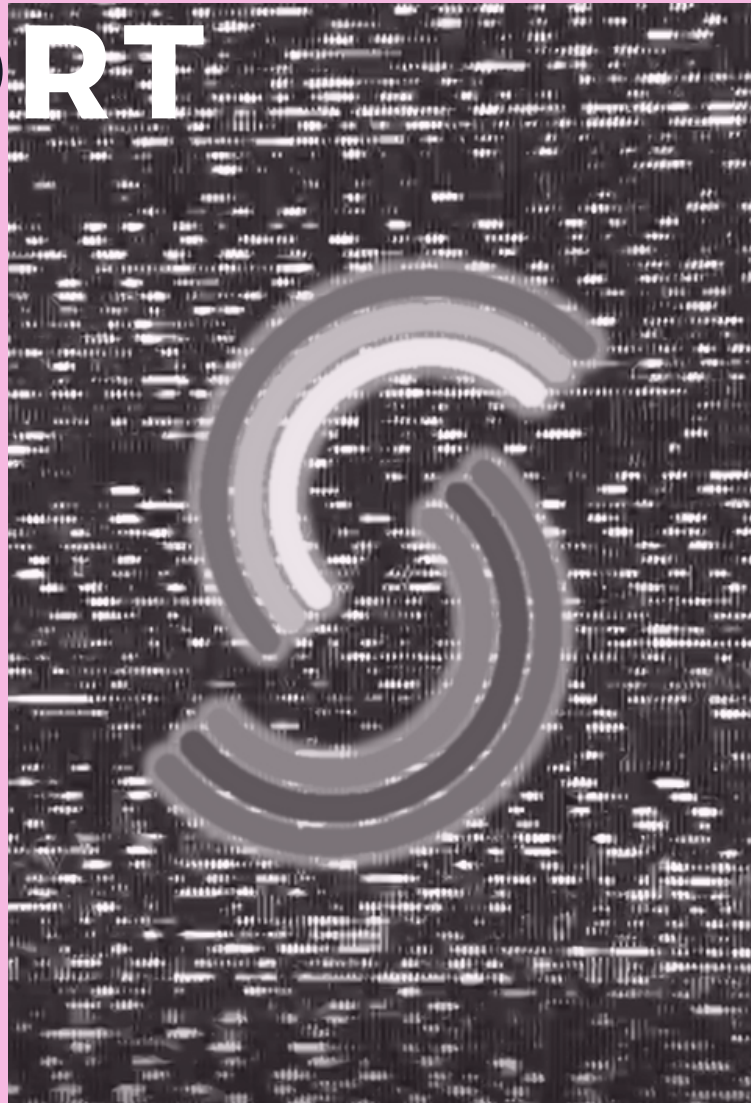


ANNUAL REPORT 2020



FIERTÉ SUDBURY PRIDE

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

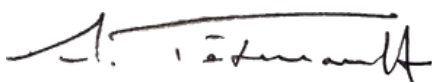
It goes without saying that this has been a very weird year for Fierté Sudbury Pride and for the queer community as a whole. While we're all used to a certain level of intolerance in our daily lives, few could've imagined last winter's campaign of harassment and public attacks against community members and local activists by hate groups. But we stood our ground, and were glad to see community members, allies, partners, and elected officials rally by our side. Then, came the pandemic, followed by the murder of George Floyd by police in the US.

While exhausting and discouraging, this sucker punch of crises forced us to think and do things differently. In the hopes of fighting off the isolation and the solitude of community members who'd been cut off from their support systems and their chosen families, we developed community projects and organized Queerantime 2020, a virtual Pride Week. We also quickly started collaborating with the newly established Black Lives Matter – Sudbury, notably supporting the creation of the BIPOC Lives Matter mural on Elgin Street, and ensured that our stances and programming were and will continue to be as inclusive and diverse as possible.

Now, where do we go from here? In addition to continuing to foster our new relationships and partnerships, we're getting ready to enter a new stage in our history. Over the coming year, we intend to go back to the drawing board, to review everything that we do and how we do it, to develop new policies and administrative processes, and to embark on Fierté Sudbury Pride's first ever long term strategic planning process. In consultation with community members, we'll be looking to the future and dreaming together about what FSP could and should become.

As the organization nears its 25th anniversary, we've arrived at an important point in our history. No matter where we should find ourselves going forward, Fierté Sudbury Pride must always strive to represent its community as best as it can and fight to eliminate inequity and injustice, wherever it may be and whatever form it may take. If this difficult year has taught me anything, it's that to get through anything, we have to do it together. Only when all of the work has been done can we ever be truly proud of ourselves.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Tétreault'.

