

**From:** [Carson, Katie](#)  
**To:** [Kolar, Loren](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Letter regarding Pride violence  
**Date:** July 2, 2019 9:29:15 AM

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GIC – July 8th

**From:** Erin Poole <[erinpoolecounselling@gmail.com](mailto:erinpoolecounselling@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** July 1, 2019 9:40 PM  
**To:** Office of the Mayor <[mayor@hamilton.ca](mailto:mayor@hamilton.ca)>  
**Cc:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)  
**Subject:** Letter regarding Pride violence

Please note that we, the undersigned, would like the following submitted as official correspondence.  
Thank you.

Friday, June 28, 2019

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

We're writing as multi-disciplinary professionals, students, and people with lived experience advocating for equal access to health care for Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary people in Hamilton. As health care providers who value the health and well-being of Two-Spirit, trans, and non-binary people specifically, and 2SLGBTQ+ people in general, we are deeply concerned about the emboldening of hate groups in the city, their occupation of the space in front of City Hall each Saturday since late 2018 for the purpose of promoting hate, and the physical assaults by members of hate groups against members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community at Pride Hamilton.

As other organizations and individuals who have spoken up in support of the 2SLGBTQ+ community have acknowledged, Pride is intended as a safer space in which minority sexual orientations and gender identities are celebrated across intersecting identities. For individuals who are closeted, experience rejection by family, religious, or cultural communities, or aren't able to be out at work, Pride may be one of the few spaces in which these aspects of their identities are seen and celebrated.

Last year, there was a small group of “religious” agitators at Pride; this year, multiple hate groups were present for the express purpose of menacing and threatening our community, because of a culture and practice of tolerance of this kind of behaviour in Hamilton.

Minority stress experiences of gender-diverse and sexuality-minority youth in Canada have been linked to higher rates of depression and anxiety, use of drugs or alcohol in ways that create problems for them, suicide attempts, leaving or being forced to leave school early, and unstable housing/homelessness than in straight, cisgender youth.<sup>1</sup> Bullying can have an enduring impact on suicide risk and mental health, and this relationship is stronger for 2SLGBTQ+ youth than for their straight, cisgender peers.<sup>2</sup> Those of us who work on the front lines of health care with 2SLGBTQ+ people see the aftershocks of fear related to violence like that which occurred at Pride—and a broader culture of compromised safety—in the lives of

our patients and clients in a very visceral way.

We strongly and respectfully urge you and City Council to support the health and well-being of 2SLGBTQ+ people in Hamilton by reading the Mapping the Void report, implementing the Trans Protocols established in March 2017, meeting with the LGBTQ Citizens Advisory Committee, and developing a meaningful response to the events up to and including the culmination of violence at Pride Hamilton in consultation with the Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,

Erin Poole, RP (CRPO), Certified Spiritual Care Practitioner (CASC)

Robyn Ocean MSW RSW

Claire Bodkin MD

Simon Lebrun, Secretary, Hamilton Trans Health Coalition

Nicole Mossop, TransParent Hamilton-Niagara

Nicole Buchanan MD

Wil Prakash Fujarczuk, MA OCT

Natasha Johnson, MD, Pediatrician and Adolescent Medicine, McMaster Children's Hospital

Daniel Thompson-Blum, BSc

Ash Couillard, MA

Angela Ross MD

Garry Blinch, Registered Psychotherapist (CRPO)

Kyla Ludlow, BSW, MD, Family Physician and Assistant Clinical Professor

Michael Kruse, AEMCA-ACP, MD Candidate 2020

Jacqueline Vincent, MD

Kat Butler, MD

Caitlin Donaldson BA, RSSW

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<sup>1</sup> [egale.ca/backgrounder-lgbtq-youth-suicide/](https://egale.ca/backgrounder-lgbtq-youth-suicide/)

<sup>2</sup> [ontario.camh.ca/documents/mental-health-services-for-gender-diverse-and-sexual-minority-youth](https://ontario.camh.ca/documents/mental-health-services-for-gender-diverse-and-sexual-minority-youth)

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**Erin Poole, Hon. B.A., M.Div.**

**Registered Psychotherapist (CRPO), Certified Spiritual Care Practitioner (CASC)**

**Pronouns:** she/ her or they/ them

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