

Why are you interested in joining the Board of Pride Toronto?:

As a queer person of color deeply committed to marginalized communities, especially the Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ community, I'm eager to bring my skills to the Board. With extensive experience at 2-Spirited People, including crisis response and fundraising, I understand the community's unique challenges. My role as an Executive Assistant involved grant writing, aligning with Pride Toronto's goals. In community engagement roles like Teaching Assistant, I demonstrated leadership. With cultural sensitivity from roles like Exam Proctor, and organizational skills from teaching, I'm well-equipped to contribute to Pride Toronto's mission of diversity and empowerment. I look forward to collaboratively advancing the organization's values.

How will your experience, talents, and skill contribute to advancing Pride Toronto's Mission, Vision, and Values?:

My aligned experience, talents, and skills are poised to significantly contribute to Pride Toronto's mission, vision, and values. With deep experience supporting the Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ community, I'm committed to advocating for diversity. As an Executive Assistant, I excelled in grant writing and fundraising, aligning with Pride Toronto's financial goals. Exceptional communication skills, honed in customer service roles, enhance my ability to engage effectively. Demonstrating strong managerial and organizational skills, I've led crisis teams and managed budgets. My educational background, technological proficiency, and commitment to ongoing learning further align with Pride Toronto's objectives.

Pride has had a history of anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism, and we are working to address and combat this. What is your experience in working against racism, particularly anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism? What is your vision for Pride Toronto's external work in combating racism?:

In various roles, particularly within 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations, I actively fought against anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism. As a Crisis Response Specialist and Harm Reduction Worker, I collaborated with diverse teams, addressing challenges faced by the Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ community. As an Executive Assistant, I contributed to inclusive policies, advocating for similar measures at Pride Toronto. My vision involves proactive policy advocacy, community engagement, education, strategic partnerships, and cultural competency training to combat racism. I aim to make Pride Toronto a model for inclusivity and anti-racist practices within the LGBTQ+ community, leveraging my commitment and multi-faceted experience.

What is your experience in addressing and combating transphobia, transmisogyny, and transmisandry?:

Throughout my career, I've actively combated transphobia, transmisogyny, and transmisandry. Working in various roles at 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations, I directly engaged with and supported the Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ community, actively addressing transphobia. Advocacy for trans-inclusive policies was a focus as an Executive Assistant, contributing to environments that reject transphobia. In roles like Teaching Assistant and Crisis Response Specialist, I initiated educational programs challenging stereotypes. Fundraising involvement underscored partnerships with LGBTQ+ organizations, recognizing their importance in combating transphobia. My commitment to cultural competency extends to actively addressing bias related to gender identity in diverse professional contexts.

Accessibility is a crucial aspect for Pride Toronto's celebrations, but we still fall short in providing a completely accessible Festival, especially for people with mobility issues, and the D/deaf and Hard of Hearing communities. What experience, resources, and knowledge do you have in engaging and supporting these communities?:

Ensuring accessibility is not just a priority but a fundamental value in creating an inclusive and welcoming space for everyone, including those with mobility issues and individuals from the D/deaf and Hard of Hearing communities.

My commitment to inclusivity, experiences in community engagement, training, policy advocacy, cultural competency, resource management, and collaboration positions me to actively contribute to addressing and improving accessibility for individuals with mobility challenges and those from the D/deaf and Hard of Hearing communities within Pride Toronto's celebrations. I am dedicated to working towards creating an environment where everyone can fully participate and enjoy the festivities.

Pride Toronto's Membership has voted to ban instruments and symbols of policing, including uniforms, cars and weapons, from participating in the Pride Parade and StreetFair. If elected to the Board, how would you ensure that this commitment is upheld?:

If elected to the Board, I'll actively uphold Pride Toronto's ban on police symbols. Strategies include collaborative policy development with stakeholders, transparent communication, community engagement for feedback, dialogue with law enforcement for alternatives, thorough participant auditing, and open communication with the Membership. Accountability measures will be established, and continuous improvement sought through feedback and policy reassessment. My commitment is to ensure a safe, inclusive LGBTQ+ environment during Pride Toronto events by enforcing the ban effectively and fostering ongoing community involvement.