Submitted on Thursday, May 2, 2019 - 10:21
Submitted by anonymous user: 174.2.167.144
Submitted values are:

Date: Thursday, May 02, 2019
To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name: Sean
Last Name: Ryan
Email: events@outsaskatoon.ca
Address: 201-320 21st ST W
City: Saskatoon
Province: Saskatchewan
Postal Code: S7M 4E6
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): OUTSaskatoon
Subject: Flag Raising
Meeting (if known):
Comments: Across Canada Pride and LGBTQ2S organizations will be holding flag raisings to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalization of homosexuality in Canada.
Attachments:
standing_by_our_colours_resource_sheet.pdf:

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/306545
Standing by our Colours Resource Sheet

Suggested ceremony protocol

11:30 a.m. Arrival of the participants
11:45 a.m. Land acknowledgment*
11:47 a.m. Introductory remarks, with a brief overview of the 50th anniversary
11:55 a.m. A word from the Mayor/Community Leader, LGBTQ2+ community representative, or other stakeholders
12 noon Flag raising
12:05 p.m. Conclusion
12:10 p.m. Media interviews
12:30 p.m. End of the flag raising ceremony

To the best of your ability, ensure that the ceremony is in both official languages

*We encourage you to connect with local indigenous communities to open new avenues for dialogue. For instance, you may want to consult Indigenous people, Elders and knowledge keepers on the land recognition protocol, which may vary across territories. We also encourage you to engage with a local Indigenous Elder for an Indigenous Opening Ceremony. Usually, you should prepare a Tobacco Offering as a gift to the Elder¹. You will find useful information from the Centre for Indigenous Initiatives of the Carleton University in the footnote on how to prepare the Tobacco Offering.

Overview of the 50th anniversary

On May 14, 2019, people across Canada will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalization of homosexuality. In 1967, Federal Minister of Justice Pierre Elliott Trudeau wanted to adapt the Criminal Code to Canadian values. He tabled an omnibus bill containing a number of provisions that would decriminalize certain sexual practices (gross indecency, sodomy) between consenting adults age 21 and over. He summed up his bill in a sentence that has since become famous: There’s no place for the state in the bedrooms of the nation.

Decriminalizing homosexuality was a critical first step for sexual and gender minorities, but we were still a long way from acceptance. People continued to suffer discrimination based on their sexual orientation. The past 50

¹Centre for Indigenous Initiatives: https://carleton.ca/indigenous/resources/tobacco-offering-protocol/
years have brought significant progress, namely the removal of homosexuality from the list of mental diseases, and the introduction of several legal protections. Despite the shortcomings acknowledged by some, the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1964-69 remains an important achievement by the Canadian government.

The Canadian government has indicated that this important event opened the door to steady improvements in the rights of the two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer (“2SLGBTQ+”) community in Canada. Significant progress has been made in social acceptance and official legal equality over the past decades, for which Canada is now recognized around the world.

In order to commemorate this important moment, Standing by our Colors - Affichons nos Couleurs, is currently coordinating 50 flag raising in all provinces and territories across Canada. This anniversary year provides an ideal opportunity to highlight the importance of the 2SLGBTQ+ community in Canada and its achievements, while also recognizing the work that lies ahead for full equality.

**Why partial decriminalization?**

Many talk about partial decriminalization because the Act, although it decriminalized sexual relations between same-sex people, continued to feature inequities in terms the age of consent for anal relations (21 years, whereas for vaginal relations it is 14 years). Now, fifty years later, the Government of Canada is getting ready to correct these inequities with its Bill C-75.

Despite its shortcomings, the law corresponded to a vision of a progressive Canada’s intention to promote human rights, and constituted a first step towards equality for the LGBTQ2+ community.

**Homosexuality is still a crime in over 70 countries**

In order to fully grasp the significance of this progressive legislation adopted in 1969, it is important to look at the global situation. According to the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA), in 2019, 50 years after the decriminalization of homosexuality in Canada, at least 70 countries around the world still treat homosexuality as a crime. The punishment for that crime ranges from death to imprisonment, depending on the country.
Standard message to send to local schools inviting them to the flag raising

(Greetings),

On May 14, 2019, people across Canada will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalization of homosexuality. The Canadian government has indicated that this important event opened the door to steady improvements in the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and two-spirit (LGBTQ2+) community in Canada. Significant progress has been made in social acceptance and official legal equality over the past decades, for which Canada is now recognized around the world. This anniversary year provides an ideal opportunity to highlight the importance of the LGBTQ2+ community in Canada and its achievements.

In order to commemorate this significant moment, Affichons nos couleurs – Standing by our Colours, through _________________, is organizing a pride flag raising in _________________.

We invite you to attend this event with your students on ___(date)______________ at ___(location)________________. The ceremony will begin at _______________ and end around _______________. Several distinguished guests are expected, including ____________________________________.

We believe that this event will have a positive impact on your students and help them to better understand the challenges and issues faced by the LGBTQ2+ community in Canada. As well, it will improve their appreciation of the progress made over the past 50 years, and their awareness of the barriers still faced by the LGBTQ2+ community.

Yours truly,

(signature)

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2 You may want to use the acronym that is more familiar to your local communities.