



QUEERANTINE 2020 OPENING CEREMONIES CÉRÉMONIES D'OUVERTURE : QUEERANTINE 2020

Monday, July 13th, 2020 // lundi 13 juillet 2020

Alex Tétreault, Chair // Président

Aanii! Welcome! Bienvenue à Queerantaine 2020, les 23^{es} célébrations annuelles de la Fierté du Grand Sudbury!

Bon, on s'entend que c'est un peu différent cette année. Au lieu d'être rassemblé en gang dans la grosse chaleur à l'Hôtel de Ville, ces cérémonies d'ouverture vous sont beamé direct de mon salon pendant que vous êtes à la maison ou au travail, en train de vivre votre vie. Vous avez même le luxe de m'écouter sans porter de pantalons, chose qui serait légèrement moins appropriée dans un contexte social. Peu importe où vous êtes et comment vous nous écoutez, toute l'équipe de Fierté Sudbury Pride est heureuse que vous pouvez être des nôtres.

Cette Semaine existe pour nous permettre à nous rassembler et à occuper l'espace publique, pour démontrer que nous sommes nombreux et que nous sommes puissants. C'est pour cette raison que, pour nous, c'était impensable de ne pas poursuivre avec l'organisation d'une semaine d'activités. Même si nous ne pouvons pas nous unir en personne, se donner des caresses ou s'embrasser, ces temps troubles exigent un retour à la communauté, quelque chose pour briser l'isolement et la solitude que trop parmi nous ressentent en ce moment. La meilleure façon de combattre l'incertitude et la peur qui règnent en ce moment, c'est par l'amour et la compassion. Cette Semaine, écoutons et appuyons-nous les uns les autres.

D'ailleurs, en plus du fun classique de la Semaine de la Fierté et d'une belle brochette d'activités en français, cette année nous voulions laisser de la place pour avoir les discussions importantes qu'on se dit toujours qu'on devrait avoir mais auxquelles on ne se rend jamais. En espérant que ces activités réussissent à nourrir ces conversations.

Je passerais maintenant la parole à quelques-un.es de mes collègues qui ont de quoi à vous partager.

Lee Czechowski, Vice-Chair // Vice-présidence

Aanii, boozhoo, tansi, bonjour, and hello. Happy Pride 2020!

Thanks so much for joining us for Queerantine. I'm Lee, my pronouns are they/them, and I'm vice-chair of Fierté Sudbury Pride. It would have been so nice to be gathered together, standing in the sunshine, feeling the presence and power of one another as a community; and yet, with everything going on, we still find a way to connect. We continue to be resilient.

That same resilience is what keeps pushing us. It pushes us to stand up for one another, to look out for each other, to care for each other. That resilience is our compassion, and our determination, and our pride. It is what directs us to wear masks and wash our hands and gather online; it tells us to speak up against injustices; it tells us to protest environmental prejudice when pipelines are being laid through sovereign lands; it tells us to be present and put our physical bodies on the frontlines when black and brown people are being killed by police; it tells us to keep screaming that all lives won't matter until black trans lives do; it tells us that equality doesn't end at marriage.

That resilience has also brought us here, today.

It pushed us through 51 years, since Stonewall. It pushed us through 153 years, since the declaration of a nation state on stolen land. It pushed us through 330 years, since the recorded enslavement of Black people on said lands. It pushed us through 528 years, when a confused sailor landed on Turtle Island and called it India. And it will continue to push us forward. Let our resilience continue to push you towards the right side of history. Keep your existence political. Pride depends on it.

Miigwech. Happy Pride.

Laur O'Gorman, Diversity Rep // Conseiller·ère en diversité

Hi, my name is Laur and I'm the diversity rep for Fierté Sudbury Pride and a professor of women gender and sexuality studies at Thorneloe University.

I've been involved in pride for about 15 years. When I was younger, I thought being gay meant that you would move to Toronto and nobody would ever see you again. Now kids growing up see so many more possibilities for their own lives, their families, their future families, and the relationships that they may or may not want to have. It would be hard to deny that things have improved greatly for a lot of people in the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

But the gains are not universal; different groups have benefited differently. While middle-class gay men and lesbians get married have children in Canada, the US, and Western Europe, we're seeing queer refugees coming here to escape prison and even death but being turned away at our border or facing racism when they do get in. Black Trans women are murdered at astonishingly high rates. Homophobia has gone from being overt like physical violence and name-calling to a more subtle hard to see system that's really embedded into our social structures along with racism ableism sexism another forms of discrimination. But being hard to see doesn't mean it isn't there.

The groups who fought hardest for queer liberation have benefited the least from the gains we have achieved so far. There are Black, Brown and Indigenous queer people so we need to support Black Lives Matter. Queer people can be disabled so we need to be inclusive in all our events and organizing. Queer people can have mental illnesses, so we need to support mad movements and survivor-led strategies for mental health. Many queer people are low-income particularly indigenous racialized and trans folks so we need to support movements to end poverty. Queer people face discrimination at work so we need to support local unions. Queer women and femme folks experience sexism street harassment and gender discrimination so we need to support women's movement and movements to end gender-based violence. Up to 40% of homeless teenagers identify as LGBT and Sudbury doesn't have a youth homeless shelter. Two-spirit an indigenous queer people have been here in this territory that we now call Canada for longer than white settlers have been on this land so we need to support indigenous-led organizing and recognize the impact of colonization on this group. We also need to remember that trans women are women trans men are men and gender doesn't have to be a binary.

