

Thursday June 9, 2016  
For immediate release.  
Please add to your listings/announcements  
#PrideTO



## TRANS WOMAN TO THROW FIRST PITCH AT BLUE JAYS BASEBALL GAME

### Ceremonial honour strengthens Trans voices and visibility during Pride Toronto's annual festival

TORONTO, ON, June 9 | In a historic first, **Pride Toronto** Board Secretary **Rachel Lauren Clark** will be the first openly trans person to throw a ceremonial pitch ahead of a Toronto Blue Jays game, when the Jays play the Baltimore Orioles at the Rogers Centre tonight (June 9) at 7PM.

*"I'm very pleased to represent the LGBT community and especially transgender and genderqueer people, for whom going out to the baseball game is not always accessible,"* said **Rachel Lauren Clark**, Pride Toronto's Board Secretary. *"I hope this historic moment will send a message that everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity will, as Robert Frost once eloquently put, 'never feel more at home than at a ballgame.'"*

The first pitch will be thrown in the midst of Pride Month, which is designed to unite and empower people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions. This year's events feature the biggest, most inclusive Trans Pride experience in Pride Toronto's 35-year history, with the trans community more visible, vocal and outspoken than ever before. Highlights of North America's largest Pride celebration include a **trans youth human rights discussion**, the **Trans Pride Community Fair**, the festival **Trans Space**, and the world's largest **Trans Pride Rally and March**.

*"This honour for a member of the trans community is a first in the Blue Jays' history and possibly for all of Major League Baseball,"* said **Aaron GlynWilliams**, **Pride Toronto Board of Directors Co-Chair**. *"I applaud the Toronto Blue Jays for helping us take this step forward in the fight for acceptance and respect for the trans community and all members of our community."*

Rachel Lauren Clark is a passionate LGBT advocate, an Information Technology innovator and former member of the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Navy. She has a degree in journalism, a long and successful career with several Fortune 500 technology companies and is currently working towards a Master of Divinity degree from Emmanuel College.

Later in Pride Month, Ms. Clark will have a chance to compare her MLB experience with San Francisco's **Breanna Sinclair**, the opera singer who made sports history in 2015 as the first trans woman to sing the Star-Spangled Banner at a professional sporting event. Ms. Sinclair is part of Pride Toronto's Village Medley lineup on Saturday July 2<sup>nd</sup> on the TD Village Stage.

Full event details and the complete Pride Month calendar can be accessed at:  
<http://www.pridetoronto.com/pride-month/>

The 2016 Pride Guide, outlining all events, can be read digitally online:  
[https://issuu.com/intorontomag/docs/official\\_pride\\_guide\\_2016?e=1858183/35588969](https://issuu.com/intorontomag/docs/official_pride_guide_2016?e=1858183/35588969)

For high-resolution, Pride Toronto media approved photo selects, please visit:  
<http://www.pridetoronto.com/about-us/media/gallery/>

### **ABOUT PRIDE TORONTO:**

Pride Toronto is a not-for-profit organization with a mission to bring people together to celebrate the history, courage and diversity of our community. Uniting and empowering people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions, the annual Pride Toronto festival has become a major Canadian arts and cultural event and the largest Pride celebration in North America. Pride showcases Toronto on the world stage with diversity, inclusion and vibrant creativity. June 2016 features Toronto's first-ever Pride Month, culminating with the 36th annual Pride Parade on Sunday, July 3. For news and programming announcements, visit [www.PrideToronto.com](http://www.PrideToronto.com) and follow @PrideToronto on Twitter, Pride Toronto on Facebook and @pridetoronto on Instagram. #PrideTO

### **Media Contact:**

Victoria Schwarzl, Communications Manager  
[victoria@pridetoronto.com](mailto:victoria@pridetoronto.com)  
647-980-0650