Alex Tétreault
Chair, Fierté Sudbury Pride

ADVOCACY

CAMPAIGN OF HARASSMENT

Throughout much of the winter, members of our local 2SLGBTQ+ community, its allies, and several other local activists were targeted for harassment by local far-right groups and individuals, including the Yellow Vests and the Soldiers of Odin. This campaign took place largely online with doxxing campaigns, but it also reached the point of showing up to members' workplaces. When the coronavirus pandemic started, it died down, though it did flare up again a few times thanks to help from far reaching far-right blogs and "journalists." They were aided by a former Pride organizer who carries a certain amount of resentment towards the organization due to FSP's growing attention to intersectionality within the community and an increased focus on political issues and advocacy work.

In all, the incidents made huge waves in the city and brought attention and awareness to the continued discrimination and hate faced by members of our community. Several NDP MPPs, including Jamie West and France G  linas, organized a press conference to speak up to support us. It also strained the organization's relationship with the Greater Sudbury Police Service and, as a result of inadequate action on their behalf, the Board has taken the decision of ending its relationship, however small, with them.

BLACK LIVES MATTER - SUDBURY

This year saw the emergence of a new, important community partner, Black Lives Matter - Sudbury. With several collaborations under our belt, including the **Community Forum on Policing** held during Queerantime and the \$ 1,000.00 sponsorship and volunteers we provided for the **BIPOC Lives Matter ground mural**, we're looking forward to seeing how we can work together even more in the future and make our city even greater.

Credit : Incapture



EVENTS & PROJECTS

In keeping with our move towards offering annual programming in addition to our annual Pride Week festivities, we had a series of informal meetups, events, and collaborations planned for 2020. These included a joint event during Laurentian University's Pride Week, an Earth Day clean up in Memorial Park, an event with the Salon du livre du Grand Sudbury during their literary festival, and a trivia brunch at Spacecraft Brewery. Unfortunately, COVID-19 put a stop to all these events, though we'll keep them as potential ideas once the pandemic dies down.

One event that did take place in February was a **Palentine's Day** get together at Sudbury Indie Cinema. Around 40 people showed up for speed-friending activities, which included board games, and a dance party. Entry was by donation and extra security measures were implemented considering the harassment the organization was facing at the time.

A project that wasn't impacted by the pandemic was a collaboration with **Open Minds Quarterly**, a literary journal published by the Northern Initiative for Social Action (NISA) with a particular focus on authors who have lived experiences with mental illness and madness. FSP was approached by NISA in the Fall of 2019 to serve as Guest Editors on their Summer 2020 issue, *Queer Stories*. We also approached Matti Lehtelä, a local queer visual artist, for the design of the cover, ultimately using the artwork Matti had painted as a mural during 2019's Up Here festival. The issue was eventually launched in July 2020 as part of our Queerantime festivities with local authors and contributors being invited to deliver readings of their works over social media. The issue was available as a free PDF for those who tuned into the launch.



QUEERANTINE

In response to the ongoing pandemic, the usual Pride Week festivities were completely moved online. Dubbed Queerantime 2020 and held from July 13th to 19th, this year's calendar of fifteen events contained a blend of the educational and entertainment, as well a slate of Community Projects. Many events requiring large public gatherings, such as the Pride March and the Day in the Park, as well as those traditionally held in collaboration with local organizations, groups, and businesses, like the community barbecue and the clothing swap, were cancelled outright. In total, we held **15 events** with **15 different community partners**. Thanks to a partnership with Eastlink Community TV, a number of our events were re-aired on cable over the course of the week.

LUNCH TIME TALKS

This series of panels and discussions was made up of **Queeranteen**, a panel focused on the issues faced by queer youth, **Data + Queeries**, a presentation by researcher Suzanne Mills about the results of the 2SLGBTQ+ workplace study which was also discussed during last year's Pride Week, and a discussion with author **Amanda Jetté Knox**, presented by TG InnerSelves. True to our recent collaborations, there was also a French-language **panel discussion on intersectionality**, organized and presented jointly by FSP, Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI), and the Centre de santé communautaire du Grand Sudbury.

CONCERT SERIES

Local treasure and FSP favourite **Jennifer Holub**, the soulful **Tafari Anthony**, and the Juno Award winning voice of **G.R. Gritt** were on full display during this dinner-time concert series. Their sets were broadcast live on Facebook, where they are still available to listen. Despite a few technical quandaries and set backs caused by the format change, audiences were captivated by the raw talent of these amazing artists.



