and hydro are just some of the areas where Miklos feels the current government has dropped the ball.

"We can no longer sit back and let our province fall apart. We need dramatic change at Queen's Park and I hope to be a part of that change," said Miklos on her website, [www.lyla4mpp.com](http://www.lyla4mpp.com).

Miklos faces stiff competition on her way to securing the NDP nomination. Roy Adams, Evelyn Myrie and Wayne Marston have already announced their intentions to compete for the seat.

The final vote to confirm the representative of the NDP seat will take place on Tuesday, March 4th, at the Unitarian Church - 170 Dundurn St. South, at 7pm. You must have become a member of the provincial NDP prior to February 2nd, to be eligible to vote.

In related news, David Christopherson has announced that he will enter the race to become mayor of Hamilton in the next municipal election in November.