

April 2016

LGBTQ Pride 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Visible signs of union pride are extremely important for smaller towns and communities across Ontario. Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) identified workers and their families are very often invisible or, if out, at serious risk of harassment in their workplaces and their communities.

Labour unions have played a vital, if mostly unknown, role in securing the workplace rights of LGBTQ workers. Long before provinces and the federal government adopted laws prohibiting discrimination, unions bargained fair practices into their contracts. These practices served as the leading edge of wider efforts toward societal and workplace equality. Over the past forty-five years, the labour movement can be proud of our work to ensure full legal rights for the LGBTQ workers and their families. We fought for collective bargaining rights and stood with our members through legal battles in achieving legislative equality.

The power of a strong and vibrant Labour movement has been a critical piece to advancing full equality for LGBTQ workers, families and communities. Our shared struggle is one of the most critical movements. The right to work, get paid a living wage, and share in the fruits of your labour is being eroded by outdated employment laws. Collective rights are the only tool in our tool belt that allows us to push back against this tide of income inequality and demand our fair share of the economic pie. Ontario labour laws and employment standards laws are outdated. It's important that unions and the LGBTQ community continues to stand alongside all workers in their fight for economic justice and a voice in their workplace.

The more unions that assist members in creating a visible presence at picnics, marches and parades the better. This support is crucial, particularly in the smaller towns. Unions are strongly encouraged to work with local labour councils and contacts wherever possible. Distribute the OFL Make It Fair materials.

Scroll down or [click here](#) for a list of LGBTQ Pride dates and events across Ontario (as of early-May). Please note that some of this information may change and we will do our best to post updates as they become available. If you would like to add or update events listed, please contact: Carrol Anne Sceviour: CSceviour@ofl.ca

Please share your events and photos online and on social media.

In solidarity,

Patty Coates
OFL Secretary-Treasurer

Cope343

OUT & PROUD LABOUR



APRIL

Guelph Pride

April 29 – May 8

www.guelphpride.com

MAY

Elliot Lake Pride

May 27 – May 29

www.elpride.ca

Barrie Pride

June 4

www.barriepride.com

Thunder Bay

June 11 – June 18

www.thunderpride.ca

Pride Niagara (St. Catharines)

May 28 – June 4

www.prideniagara.com

Hamilton Pride

June 18

www.pridehamilton.ca

JUNE

Kingston Pride

June 18

www.kingstonpride.ca

York Pride

June 11 – June 19

www.yorkpridefest.com

Pride Durham

June 1 – June 5

www.pridedurham.com

Brantford Pride

June 18

www.brantfordpride.ca

Timmins Pride

June 6 – June 11

www.timminspride.com

Kenora Pride

June 24 – June 26

[https://fr-ca.facebook.com/](https://fr-ca.facebook.com/Kenora-Pride-844056955680261/)

[Kenora-Pride-844056955680261/](https://fr-ca.facebook.com/Kenora-Pride-844056955680261/)

Pride Toronto

June 24 – July 3

www.pridetoronto.com

JULY

Belleville Pride

July 16 – July 23

www.bellevillepride.ca

Sudbury Pride

July 18 – July 23

www.sudburypride.com

Muskoka Pride

July 15 – July 24

www.gaymuskoka.com

Peel Pride

July 11 – July 16

www.peelpride.ca

Brockville Pride

July 16

<https://sites.google.com/site/brockvillepride>

Pride London

July 14 – July 24

www.prideinlondon.ca

Simcoe County Pride

July 28 – August 6

www.simcoepride.com

AUGUST

Windsor-Essex Pride Festival

August 3 – August 7

www.wepridefest.com

Capital Pride

August 15 – August 21

www.capitalpride.ca

SEPTEMBER

Peterborough Pride

September 17 – September 24

www.peterboroughpride.ca

Please note: The dates were accurate at the time of printing. Members are encouraged to check the individual websites prior to attending any of the Pride events.

2016 ONTARIO PRIDE EVENTS