

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**AIDS - still a gay disease?**

**Lyla Miklos**

**XTRA!**

**Nov 20, 2008**

I am a little stunned that a member of our LGBTQ community in such a highly regarded leadership position showed such a lack of delicacy, diplomacy and tact in publicly expressing her views. One would hope that she would understand that in her role her comments may not only reflect on her, but on the organization she represents.

Oddly enough I have heard from several folks (many LGBTQ) within the AIDS movement that they don't feel AIDS is a gay issue anymore and that the gay community needs to step back from claiming it as their own. When I attended the International AIDS Conference in Toronto a couple of years ago there was room at the table for a multitude of groups devastated by this horrible disease including MSM (men who have sex with men).

The historic impact of AIDS on our LGBTQ community has had an everlasting ripple effect on where we are now. As long as our queer brothers and sisters are still dying from, affected by and being stigmatized because of AIDS, I know that AIDS is a queer issue.

**Lyla Miklos**

**Hamilton, ON**