UR Pride Centre
for Sexuality & Gender Diversity Inc.

Annual Report
2019/2020
UR PRIDE CENTRE
for Sexuality & Gender Diversity

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Community Hub: SPACE & SaskQTY 2139 Albert Street Regina, SK 306-539-1064 saskqty@urpride.ca www.space.lgbt

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www.urpride.ca

UR Pride Centre for Sexuality and Gender Diversity

Saskatchewan Queer and Trans Youth Network

@urpridecentre

@urpridecentre

@saskqty
Hello!

This year has been another year of immense growth with UR Pride, and I’ve been honoured to be part of the team that has put in so much work to create a safer, more inclusive community for 2SLGBTQ+ people in our city.

COVID19 brought so many challenges to our world this year, and while this time has been overwhelming, I am so impressed by our staff who have worked so diligently to bring new projects and supports to their community. Our whole team should be proud of the fact that UR Pride was able to adapt all of our programs online during this time.

On campus, we held the first Pride on Campus celebration in partnership with the University of Regina which saw the first in a series of a Critical Whiteness Reading Group where white queer and allied people can come together to critically examine how white supremacy and racism is upheld on our campus and in our community. We continued our important work of our Pop-Up Sexual Health Clinic and worked with URSU to hire their first Sexual Health Coordinator. We were also ecstatic to work with a committee of queer students from universities across Canada to re-launch the Canadian University Queer Services Conference, which hadn’t taken place since 2016.

In the community, 2020 saw our first iteration of the Canada Service Corps-funded SaskQTY project completed with an incredible cohort of over 20 queer & trans youth from across the province. We also successfully held the first online Camp fyrefly in partnership with OUTSaskatoon, funded by the Community Initiatives Fund. Our Monarch Mental Health program continues to provide life-saving mental health support for 2SLGBTQ+ people in Southern Saskatchewan, and we launched our Queer Peer Navigation program with OUTSaskatoon and Moose Jaw Pride thanks to support from the Government of Canada’s Emergency Community Support Fund. Finally, we were honoured to co-host, along with OUTSaskatoon, the first Saskatchewan 2SLGBTQ+ Organization’s Summit to strengthen partnerships and our collective mission to improve this province for all.

As we move into our 25th year of existence, I can’t wait to see how this incredible community continues to support the work we do, and help build a safer, more inclusive province for all 2SLGBTQ+ people.

With fierce love,

Jacq Brasseur, BSW, RSW
Executive Director
(Pronouns: they/them)
executive.director@urpride.ca
The UR Pride Centre for Sexuality and Gender Diversity is a non-profit 2SLGBTQ+ service provider housed at the University of Regina. UR Pride provides services and programming for the entire community of Regina, not just for the University of Regina, and is available to provide certain services to others communities in the Southern Saskatchewan region on request.

**OUR MISSION**

Our Mission is to set the foundation for a safer, healthier, and more vibrant community for sexually and gender diverse people in the City and University of Regina.

**OUR MANDATE**

We aim:
- To provide and promote health, wellness, and social support for sexually and gender diverse people on campus and throughout the City;
- To promote an intergenerational community of sexually and gender diverse people on campus and throughout the City;
- To advocate for the safety and equitable inclusion of sexually and gender diverse people on campus and throughout the City; and
- To provide avenues for sexually and gender diverse students to expand their skills and explore new leadership opportunities.

**OUR VISION**

We envision:
- A community where people are free from marginalization, and social and political prejudice because of their sexual and/or gender identities;
- A healthy and positive queer community where there are opportunities for social interactions in safer, inclusive, and comfortable spaces;
- A Canada-wide queer university community that shares resources; and
- A community where all people have access to educating themselves on queer issues to alleviate discrimination driven by ignorance.

**OUR VALUES**

We believe in:
- In supporting our community through an anti-oppressive framework;
- That the health of the people in the community is important;
- In equality, fairness, social equity, respect and social acceptance regardless of social circumstances;
- That everyone should have access to a safer and supportive environment;
- In consent as an essential part of social interaction;
- In freedom of choice;
- In informed, constructive social criticism;
- In promoting relevant social issues; and
- In informed healthy choices.
Our board of directors is comprised of 2SLGBTQ+ and allied community members, and representatives from different faculties and communities of interest from the University of Regina. Our board of directors oversees a handful of committees, made up of both board members and our membership alike.

