

National Pride Organization Formed at Winnipeg Conference

Pride Organizers from across the nation met in Winnipeg February 17th to 20th, 2005. The conference drew 27 participants from nine Canadian cities representing a combined constituency of 1.5 million Pride Festival attendees. This year's national conference was the scene of an historic development in the annals of Canadian Pride Organizations. After several years of hard work and negotiation, delegates to the conference formed a new national organization: ***Fierté Canada Pride***. This umbrella group is intended to advocate on behalf of Canadian Pride Festivals.

Suzanne Girard, founding member of Montreal's Divers/Cite Festival and Co-President of the international organization InterPride commented, "After having worked for years I am so glad that it is finally happening! It is symbolic that this initiative comes forth from the geographic and spiritual centre of Canada. Winnipeg is a meeting place, and it is apropos that we continue in that great tradition, honouring the history of the meeting point of all travelers. We embark on this journey with great expectations, and I am pleased that our birthplace is so representative of the multicultural nature of Canadians and of the LGBTTI2 Communities.

The members of the Halifax Pride Committee were pleased with the outcomes of the conference. Raymond Taavel, former Co-chair and current Parade Coordinator of Halifax Pride attended the conference. "We are pleased to part of this project which continues to build and strengthen LGBTTI2 communities across Canada. This is the first time that Halifax pride has taken an active role in InterPride and Fierté Canada Pride. This allows us to strengthen our relationship with other pride organizations across the country."

Canadian Pride Organizers meet annually to network, share, and facilitate growth of Prides across the country. The 6th annual Canadian Pride organizers conference will take place in Halifax in the spring of 2006.

There are over 40 Pride Celebrations that happen annually across Canada. Attendees to the conference represented Vancouver, Prince George, The Okanagan Valley, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, London, Montreal, and Halifax.

Media and Information inquires:

Raymond Taavel
Alternate Regional Director,
InterPride Region 7
Fierté Canada Pride
902.422-8404 ext 14
902.229.1211