



Capital Pride /
La Fierté dans la Capitale
403 rue Bank Street, Studio #2
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2P 1Y6
613-680-3033
info@capitalpride.ca

November 12, 2020

Dear friends,

Re: Retirement from my role as Chairperson on the Board of Directors

Walking down memory lane, when I joined Capital Pride's Board of Directors in July of 2017, I had very limited exposure to 2SLGBTQ+ communities and had no role model, having just come out two summers prior. In March of 2018, I became Capital Pride's first Community Relations Officer, and actively worked to (re)build relationships with communities. Then, in September 2018, I became the organization's youngest, first Black, and Francophone Chairperson.

Today, it is with a heavy heart that I am announcing my retirement from my role as Capital Pride's Chairperson, a difficult decision that took effect on November 10, 2020, due to professional obligations. I am fully and unequivocally committed to a smooth transition, in the non-voting role of Immediate Past-Chair (ex-officio) until the next Annual General Meeting scheduled in January 2021.

It has been an immense pleasure, privilege and honour to serve fellow members of 2SLGBTQ+ communities - alongside passionate and devoted colleagues, current and past. We have accomplished many great things together in the past couple of years, and beyond, for which we can be very proud. Here's just a few highlights of what, with our collective efforts, Capital Pride was able to accomplish:

- Hired its first-ever Executive Director;
- Led historic, more inclusive and more eco-friendly Pride festivals in the National Capital Region;
- Led the first-ever WinterPride Festival and march in 2019, in partnership with Winterlude;
- Hosted the 2019 Fierté Canada Pride conference, the largest of its kind in Canadian history;
- Hosted and reported on a series of community consultations in 2019, leading to concrete change;
- (Re)built relationships with more communities, organizations, stakeholders and sponsors;
- Created the Board of Directors' first Youth Committee, which empowers young leaders;
- Supported several community projects through the Capital Pride Community Fund;
- Led advocacy initiatives, including against the discriminatory blood ban and conversion therapy;
- Significantly enhanced organizational governance and sustainability; and
- Many more. Yas, henny!

That said, I leave feeling a deep sense of assurance that the organization will continue to flourish with its dedicated team on the Board of Directors, and with its outstanding Executive Director, Osmel. I have full confidence in my successor, Geneviève Colverson, with whom I have had the pleasure to work with - more recently in her capacity as Vice Chair. Geneviève is a thoughtful, honest, passionate, and dedicated leader who deeply cares about our communities.



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In closing, I want to say that being a Pride leader is no easy task... And I want to express my utmost gratitude to all of you for your confidence in me and your continued support during my tenure as the head of the organization, because it made all the difference. I have learned and grown so much with you. **Thank you.** I will of course continue to support Capital Pride and contribute to its mission where I can.

Yours in Pride,

Davy Sabourin
Immediate Past-Chair