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Jacq Brasseur  BSW, RSW  
Executive Director

Emmy Ritenburg  BSW, RSW  
Director of Community Programs

**Campus Staff**

Meg Hadland  BEd  
Education & Diversity Manager

kēr  
2SQTBIPOC Program Coordinator

Emma Dombowsky  
Campus Programs Coordinator  
(Practicum Student)

**Community Staff**

Andrew Bay  BEd  
GSA Outreach & fYrefly Coordinator

Kennny Starling  
Program Coordinator - SPACE & SaskQTY

Celeste Seiferling  BSW, RSW  
Counsellor - Monarch Mental Health

Riki Yandt  MSW, RSW  
Counsellor - Monarch Mental Health

Mirtha Rivera  
Program Coordinator - 55+ Club (Seniors Program)

Ryan Lizee  
SPACE Worker

Nate Pelletier-Littletent  
SPACE Worker

Shaylee Duddy  
GSA Outreach Assistant

Felix Crawford  
GSA Outreach Assistant

Christina Chaisson  
Queer Peer Navigator

**Former Staff**

Cat Haines  
Director of Campus Programs

Raphaele Frigon  BFA  
Program Director - SPACE & SaskQTY

Suzy Yim  MSW, RSW  
Clinical Coordinator - Monarch Mental Health

Amanda Flahr  MSW, RSW  
Counsellor - Monarch Mental Health

Evie Ruddy  
Artist - Stories That Move You

Lucian Amundson  
SPACE Worker

Katie Wilson  
Marketing & Communications Coordinator  
(Summer Student)

**Former Practicum Students**

Aiyana Burkowski-Kleefeld  
Program & Events Assistant  
(Summer Student)

**Former Practicum Students**

Jamiy-Lee Moran  
Peer Support Project Development

Aubree Bangsund  
SaskQTY Project Support
COVID19 impacted our communities in so many ways, and UR Pride has been working hard to support 2SLGBTQ+ people through this pandemic. With support from donors and the Red Cross Society, we were able to respond by creating new programs and adapting existing programs to continue serving 2SLGBTQ+ people in our city.

With OUTSaskatoon & Moose Jaw Pride, we launched a provincial Queer Peer Navigation program to help 2SLGBTQ+ people across the province have an easy, go-to place to help navigate systems and problems they’re facing due to the pandemic or problems that have been exacerbated due to COVID19.

In April 2020, we launched our COVID19 Emergency Response Fund, to provide rent, food, and other emergency financial support to 2SLGBTQ+ people across Southern Saskatchewan. Thanks to donations from community members and from Queen City Pride, we helped support those in need during the beginning days of the pandemic.

In partnership with

Over $2,600 in donations from community

Over $2,900 distributed to 2SLGBTQ+ people
When COVID19 hit, our staff worked diligently to ensure that none of our programs had to be cancelled.

Today, all of our programs, including our Queer Youth Group, Resilience Trans Support Group, and Group Z, take place online until our pandemic policy allows us to re-open our community locations.

**STAY CONNECTED**

UR Pride has our Discord server open every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evening from 7pm to 9pm, for folks of all ages to stay connected during times of social isolation.

To join our discord server, visit [www.bit.ly/urp-discord](http://www.bit.ly/urp-discord)
Our Lounge is a fabulous place to hang out and relax in between classes. There’s lots of stuff to use while you’re there, but it’s also just a good place to have a nap!

- Microwave & Mini-Fridge
- Kettle & Coffee Maker
- Couches, Blankets & Pillows
- Board & Card Games
- USB Charging Ports
- Books, Movies & Magazines
- Crafts & Colouring Supplies

UR Pride was founded in 1996 by a group of 2SLGBTQ+ and allied students who recognized a need on their campus. Since 1996, we’ve done tons of great work on campus, and we’re always excited to provide services to students.

- **Student Housing:** In 2018, we started a Housing Program with U of R Housing where we have designated apartments for 2SLGBTQ+ students. If students need a place to live while they’re at school, we can help them.

- **Sexual Health Clinic:** We host a monthly sexual health clinic (with Planned Parenthood, the Aboriginal Student’s Centre and Saskatchewan Health Authority) during the Fall & Winter semesters where students and staff can access sexual health services.

- **Peer Support & Support Groups:** Anybody can reach out to us to get connected to our Peer Support program, or to go to one of our support groups. If we don’t have something happening that a student wants, we encourage them to tell us, so we can try to get it started.

- **Academic Help:** We often provide help to students in understanding academic concepts that they have a hard time with. We can help students find quality material or books, or we can provide help directly to students.

- **Advocacy:** If students or staff have a negative experience on campus, whether it be discrimination, violence, or just something a bit weird, we can offer them support by advocating for them to the University.

