



Pride Toronto announces new Board and Executive

For Immediate Release

November 8, 2011 (Toronto, ON) – Pride Toronto is pleased to announce its new Board of Directors and its Executive Committee.

"Congratulations to all the new Board members and Committee Chairs. We are looking forward to a fantastic Pride Week in 2012, and to continuing planning and consulting with the community on hosting WorldPride in 2014," said Co-Chair Francisco Alvarez.

At its Annual General Meeting on Thursday, October 27, 2011, the general membership elected the following six candidates to the Board, each for a three year term: Luka Amona, Sean Hillier, Chad Simon, Susan Gapka, Mark Smith and Paola Solorzano. They join returning Directors Francisco Alvarez, Daniel Knox, Evan Dean and Roy Mitchell to bring the Board to ten members, up from last year's seven-member Board. Past Co-Chair Margaret Ngai has left the Board but will continue her affiliation with Pride Toronto as Chair of the Governance working group of the WorldPride 2014 Planning Committee.

The new Board of Directors elected the following members to the Executive Committee at its meeting on Thursday, November 3, 2011, for a one-year term:

Co-Chair:	Francisco Alvarez
Co-Chair:	Luka Amona
Treasurer:	Daniel Knox
Secretary:	Sean Hillier

"Following a couple of challenging years at Pride Toronto there are several positive signs: a new Executive Director, a newly elected Board ready to face our next challenge, retiring of the entire debt, and a detailed list of recommendations from the Community Advisory Panel. We elected a strong, experienced Executive to guide us forward for a successful 2012 Pride Week. We are also eager to work on increasing women's representation on the Board and Executive, as two more Directors will be elected at the next General Meeting early next year," said Susan Gapka, a newly elected Board member and trans rights activist.

Additionally, the following Board members were appointed as Board Committee Chairs:

Community Relations:	Susan Gapka
Finance and Audit:	Daniel Knox
Human Resources:	Luka Amona
Governance:	Evan Dean
WorldPride 2014:	Francisco Alvarez
Board Development:	Paola Solorzano
Membership:	Chad Simon

Pride Toronto congratulates all Board Members on their election and thanks them for their commitment to the organization and the LGBTTIQQ2SA* communities.

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. Pride Toronto is proud to host WorldPride in 2014, the fourth such event ever held, and the first in North America.

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

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