



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2011

Pride Toronto Accepts Report from Community Advisory Panel

Toronto, ON – At a public meeting on February 17, 2011, Pride Toronto announced that it is accepting the report prepared by the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) on the future of Pride Toronto and will move forward to implement the recommendations as quickly as possible.

“We sincerely thank the Community Advisory Panel and everyone who participated in the consultations over the last several months. We feel that the report’s well-considered recommendations will ensure a strong future for Pride Toronto,” says Francisco Alvarez, Co-Chair of Pride Toronto. He also apologized to members of the LGBTTIQQ2SA* community for Pride having become disengaged from the community over the past few years.

Alvarez outlined the following immediate actions that will be taken by Pride Toronto:

1. Pride Toronto will immediately recruit community leaders to form the recommended CAP Implementation/Policy Advisory Committee. (recc. 26)
2. Together with the Implementation Committee, Pride Toronto will commence search for a new Executive Director. (recc. 10)
3. With the Implementation Committee, Pride Toronto will consult with its staff and committee coordinators to solicit their input on how to best implement CAP recommendations. Implementation will be achieved within Pride’s resources, and in the short, medium- and long-term.
4. Pride Toronto will thoroughly review the 2011 festival budget with professional financial consultants to ensure that its revenue and expense projections are realistic, and that the budget includes a substantial repayment of a portion of the deficit in this year. (recc. 18)
5. Pride Toronto will set up a new WorldPride 2014 planning committee that includes community stakeholders. (recc. 22)
6. Pride Toronto will deliver a downscaled Pride Festival in 2011. (recc. 1)
7. Pride Toronto will respond to the community as quickly as possible with respect to the rest of the report’s recommendations.

Pride Toronto and the new Implementation Committee will study the report in detail to determine timelines and resources required to execute many recommendations in time for this year’s festival. With greater engagement from its supporters, Pride Toronto can look forward to a successful year and continue planning for WorldPride 2014.

About the Community Advisory Panel (CAP):

The purpose of the panel is to provide the Board of Pride Toronto with high-level strategic recommendations, to protect the advance of the overall objectives of Pride Toronto, and to ensure that those objectives are reflective of the community's priorities while recognizing and valuing diversity, equity, and respectful expression.

About Pride Toronto:

Pride Toronto is a not-for-profit organization that hosts Pride Week, an annual festival held during the first weekend of July in downtown Toronto. Pride Toronto exists to celebrate the history, courage, diversity, and future of Toronto's LGBTTIQQ2SA* communities and is one of the leading cultural events of its kind in the world.

Toronto's Pride Week has been named Best Festival in Canada by the Canadian Special Events Industry in 2004, 2005, and 2009, and is recognized as one of only eight Signature Events in the City of Toronto. It is ranked one of the TOP 50 festivals in Ontario by Festivals and Events Ontario (FEO) as well as one of the 18 Marquee Festivals of Distinction in Canada. With attendance of over 1.2 million, it is the third largest Pride celebration in the world and the largest in North America.

* Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Questioning, 2-Spirited, and Allies

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