- **So much more!** We do way more than this... if you’re a student and interested in hearing everything we do, give us a shout on campus.
In January 2019, after years of requests from our community, UR Pride launched the Monarch Mental Health program with support from the Community Initiatives Fund for a pilot project lasting eight months that would allow for a part-time mental health counsellor to provide direct counselling to 2SLGBTQ+ clients in Regina. Since its founding, Monarch has provided over 300 hours of counselling to 2SLGBTQ+ people and their families. As UR Pride continues to search for stable, consistent funding, we’re doing whatever we can to keep this important program alive.

www.urpride.ca/monarch
306-988-4357
counsellor@urpride.ca

Thanks to the support of Arcas Advertising, we launched a crowdfunding campaign to help fundraise for this very important program.

Consider making a donation by visiting www.chuffed.org/project/monarch and get cool stuff!
SPACE for Saskatchewan Queer and Trans Youth is a community hub located in downtown Regina, SK at 2139 Albert Street. SPACE was established as a place to be utilized by all 2SLGBTQ+ organizations and programs in Regina and surrounding area, including our own SaskQTY Project. On any given day you’ll find youth participating in workshops, organizers hosting meetings, or music and arts events. SPACE also has drop-in hours for 2SLGBTQ+ youth to come and use our lounge and hang out.

SPACE is funded through the Canada Service Corps with the Government of Canada. Canada Service Corps is a funding program that promotes the active participation of youth aged 15 to 30 years old in committed community service projects, civic engagement and volunteerism.

SPACE is home to the SaskQTY project: The SaskQTY Network is a multi-year project aimed at fostering engagement of queer and trans youth in civic life. This project establishes a network of Two Spirit, lesbian, gay, trans, queer (2SLGBTQ+) and allied youth across the province. Together they’re learning about leadership, volunteerism, event planning, advocacy, non-profit governance and political networking all through their interest in 2SLGBTQ+ issues, and identity. The end goal of this project is to equip 2SLGBTQ+ youth with the skills for civic engagement, community organizing, and volunteerism.

Outside of SaskQTY, SPACE’s community programs are funded by the Community Initiatives Fund and the City of Regina.

Visit www.urpride.ca/saskqty for info about hours and events
Online programs available on Discord during COVID19
fyrefly in Schools is a program that originated at the University of Regina under the Faculty of Education’s Camp fyrefly program. Dr. James McNinch, former Dean of the Faculty of Education, worked closely with the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies at the University of Alberta to bring Camp fyrefly to Saskatchewan. The University of Regina worked closely with a number of other stakeholders in the province, including the University of Saskatchewan and OUT Saskatoon to put on a yearly camp for 2SLGBTQIAP+ youth and their allies. Over the years, they discovered that there was a great need for education in school systems across the province and fyrefly in Schools, a program specific to Saskatchewan, was created.

In early 2019, the University of Regina made the decision to transition the program to 2SLGBTQIAP+ led organizations. It was decided that Camp fyrefly would be run under the OUTSaskatoon umbrella, while fyrefly in Schools would be split between two regions (North/Central & South) to both UR Pride Centre and OUTSaskatoon.

We are honoured to be able to participate in the continuation of this program, and we can’t wait to see how much we help fyrefly in Schools promote resilience in 2SLGBTQIAP+ youth and inclusion within education.

RESILIENCE, SELF-DISCOVERY, TRANSFORMATION, EMPOWERMENT AND LEADERSHIP

The fyrefly in Schools program provides free presentations and professional development training to elementary and high schools across the province. fyrefly in Schools delivers content that is age appropriate, relatable, and relevant to students, staff and administrators. They take part in discussions that focus on reducing discrimination and increasing awareness of 2SLGBTQ people and concerns. Through fyrefly in Schools and Camp fyrefly we are actively working to increase the health and wellbeing of 2SLGBTQ youth province-wide.

Camp fyrefly

Camp fyrefly Saskatchewan is an educational, social, artistic and personal learning retreat for gender and sexually diverse youth (two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) and allied youth. The four-day camp is designed for youth between the ages of 14 and 24.

The camp is peer driven and jam-packed with drama, music, writing, visual art, empowerment and reflection exercises, anti-oppression work, personal growth opportunities, healthy socialization, and in-depth learning activities about specific youth topics and social issues.

To donate to Camp fyrefly, please visit: www.outsaskatoon.ca/donate_camp_fyrefly

OR mail to:
Camp fyrefly Coordinator
OUTSaskatoon
213 Avenue C South
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7M1N3

Contact fyrefly in schools Regina at:
fyrefly@urpride.ca

For more info about Camp fyrefly, contact us at: campfyrefly@urpride.ca
UR Pride is often the first point of contact for a lot of 2SLGBTQ+ people in Regina looking for help or services. We end up supporting 2SLGBTQ+ people for all kinds of reasons, and do this work even when it falls outside of our usual mandate.

