



Borderland Pride

c/o 1202 2nd St E, Fort Frances, ON P9A 1P4 or
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March 23, 2018

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

Sent via Email

Dear Mayor Avis and Members of Council:

Re: Pride Week 2018

Borderland Pride is the LGBTQ2A (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, two-spirit, and ally) Pride organization for Fort Frances and the surrounding municipalities and First Nations.

Like other Pride groups around the world, our mandate is (i) to promote LGBTQ2 inclusion and acceptance in our community, (ii) to celebrate the diversity of our region, and (iii) to provide resources and supports which improve the community's understanding of LGBTQ2 identities and orientations, and some of the unique challenges facing LGBTQ2 people in our society.

Since last summer, we have been engaging with the community through roundtables, networking events, and social media to identify specific needs for Fort Frances and the surrounding area. We have received significant support and encouragement from area residents, businesses, and public sector organizations to hold a 'Pride Week' celebration in the Fort Frances area, with a view to installing it as a new annual celebration for the region.

This has been a task that we have been proud to take on and we will soon be in a position to unveil the programming for Borderland's first-ever Pride Week. The event line-up we are preparing will be inclusive, suitable for all ages, and open to all members of the community. Our primary goal is to showcase our community as a welcoming, inclusive environment for LGBTQ2 young people, diverse families, and other individuals from equity-seeking groups. This is an important objective for any small community undergoing demographic and economic transition like we are seeing in Fort Frances and the Rainy River District.

We recognize that through the media, Pride in larger cities has become synonymous with ostentatious parades and parties, but people should know that the Pride event you will see in most smaller communities looks a lot like any other family-oriented festival, fair, or picnic. Our

event will be no different, and is modelled on recent successful Pride celebrations in Kenora and Dryden.

With this letter, we would like to request that council formally declare the week of Monday, July 9 through Sunday, July 15 as Pride Week in the Town of Fort Frances for 2018.


In addition, as part of this request, we would appreciate your assistance with respect to the following items:

1. We would like your permission and assistance holding a flag-raising event at the Fort Frances town office on July 14, where the mayor and other community leaders will be invited to offer brief remarks suitable for the occasion.
2. We plan to hold a pedestrian Pride march as part of the celebrations on July 14. This route will use sidewalks (no motor vehicles). We would appreciate any guidance with respect to any necessary permits or escorts that must be arranged for such an event.
3. While we have applied for a small amount of funds from this year's Moffat allocation, we have some concerns that the funding decisions will not be announced in advance of our event. We appreciate any assistance the Town can provide to expedite this process or help us to fill the funding gap until Moffat decisions are made.

Finally, the Rainy River Future Development Corporation has reserved the Rainy Lake Square for some of our Pride Week events on July 14, and we wish to thank the Town for developing this wonderful public facility for the community. We look forward to putting it to good use as a focal point for some of our Pride Week festivities.

Should you have any questions or if you would like more information about our plans, please contact us at borderlandpride@gmail.com or (807) 861-3684. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Douglas W. Judson
Co-Chair