Pride isn't just about waving a flag and throwing a party it's about recognizing how far we have come and how much further we have to go.

This year I'd like to challenge Mayor Brian Bigger and our city council to look into how policing in our city impacts the most marginalized groups and to explore the possibility of defunding the police and investing in people instead.

The first pride was a riot against the unfair treatment of queer people by police. Now, Black Lives Matter is taking to the streets to do the exact same thing. It's our responsibility as 2SLGBTQ+ people to support them.

Thank you.

Ryan Wildgoose, Secretary // Secrétaire

Hi all! Happy Pride Week, Happy Queerantime – I am your Fierté Sudbury Pride secretary and local queer historian Ryan Wildgoose coming to you...not live from my bedroom, considering we are in this life-altering pandemic situation.

It may not seem like it while we're stuck at home and watching videos or participating in Zoom calls over the internet this year, but Pride is a riot. Pride has always been, and always will be, an ongoing riot and protest to achieve and maintain equal rights for all people regardless of gender and sexuality. Members of the queer community have been historically and still are oppressed based on how they identify and to whom they are attracted, and it is important that we do not forget that while we engage in some fun throughout this year's digital Pride Week.

I'd also encourage anyone who is watching to register for the Queerest Trivia night on Friday, because some of the information I am about to share will come up again in the form of trivia questions at the event.

The Stonewall Riots, which occurred in June 1969 – fifty years ago last year, I actually had the opportunity to visit Stonewall on its fiftieth anniversary – outside the Stonewall Inn in New York City, are credited with starting the gay rights movements in the western world. This was not the first nor the last riot, but one of the most memorable, as many gay rights protests, conferences, and marches followed in the next decades. Trans women of colour, such as Marsha P. Johnson, played a large role in the Stonewall Riots, so it is important to note the intersectionality of this movement – that it was never just about gay rights, but also trans rights, black rights, and everything that we are still fighting to achieve today. This is especially important to remember in the current political climate. Black Lives Matter – black gay lives matter, black trans lives matter, and we cannot let the role of queer people of colour in our own queer liberation go unrecognized.

The first Pride march occurred in Sudbury in 1997, twenty-three years ago and one year after protections on the grounds of sexual orientation were added to the Canadian Human Rights Act. Protections on the grounds of gender identity and expression would not be added until 2017. Although we have made some breakthroughs in obtaining the right to live and exist, there is still a long way to go, considering the incredible queerphobia that people both in this city and worldwide continue to experience. Gay men in Canada still have a temporary wait period of three months after having sex before donating blood as a result of the 1980s AIDS crisis, despite that HIV can be contracted and spread regardless of gender and sexuality. Trans people still struggle, even locally, to access proper health care based on the gender marker on their ID and the transphobia of healthcare workers. Oppression that the queer

community faces is systemic, and those within the system must recognize their own role as the oppressor, whether or not they consider themselves queer allies.

Pride is an ongoing riot. And while our local Pride march will be postponed as a result of the pandemic, we will not stop fighting.

Happy Queerantime – I hope you enjoy the week of events we have tried to put together to ensure you feel safe, recognized, and supported during this trying time.

Alex Tétreault, Chair // Président

Before we wrap up, we need to thank all our partners, without whom any of this wouldn't be possible. First, our sponsors: The City of Greater Sudbury, Eastlink Community TV, TD, Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association – Sudbury Unit, Greater Sudbury Police Service's Chief's Youth Initiative Fund, and 50 Carleton. Thank you, merci.

We also need to thank all of our programming partners and collaborating artists: Centre de santé communautaire du Grand Sudbury, Eastlink Community TV, Expozine Sudbury, G.R. Gritt, Jennifer Holub, Myths & Mirrors Community Arts, Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants, Open Minds Quarterly, St. Andrew's United Church, Sudbury Workers Centre, Tafari Anthony, TG Innerselves, Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario, and Zig's Bar. Thank you, merci.

And to make sure that you don't miss anything, the full schedule of events is available on our website, sudburypride.com. You can also find us on Facebook and Instagram and sign up for our brand-new newsletter. On top of that, those of us who still have cable are invited to check their local listings because some of our events will be re-aired on Eastlink Community TV (Sudbury, Channel 10) during the week. You might even be watching us from there right now!

Finally, I want to thank my fellow members of the Fierté Sudbury Pride Board of Directors, a crack team of volunteers that's been working hard as hell all year to get this festival together for you: Lee Czechowski, Ryan Wildgoose, Kathleen Zinn, Katlyn Kotila, Laur O'Gorman, Mélodie Bérubé, Dana Carbone, Emily Maville, Chase Scully, and Gwek Pitawannakwat. Thank you, thank you, thank you. If I could include you all in my bubble, I'd give you all a big-ass hug.

With that, all that's left to say is thank you for tuning in and we hope you'll enjoy the festivities. We wish you a kick-ass, queer as hell Queerantime! On se voit sur les internets!

Thank you! Merci! Miigwetch!