

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT
AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION
IN OAS ACTIVITIES

OEA/Ser.G
CP/CISC-635/12
15 August 2012
Original: English

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION PRESENTED
PURSUANT TO ITEM 6 OF THE GUIDELINES FOR
PARTICIPATION BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
IN OAS ACTIVITIES [CP/RES. 759 (1217/99)]

[Égale Canada (Égale)]

ANALYSIS OF THE REQUEST BY ÉGALE CANADA TO BE REGISTERED WITH THE OAS

This document was prepared by the Department of International Affairs, Secretariat for External Relations to provide information to the Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the civil society organization *Égale Canada (Égale)*.

The information contained in this report is in response to resolution CP/RES. 759 (1217/99) “Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities.” This document includes a summary and list of documentation presented by *Égale Canada (Égale)* in accordance with the aforementioned Guidelines.

1. Background

Égale Canada was founded in 1986 in Toronto, Canada, and incorporated as a federal non-profit organization on August 23, 1995 with the objective of advancing the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transvestite, transsexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTTTI) peoples and promoting equality, diversity and justice through education.

Égale conducts activities around four main programmatic areas: education; legal issues; trans issues, and international LGBTTTI campaigns to promote inclusion and diversity and eradicate discrimination and hate crimes against groups of different sexual orientation and gender identity.

Through its educational safe school campaigns, *Égale* seeks to provide youth with a better understanding of the rights and protections afforded to students under provincial and federal laws with respect to discrimination, homophobia, transphobia and bullying. In 2011, *Égale* published a report on the “National Climate Survey on Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia in Canadian Schools,” which was presented the previous year in the York Region SpeakOUT Conference and provides educators and school administrators with information and guidance to respond appropriately to these issues in their schools. Additionally, it created a website for safer schools and inclusive education; and launched the “Equity and Inclusive Education Resource Kit for Ontario High Schools” in order to make Canadian schools safer and more inclusive.

Égale has met with several provincial Ministers of Education to develop resources to ensure inclusive education; as a result it developed a two-day teacher development workshop to include LGBT safe spaces in the classroom. Moreover, it participated in four community panels dedicated to helping lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, and questioning youth, and co-sponsored with the Toronto Police a one-day presentation on the Report Homophobic Violence Program for police officers, teachers and school administrators for LGBTTTI youth suicide prevention.

Égale’s legal activities included the monitoring of the decision of the Ontario Superior Court on two cases related to the Canadian Blood Services policy of prohibiting blood donations by gay populations, and intervened in a case against proposed legislation to allow public officers to deny marriage licenses on personal or religious grounds in the province of Saskatchewan.

With respect to its programs on trans issues, *Égale* conducted advocacy and lobbying during

sessions of the Canadian Parliament to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code toward recognizing and affirming the equal rights of trans Canadians, and appealed to the government's decision to cease all funding for sex reassignment surgery for federal inmates; and became a member of the Canadian Professional Association for Transgender Health (CPATH).

Internationally, *Égale* promoted equality for sexual minorities in Montenegro and the Balkans, and supported LGBTTTI activists in Uganda, and participated in the International Gay, Lesbian, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) Conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil in January 2010. In the framework of the United Nations, *Égale* has also participated in meetings of the UN Conference on Human Rights, the UN World Conference on Women, and the International Year of the Family Conference. In addition, the organization was consulted by the United States Department of Defense regarding the decision of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

Égale carries out its activities with projects funded by the Ontario Ministry of Education, Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Department of Education of Newfoundland and Labrador; donations from the TD Bank Financial Groups, The Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the McLean Foundation, CUPE 4400-Toronto Education Workers, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF/FEESO), Cineplex Media, United Food and Commercial Workers Canada, and other revenue from fundraising galas and legal services.

Égale submitted its application to be registered with the OAS on July 23, 2012.

2. Name, address, and date of establishment

Name:	Égale Canada
Address:	185 Carlton Street Toronto ON Canada M5A 2K7
Telephone:	(416) 965-7887 ext.21
Fax:	(416) 963-5665
E-mail address:	hkennedy@egale.ca
Website:	www.egale.ca
Executive Director:	Helen Kennedy
Date established:	August 23, 1995

3. Primary areas of activities and contributions that could be of interest to the OAS

Égale Canada advocates for the human rights of LGBTTTI youth and through education to

eradicate discrimination against people due to their sexual orientation and gender identity and promote inclusion and diversity. The primary areas of activity and contributions of the organization that could be of interest to the OAS include:

- Influencing the formulation of educational policies that promote the exercise and full recognition of human rights and the eradication of all forms of discrimination and intolerance based on gender identity and sexual orientation through educational programs, panels, and information campaigns designed to raise awareness about sexual diversity;
- Advocating for the rights of LGBTTTTI persons at the local, national and international level by cooperating with police agencies and communities to prevent hate crimes through its reports on homophobic violence; and
- Promoting the social inclusion of transsexuals in their relations among themselves and with society, and creating awareness on the rights of these people.

4. Identification of OAS work areas

Égale Canada offers to support the OAS in the following areas:

- Promote the principles in the Inter-American Democratic Charter in the area of human rights;
- Contribute to the work of the Unit on the Rights of LGBTTTTI Persons of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to promote diversity and inclusion and eradicate discrimination and bullying among LGBTTTTI youth; and provide information on the situation of human rights in the area of sexual orientation and gender identity in accordance with resolution AG/RES. 2721 (XLII-O/12), “Human Rights, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity;”
- Present recommendations related to the promotion and protection of human rights to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) of the Permanent Council; and
- Share best practices with the Department of Public Security (DPS) of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS) regarding police training to prevent violence and hate crimes.

5. Documents submitted by the CSO to the OAS

- Letter addressed to the OAS Secretary General, dated July 23, 2012
- Certificate of Incorporation
- By Laws
- Mission Statement
- Annual Report for 2010-2011
- Financial Statements for 2011 (signed by Marcil Lavallée, chartered accountant)