

Capital Pride Youth Committee Strategic Plan 2021

Introduction

The 2020-2021 Capital Pride Youth Committee (CPYC) Strategic Plan was developed to address the needs of the 2SLGBTQ+ youth community in the National Capital Region (NCR).

To guide the process, the CPYC used the following prompts to lead discussions and consultations:

- Where do we want the CPYC to be in 2021 and beyond?
- How do we get there?
- What is missing in our community?
- How can we fill those gaps?

The following Strategic Plan was developed using input from the broader 2SLGBTQ+ youth community in the NCR through a community survey along with the CPYC's internal visioning exercise. As such, this Strategic Plan is the direct result of extensive collaboration between Capital Pride, the Capital Pride Youth Committee, and local 2SLGBTQ+ youth.

Strategic Priorities

The Capital Pride Youth Committee's Pillars guide the committee's work.

ADVOCACY

Advise the Board of Directors on all matters pertaining to youth.

Represent the diverse youth that comprise our community.

Promote 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion through youth-led campaigns.

EDUCATION

Increase youth attendance at Pride events.

Collaborate with queer youth organizations to expand the reach of campaigns.

Expand awareness of non-mainstream identities.

COMMUNITY

Increase the sense of belonging for all 2SLGBTQ+ youth in the National Capital Region.

Stemming from each Pillar are actionable items to which the CPYC has committed to addressing in order to achieve the committee's strategic priorities.

These are supported by a concrete plan to advance the objectives of advocacy, education, and community.

Youth Committee Goals

The Capital Pride Youth Committee has established three main goals to achieve its strategic priorities for the upcoming year and looking forward to the future; outreach, youth events, and campaigning on behalf of youth.

OUTREACH

- Make more community connections
- Increase awareness of the CPYC

YOUTH EVENTS

- Recurring, casual events
- Larger scale, formal events

CAMPAIGNING ON BEHALF OF YOUTH

- Social media advocacy and education campaign (emphasis on representing diverse identities)
- Advocacy letters

In addition to these goals, the CPYC will continue to support the Board of Directors and Executive Director in the planning and execution of the annual Summer and Winter Pride Festivals. The Festivals are an integral part of Capital Pride's work and legacy and will remain essential to the CPYC's mandate and achieving its strategic priorities.

To aid the Board of Directors and the Executive Director, the CPYC remains committed to its strategic role within the leadership of the organization. To that end, the following principles guide the committee's role:

- The CPYC will advise on youth-specific events and programming.
- The CPYC will focus on encouraging youth participation in Pride and promote the importance of the Pride movement amongst youth.

Outreach

- Expand networks; work with the Executive Director and Outreach Lead to **collaborate with GSAs and 2SLGBTQ+ youth organizations** in Ottawa and Gatineau.
- **Compile a list of 2SLGBTQ+ organizations** in the NCR that support young people. With these resources, we will be able to provide a centralized resource for youth in our region to seek out and connect with the help they need.
- **Expand our communication capacity** within the community.
- Increase our presence in the community and helping **build a more informal community infrastructure** for young people.

Youth Events

The CPYC will prioritize youth-specific events outside of the Pride Festivals to help foster a bigger sense of community. We intend to hold both formal and informal gatherings so youth in our region can meet others and **make new connections and friendships.**

- The recurring, casual events will foster a sense of community amongst youth by providing them space to develop relationships in a casual and ongoing manner. Having a monthly space that 2SLGBTQ+ youth can come together is vital to fostering connections within the community.
- The larger scale event will enable 2SLGBTQ+ youth in the NCR to gather at once enabling a large activity to take place. These events will be aimed at showcasing the diversity of people within our community.

Campaigning on behalf of Youth

- After the success of the **#PrideMatters** campaign leading up to Capital Pride's 2020 Summer Festival, the CPYC intends to **increase its reach** by partnering with organizations and having a more targeted campaign to raise awareness of an important youth issue.
- Since the inception of the Capital Pride Youth Committee three years ago, it has released several letters supporting and advocating for the 2SLGBTQ+ youth community. Moving forward, we commit to increase our advocacy efforts by **drafting and issuing more letters** to support youth-related matters in policy and legislation. Some of such matters are:
 - Sex education / gender-neutral gym classes and washrooms in schools
 - Ending the blood ban
 - Combatting racism and ableism within the community and wider discussions on police violence in the community
 - Trans safety and health
 - Bullying and harassment
 - Harm reduction education in 2SLGBTQ+ communities
 - 2SLGBTQ+ Youth homelessness
 - Supporting 2SLGBTQ+ sex workers

Final remarks

The Capital Pride Youth Committee (CPYC) is committed to serving the 2SLGBTQ+ youth community in the National Capital Region. We aim to create a more inclusive and safe community for our diverse youth population. The CPYC is dedicated to increasing opportunities for youth to advocate and educate in our communities.

We all have a role to play in building a more tightly knit 2SLGBTQ+ community in our region and we hope that you will join us in creating that community.

- **The Capital Pride Youth Committee**

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