



Borderland Pride

c/o PO Box 105, Fort Frances, ON P9A 3M5 or
PMB 181, 1801 2nd Ave, International Falls, MN 56649

borderlandpride@gmail.com
www.borderlandpride.org

April 22, 2019

Town of Fort Frances
320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9

Via Email: klawson@fortfrances.ca

Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: Pride Week 2019 – Invitation and Request

Borderland Pride is hard at work planning for Pride Week 2019 – the second installment of our region's annual celebration of diversity and inclusion!

About Pride Week

This year's Pride Week will take place a month earlier – from **June 2 to 9, 2019**. The purpose of this change is to provide better alignment with the school year and to celebrate Pride during the month of June, which is internationally recognized as Pride Month.

Pride festivals are held around the world to highlight a community's openness and acceptance of LGBTQ2 (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer/questioning, and two-spirit) people, and to show support for LGBTQ2 youth in particular.

Borderland Pride is the only LGBTQ2 Pride organization in the Rainy River District, Koochiching County, and the southern part of Treaty 3 territory. We offer events that are open to LGBTQ2 people and their Allies from across this region. We were immensely proud of the success of our first-ever Pride Week last summer, and plan to make this one even better.

For our second annual Pride Week, we are once again preparing a program of activities aimed at boosting the visibility of our area's LGBTQ2 community, engaging and identifying its Allies, and recognizing supportive businesses and organizations. This year's events will continue to be family-oriented, and will build on the success of Pride Week 2018. We are fortunate to have the continued support, input, and enthusiasm of the community to refine our programming.

Invitation to Upcoming Pride Events

Borderland Pride aims to be a resource for LGBTQ2 people from across the region, and for that reason, the involvement of all community leaders is an important part of our initiatives.

To that end, please accept this letter as your invitation to participate in our Pride events in June. While a full roster of activities will be revealed in May, please mark your calendar for the following:

- The *Passport to Pride March*, which will take place on Saturday, June 8 starting at Smokey Bear Park in International Falls and ending in Fort Frances. To our knowledge, we have made history as the *only* Pride march in the world to cross an international border. More details will be available soon.
- Rainy River's *Pride 'Mini-March'*, hosted by the Northwestern Health Unit, will take place on Saturday, May 25 starting at the Rainy River Municipal Office at 10 AM.

Requests from Borderland Pride

As with Pride Week 2018, one of our goals is to show that the spirit of Pride exists across our region as a whole. To that end, we have the following requests of your council or organization:

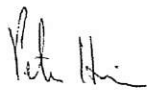
- First, we are requesting that you pass a resolution or proclamation declaring the dates of June 2 to 9 as Pride Week. We would prefer a resolution using the text of the enclosed document. We are able to meet with you to discuss this resolution (or Pride Week more generally) if it would be of assistance to you. Please send us a copy of the resolution via email, once passed.
- Second, we would appreciate if you are able to take a photo with a Pride flag for our use on social media in the lead up to Pride Week. Photos can also be sent to us by email.
- Third, we would appreciate if you could please fly or display a Pride flag at your office location(s) from the dates of June 2 to 9. If you would like, we would be delighted to plan a special event or photo-op to raise a flag. Please let us know.

We note that Pride flags were distributed to all communities last year. However, please contact us if you need any assistance finding a replacement. They are widely available online for purchase.

~ ~

Thank you for considering our invitation and requests. Together, let's show that our communities are supportive of LGBTQ2 young people and families! Should you have any questions, I can be reached directly at (807) 861-0638 or borderlandpride@gmail.com.

Sincerely,



Peter Howie

Encl. Text of Requested Proclamation/Resolution

**RESOLUTION / PROCLAMATION
IN OBSERVANCE OF PRIDE WEEK 2019**

WHEREAS:

1. Borderland Pride is the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, and two-spirit ("LGBTQ2") Pride organization for the Borderland region, which is comprised of the Rainy River District, Koochiching County, and the southern part of Treaty 3 territory;
2. Pride events across Canada and the United States and around the world promote diversity and inclusion and take a positive stance against discrimination and violence towards LGBTQ2 people;
3. Pride is necessary to show community support and belonging for LGBTQ2 individuals and families, and LGBTQ2-identifying youth in particular;
4. Acknowledging and participating in Pride underscores and affirms our respect for the dignity, equality, and visibility of LGBTQ2 people and families;
5. The diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression represents a positive contribution to society and is a matter in which to take pride, show support, and celebrate;
6. The same community values of diversity and inclusion should be shared in common by all people, and know no border;
7. Pride Week was successfully observed and celebrated in the Borderland region for the first time in July 2018; and
8. The month of June is internationally recognized as Pride Month and Borderland Pride has identified the dates of June 2 to 9, 2019 as Pride Week;

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED THAT:

9. I, *(Name of Mayor, Reeve, Chief, etc.)* do hereby proclaim the week of June 2 through 9, 2019 to be Pride Week *(in/at) (Name of Town, City, Organization, or First Nation)*;
10. The *(Name of Town, City, Organization, or First Nation)* will publicly *(display/fly/raise)* a Pride flag in a prominent location throughout Pride Week; and
11. All citizens are encouraged to take part in Pride Week activities, and to reflect and work together on equality, acceptance, and inclusion for all people throughout the year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this _____ day of _____, 2019.

(Name of Mayor, Reeve, Chief, etc.)