



Giving Bach 2011 Inspire Awards recognizes LGBTQ Person of the Year

For Immediate Release

June 20, 2011 (Toronto, ON) – Michael Bach was chosen as LGBTQ Person of the Year at the Inspire Awards Gala on June 16.

“Michael has played a fundamental role in creating a supportive working environment for hundreds of members of the LGBTQ community across Canada. His relentless efforts have paved the way for acceptance and diversity in the corporate workplace,” said Pride Toronto’s Co-chair, Francisco Alvarez.

The sold-out event was held at Casa Loma in Toronto. Over 300 members and supporters of the LGBTQ community attended the awards ceremony.

When Michael joined KPMG, he noticed the firm had no mention of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression as part of its diversity strategy. As a result, he started pride@kpmg, an employee network for the firm’s LGBTQ population. Thanks to Michael’s determination, pride@kpmg became the most active employee network in the firm. The group became involved in internal and external efforts focused on ensuring KPMG was an inclusive place for LGBTQ people. Eventually, Michael gained the attention of KPMG’s senior leadership and was named the firm’s first national leader for diversity.

KPMG now has active pride@kpmg network groups across Canada, with openly LGBT partners and employees in 17 offices. Additionally, at Michael’s direction, KPMG has sponsored multiple LGBT events including Pride festivals in smaller communities such as Prince George and Windsor, the North American OutGames in Calgary, and the Out on Bay Street Conference in Toronto.

Michael has received numerous awards and recognitions for his advocacy of equality on behalf of the LGBTQ community. In 2009, Michael was the first openly gay person to receive KPMG’s CEO Community Excellence Award for his work in the LGBTQ community.

In 2008, Michael founded Pride at Work Canada/Fierté au travail Canada (PaWC), an organization committed to realizing fully inclusive workplaces for LGBT employees across Canada.

Michael will march as one of two official grand marshals in the 2011 Pride Parade on July 3.

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About Pride Toronto

Pride Toronto is the not-for-profit organization that hosts Pride Week, an annual event in downtown Toronto during the last week of June. Pride Week is one of the premier arts and cultural festivals in Canada. It is also one of the largest Pride celebrations in the world with an estimated attendance of over 1.2 million people. It celebrates the history, courage, diversity and future of Toronto’s LGBTTIQQ2SA* communities.

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

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