QUEERANTINE

COMMUNITY FORUM ON POLICING

In response to growing and long-standing calls from the Black Lives Matter movement and other community leaders around the globe to change the way our society thinks about policing, we invited folks from marginalized and racialized communities to share their thoughts on and their experiences with police. The extremely illuminating and thought-provoking discussion was moderated by **Laur O'Gorman** and included local activist and academic **Gary Kinsman**, Black Lives Matter Sudbury Co-President and artist **Ra'aana Brown**, and **Sandra Wesley**, Executive Director of Stella, a Montréal-based sex worker advocacy group.

NIGHTLY ENTERTAINMENT

Thrown into the mix of events were the **social media launch of Open Minds Quarterly's Queer Stories Issue**, featuring prerecorded readings of works from artists both local and not who are featured in the issue, a francophone **improv match** from the **Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario** where participants were called upon to invent the dialogue over iconic scenes from queer cinema, a **virtual living room dance party hosted by Zig's**, the **Queerspace Writing Workshop** presented by Myths & Mirrors and led by artist **Blaine Thornton**, an online **Pride Worship** from **St. Andrew's United Church**, and finally a bilingual **Queer Trivia** showdown hosted by members of the FSP Board over Facebook Live.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

In an effort to reach out to and increase awareness within the francophone community in Greater Sudbury, we partnered with local newspaper **Le Voyageur** during Queerantime for a series of articles touching on a number of issues and subjects relating to Pride, including the importance of Pride Week, the relationship between the community and police, intersectionality and immigration, the difficulties faced by non-binary and trans francophones, and a summary of our youth panel. Our Chair also appeared daily on **Le Loup 98.9 FM's** afternoon show over the course of the week to talk about queer issues.

As we understand how important a young person's first time attending Pride can be to their wellbeing, we decided to organize the delivery of **Pride Care Packages**. Available to any youth 18 and under residing in Greater Sudbury, these packages included a t-shirt from a previous Pride Week, a small rainbow or trans Pride flag and pin, and some candies and goodies. Accompanying these were letters of support, written by community members and from folks at **Mom & Dad Hugs**. In total, Emily Maville, one of our Youth Representatives, travelled more than 200 km to deliver **over 50** care packages to youth from Chelmsford to Hanmer to Long Lake.

FINANCES

As in previous years, our biggest source of expenses was Pride Week. The change in format from an in-person to a virtual festival makes comparing the year's budget to that of previous years difficult. While many costs were cut when it came to purchasing materials, printing t-shirts, posters, and flyers, and rental of spaces, some events which usually would be important sources of revenue, like the silent auction and ticket sales from the Big Gay Cabaret, were cancelled leaving us in a budgetary deficit for the year.

However, a sizeable surplus from the 2019 Fiscal Year left us in a healthy enough position to still organize a good number of events and projects, make necessary purchases, and be able to adequately compensate artists, technicians, and panelists.

Going into 2021, the organization still has a comfortable cushion should we find ourselves in a similar position.

REVENUES **\$ 7,030.10**

Grants	\$ 2,800.00	CGS Arts & Culture
Sponsorships	\$ 3,500.00	TD, Eastlink, OCETA, GSPS CYIC
Donations	\$ 245.20	
Other	\$ 484.90	Open Minds Quarterly, Palentine's PWYC

EXPENSES **\$ 9,933.06**

Administration	\$ 4,461.97	Insurance, Website Hosting, Meetings
Programming	\$ 300.00	Palentine's
Pride Week	\$ 5,005.09	Honorariums, Artists' Fees, Care Packages
Donations	\$ 1,200.00	BLM Sudbury, TG Innerseives, Rainbow Camp
Other Expenses	\$ 166.00	Flags, Org. Membership

2019 CARRYOVER **\$ 8,800.15**

2020 TOTAL **\$ 5,897.19**

OUR TEAM

Alex Tétreault – Chair
Lee Czechowski – Vice-Chair
Kathleen Zinn – Treasurer
Ryan Wildgoose – Secretary
Mélodie Bérubé – Activism Lead
Katlyn Kotila – Communications Lead
Laur O’Gorman – Diversity and Equity Lead
Dana Carbone – Volunteer Coordinator

We also wish to highlight the contributions of our three Youth Representatives: Emily Maville, Chase Scully, and Gwek Pitawanakwat.

OUR SPONSORS

City of Greater Sudbury, TD, Eastlink, Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association – Sudbury Unit, Greater Sudbury Police Service’s Chief’s Youth Initiative Fund, and 50 Carleton.

OUR PROGRAMMING & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Black Lives Matter – Sudbury, Centre de santé communautaire du Grand Sudbury, Eastlink Community TV, Expozine Sudbury, Le Loup 98.9 FM, Le Voyageur, Myths & Mirrors, Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants, Open Minds Quarterly, St. Andrew’s United Church, Sudbury Indie Cinema, Sudbury Workers’ Centre, TG Innerselves, Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario, and Zig’s Bar.

