

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Hamilton City Councillors,

We are writing to express our strong concern and objection to the repression of queer community members in Hamilton following the disruption of Hamilton Pride by far right groups and religious extremists.

We are outraged that the Hamilton Police – who chose not to intervene to stop far-right extremists from disrupting Pride [1] – instead have criminalized those in the LGBTQQI2S community who stood up to and created a barrier between the intruders and the Pride attendees. In the words of former Hamilton City Councillor Matthew Green, who attended the Pride event, the "far-right evangelicals" were "just there to sucker-punch people." He further stated that he had "to commend the residents who came with the barrier," adding these people were only trying to block "vitriolic and hateful" posters.[2]

Since the disruption of Hamilton Pride, five queer community members have been arrested. Three were accused of parole violations for "participating in a public demonstration where the peace was disrupted." This charge ignores the fact that this Pride event was meant to be a celebration of the LGBTQQI2S community, not a site of protest. The blame lays clearly on the outsiders for disrupting the celebration, and the erection of a barrier was meant to stop their disruption. This victim-blaming, quite literally, is akin to charging someone with disturbing the peace for being punched in the face.

In particular, the arrest of LGBTQQI2S community member Cedar Hopperton, is especially concerning given that they were not even present at the Pride event. In the words of the Hamilton & District Labour Council, "The arrest was made, suspiciously, after Cedar made a delegation at City Hall in which she was critical of the Hamilton Police. The arrest of Cedar screams of retaliation and pettiness. Such an action is unacceptable at a leadership level. Should any of this retaliation be uncovered, we would expect resignation and/or disciplinary action of senior officers responsible for this directive." [3]

We join over 55 professors and academics at McMaster University, as well as the Hamilton and District Labour council and countless members of the LGBTQQI2S community nationally, in calling for the immediate release of Cedar Hopperton, and the halt of the repression of those defending the Pride community from hateful attacks.

Signed,

The Youth Project, Halifax

Solidarity K'jipuktuk Halifax

Nova Scotia Public Interest Group (NSPIRG)

Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Police, Dalhousie

Dr. Ardath Whynacht, Professors, Sociology, Mount Allison University

Alex Khasnabish, PhD, Associate Professor and Chair, Sociology & Anthropology, Mount Saint Vincent University

Sherry Pictou, PhD, Women's Studies (Indigenous Feminism), Mount Saint Vincent University

Dr. Roni Gechtman, Associate Professor, Department of History, Mount Saint Vincent University

Dr. Martha Walls, Associate Professor, Department of History, Mount Saint Vincent University

Michael Truscello, Associate Professor, Department of English, Mount Royal University

Liz Fitting, Associate Professor, Sociology & Social Anthropology, Dalhousie University

Dave Thomas, Associate Professor, Politics & International Relations, Mount Allison University.

Tracy Glynn, Instructor, University of New Brunswick

Edith Snook, Professor, Department of English, University of New Brunswick

Vladimir Tasic, University of New Brunswick Fredericton, Mathematics and Statistics

Reid Lodge, Grant Facilitator, UNB Office of Research Services

Tia Dafnos, Assistant Professor, Sociology, University of New Brunswick

Miriam Jones, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English at the University of New Brunswick Saint John and Westmount SS Class of '76

Susan O'Donnell, Researcher and Adjunct Professor, University of New Brunswick

Karen Pearlston, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, UNB

Gregory S Kealey, Professor Emeritus History, University of New Brunswick

Jack Gegenberg, (Retired) Professor of Mathematics, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of New Brunswick

Charlie Huntley, co-owner Glittter Bean Cafe

Amanda Rekunyk CHT, Executive Director of Balanced Generations, a non-profit society (Halifax)

Ted Rutland, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Concordia University

Thomas Waugh, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, School of Cinema, FB319, Concordia University

Mary Ellen Davis, Part-time Faculty, School of Cinema, Concordia University

David Moffette, Assistant Professor, Department of Criminology, University of Ottawa

Jennifer Henderson, Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Literature & School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies, Carleton University

Bill Skidmore, professor of Human Rights and Social Justice, Carleton University

Dr. Jacqueline Kennelly, Associate Professor, Dept of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University

Jeff Monaghan Carleton University, Criminology/Sociology

Sarah Brouillette, Professor, Department of English, Carleton

Marie-Eve Carrier-Moisan, Associate Professor in Anthropology, Carleton University

Alexis Shotwell, Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Carleton University.