Some of the reasons why 2SLGBTQ+ and allied people have accessed support this year include:

- Support in changing legal gender markers or names
- Help with human rights complaints or discrimination
- Support in applying for refugee or asylum status
- Help with finding an inclusive doctor or health service
- Help with finding employment or housing
- Understanding trans identities or communities
- Supporting 2SLGTQ+ family or friends
- Help with advocating for a safer workplace or school
“I have gotten so much help from the staff, from filling out medical forms, to applying for documents. I’ve known staff at UR Pride for about three years now, and they have been a great help not only with LGBT stuff, but personal issues such as mental health. I know I can always count on UR Pride staff to help me out with anything that’s stressing me out, and that’s a real relief for someone who enjoys a safe place to reach out to. And that’s what UR Pride offers, a safe space that’s actually inviting, somewhere I want to go to relax or seek help. It’s just a really great opportunity to meet people and get out there to have fun, without judgement.”

- Community Member, 20 years old
“For this exhibition, eight trans and non-binary people from Saskatchewan have chosen to share digital and visual stories with you. They tell stories in their own words and voices, and share portraits that were created in a collaborative process, therefore ensuring that each person is represented, within this particular context, as they wish to be seen.”

Funded by SK Arts, Stories That Move You is a portrait & digital storytelling project by and for trans and non-binary people in Saskatchewan that seeked to answer the questions:

- How do trans and non-binary people in urban Saskatchewan understand their bodies, and their stories?
- How do trans and non-binary people in urban Saskatchewan perceive the ways in which audiences consume their bodies and stories?

Weeds in the garden
To listen to Charlie’s story, visit http://www.storiesthatmove.ca/charlie

Let’s crush the system
To listen to Aiden’s story, visit http://www.stonesthatmove.ca/aiden
Responding after the Pride Motion at Regina Public Schools

In response to concerns from Regina Public School parents, including Justine Taylor that providing children with the opportunity to participate in Pride events is inappropriate and causes some children with certain "religious and moral beliefs" to not feel included, Regina Public Schools Board of Education Trustee Aleana Young put forward a motion that would allow all Regina Public Schools to celebrate Pride week and Pride events at school.

As many folks know, on October 15th 2019, the Regina Public School Board (RPSB) debated the motion brought forward by Trustee Young to ensure that Regina Public Schools recognized and supported Pride celebrations and flag raisings every June. Many of our board members and staff attended this meeting, and were saddened and disappointed by the outcome of this vote.

Since the Pride Motion was defeated, our staff at UR Pride have created a Pride Toolkit for GSAs / QSAs across Regina, and acted as a representative on the Regina Public Schools Special Committee for Diversity to consult on and advocate for improved administrative procedures to ensure meaningful inclusion of 2SLGBTQ+ children and staff at Regina Public Schools.

For support with your GSA/QSA, email us at gsa@urpride.ca.

DOWNLOAD UR PRIDE'S PRIDE MOTION TOOLKIT
visit www.urpride.ca/schoolsneedpride

DOWNLOAD THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY’S FINAL REPORT
visit www.bit.ly/urp-diversityreport
Without the support from University community, government, other non-profit agencies, and people across the province, we wouldn’t be able to do the work that we do. Although we regularly apply for grants and sponsorships, we have so many partners and funders who’ve offered their support without our requests. We know that the community supports us, and we couldn’t be more thankful for all of their love.

**COMMUNITY PARTNERS**
- Family Service Regina
- Moose Jaw Pride
- OUTSaskatoon
- Planned Parenthood
- Queen City Pride
- Regal Social Association of Regina
- Saskatchewan Health Authority
- Saskatchewan Writer’s Guild
- TransSask Support Services

**MAJOR FUNDERS ($75,000+)**
- Government of Canada
- Canada Service Corps
- Canadian Red Cross Society
- Students from the University of Regina

**LARGE FUNDERS ($20,000+)**
- Community Initiatives Fund
- City of Regina
- Government of Canada
  - New Horizons for Seniors
- University of Regina

**CAMPUS PARTNERS**
- Hill Marketing Society
- PRISM Improv
- Regina Public Interest Research Group
- University of Regina Faculty Association
- University of Regina Students’ Union
- University of Regina Women’s Centre
- U of R Queer Initiative
- University of Regina
  - Housing Services
  - Office of Indigenization
  - ta-tawâw Student Centre

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**Donate & Support UR Pride**
If you’re interested in supporting our work, you can make a donation via cheque or e-transfer. To discuss a larger contribution or planned giving, you can reach out to our Executive Director at executive.director@urpride.ca or at 306-519-4733.