Rena Bivens, Associate Professor, School of Journalism and Communication, Carleton University

Laura Horak, Director of the Transgender Media Portal, Associate Professor of Film Studies, School for Studies of Art and Culture, Carleton University

Gary Kinsman, Professor Emeritus, Sociology, Laurentian University

Dr. Max Haiven, Canada Research Chair in Culture, Media and Social Justice, Lakehead University

Sandra Jeppesen, Lakehead University Orillia

Irina Ceric, Criminology Instructor, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Shiri Pasternak, Assistant Professor, Criminology, Ryerson University

Dr. Craig Fortier, Assistant Professor, Social Development Studies, Renison University College (University of Waterloo)

Dr. Ryan Conrad, Vice-Chair, Sexual Studies Association, SSHRC Postdoctoral fellow, Cinema and Media Studies, York University

Lesley Wood, Associate Professor and Chair, Dept of Sociology, York University

Catriona Sandilands, Professor, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University

Chris Vance, PhD candidate, York University

John Greyson, filmmaker/Associate Professor, film, York University

Nick Mulé, PhD, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University

Linda Briskin, Phd, Professor Emeritus, School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, York University

Lisa Droogendyk, PhD, Professor of Psychology, School of Social and Life Sciences, Sheridan College. Oakville, Ontario

Carol Dauda, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Guelph

Dr. Natalie Kouri-Towe, Program Director, Interdisciplinary Studies in Sexuality, and Assistant Professor, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University

Dror Warschawski, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, UQAM

E. Sandra Byers, Professor & Chair, Department of Psychology UNB; Research Fellow, Royal Society of Canada; Past-President, International Academy of Sex Research

Françoise Miquet, Part-time teacher in French as a second language, translator and PhD student in Translation Studies, Université de Montréal

Gail Vanstone, Associate Professor, Department of Humanities, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, York University

Geneviève Rail, Ph.D., Full Professor, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University

Jim Phillips, Faculty of Law & Dept of History, University of Toronto

Laverne Jacobs, PhD, Associate Dean (Research & Graduate Studies), University of Windsor, Faculty of Law

Sharry Aiken, Associate Professor, Queen's University Faculty of Law

Thomas Kuttner, QC

OPIRG Toronto

LSPIRG

QT CASE - Queer Trans Community Action Support and Education

Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter

AKA Autonomous Social Centre

KW May Day

The Black Umbrella

KW Infoshop

1. This twitter testimony suggests that Hamilton Police deliberately were ineffective in de-escalating violence at Pride.

<https://twitter.com/CameronKroetsch/status/1141422010070982657>

These twitter testimonies quote a police officer at Pride as saying “don’t you remember that we weren’t invited to Pride? We’re just going to stand here. Not my problem.”

<https://twitter.com/Morethanquirks/status/1140019726904692736>

<https://twitter.com/Morethanquirks/status/1140008358780506112>

2. Carter, Adam. “'Hateful' protest at Hamilton Pride event condemned” June 15, 2019.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/hamilton-pride-festival-altercation-police-1.5177439>

3. Halifax and District labour council statement, June 24, 2019

[https://www.facebook.com/hamiltonlabour/posts/10156549959608865?\\_\\_xts\\_\\_%5B0%5D=68.ARDSGLivW1op60XFp7XRjVcpbTrRVnN4Zrn\\_8yF2DK2UbLpzWLaV0D9Bb2MEVHslSjw68PcAEFnHQfWYTeVUlgviLzcofYJjgFJGfH7ug5DZ9nTBxRBmtTx7gG1\\_POox70KFaAhNtlivFBJgMhFeQA-2XuCKCCb-jynYWRzj6PdLf05ISV4ogKp9H-cLsjWdyZpRWmNmctopU3GI2zYU-skizFGXrkp6uGWNQNoiqHupSEd2PWae6GxD35AoWpoth0OfUXywVCRENdZuENEINWwBkPbxrWtHC6H3X8dWbCtkldPgoOq3DSfGU7mP-fOy-whqif\\_AP0h9znBS&\\_\\_tn\\_\\_=K-R](https://www.facebook.com/hamiltonlabour/posts/10156549959608865?__xts__%5B0%5D=68.ARDSGLivW1op60XFp7XRjVcpbTrRVnN4Zrn_8yF2DK2UbLpzWLaV0D9Bb2MEVHslSjw68PcAEFnHQfWYTeVUlgviLzcofYJjgFJGfH7ug5DZ9nTBxRBmtTx7gG1_POox70KFaAhNtlivFBJgMhFeQA-2XuCKCCb-jynYWRzj6PdLf05ISV4ogKp9H-cLsjWdyZpRWmNmctopU3GI2zYU-skizFGXrkp6uGWNQNoiqHupSEd2PWae6GxD35AoWpoth0OfUXywVCRENdZuENEINWwBkPbxrWtHC6H3X8dWbCtkldPgoOq3DSfGU7mP-fOy-whqif_AP0h9znBS&__tn__=K-R)