

The Occasion



Serving the LGBTQ+ community
of southern Alberta for three decades
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‘Conversion’ bill returns

Ottawa —The Liberal government has reintroduced a bill that would ban “conversion therapy” being forced upon children or adults.

The proposed legislation was originally introduced in March, just before Parliament shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Diversity Minister Bardish Chagger, who put the bill forward in late September, said choosing to reintroduce a bill to ban the discredited practice just days into the new parliamentary session sends a strong signal.

She called conversion therapy destructive, harmful and deadly.

“On this side of the House, we focus on advancing and protecting LGBTQ2 rights,” she said.

The NDP backed the previous bill and suggested it would support this one as well, ensuring its passage through the House of Commons.

Everyone welcome?

Bridgetown — It’s one of the smallest but most-visited Caribbean islands — and now Barbados wants to invite foreigners to live and work there remotely for 12 months in an attempt to kickstart a tourism economy hampered by the pandemic.

But does that include LGBTQ visitors? The nation still has strict anti-gay laws on the books.

Prime Minister Mia Mottley insists the door is open.

“I want to say as long as I am prime minister of this nation we welcome all, every one,” she says.

But same-sex male relations are still punishable by up to 16 years in prison in Barbados — the law stretching back to its colonial occupation. But the ban is not enforced, and new legislation to end that discrimination is in the works.

Mottley condemns the island’s anti-LGBTQ laws, adding “This country, that has been forged regrettably in the bowels of discrimination, cannot want to discriminate against anybody for any reason. All must breathe in this country.”

She says a bill is to be debated “imminently” to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Inside

- Rowling returns rights award** 2
- New chair for our PrideFest** 3
- Aussies embrace Priscilla** 4
- More Pride in Chinatown** 5
- Queens become innovative** 6
- John Turner backed rights** 7
- Museum hid queer content** 8

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Emmy sweep for Schitts’ Creek

Toronto — It’s not common for a Canadian TV series to win an Emmy award — let alone nine of them!

And it’s even less likely that the American awards selectors would embrace a family comedy that includes a gay couple.

That’s how Schitts’ Creek, a highly rated CBC Television series bowed out after six seasons. But although it’s no longer in production, millions are now enjoying it online.

“I think Dan (Levy, who plays gay brother David) intentionally wrote a show where there was no bigotry and there was no homophobia and there was no hatred to kind of hold a picture up to the world of what things could be like,” says Canadian actor Annie Murphy, who played Alexis — and earned the “best supporting actress” prime-time Emmy.

“For Alexis, I think that David’s sexuality is so far from her mind at all times. He’s her brother, who she loves, and even when they’re screaming at each other to get murdered first, she wants him to be happy,” Murphy adds.

David and his partner Patrick get married in the final show, with Catherine O’Hara — winner of the “best lead actress” Emmy — presiding in drag.

Says Murphy, “I’m so thrilled when we get messages, as we do so often, from families who watch the show together, and a kid has felt the courage to come out to his family after watching the show, or a mother and father have felt able to accept their queer child after watching the show.”

Schitts’ Creek also won Emmies for “outstanding casting” for a comedy series, “outstanding contemporary costumes,” “outstanding directing” for comedy, “outstanding writing” and as the year’s “outstanding comedy series.”

Writer/performer Eugene Levy was honoured as “outstanding lead actor” as Johnn, while his son Daniel was recognized as “outstanding supporting actor” as David.

The series showed “the transformational effects of love and acceptance,” Daniel said during his Emmy award acceptance speech.

“This is something we need more now than ever before.”

RuPaul and dinos linked?

Drumheller — A Montana paleontologist has found a connection between the painted dinosaurs of Drumheller and the fabulous outfits worn by drag queen RuPaul.

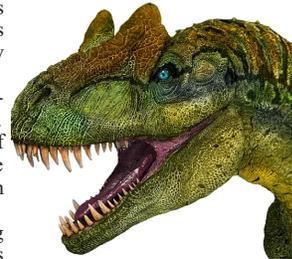
Amy Atwater, collections manager for the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, has photo evidence. “My friend and I just couldn’t help taking a ton of selfies and photos with these wonderful, diverse dinosaur artwork statues,” said Atwater — a big fan of *RuPaul’s Drag Race* and *Canada’s Drag Race*.

“Seeing all of their fantastic outfits and seeing RuPaul through the ages, I was really struck by this one image of RuPaul in this black-and-white outfit that stands out.

“It reminded me so much of the skeleton dinosaur statue from Drumheller and it got me thinking, maybe there are more connections between RuPaul’s fashion and the statues in Drumheller.”

Atwater visited three years ago and acknowledges the dinosaurs are constantly changing their colours.

“They’re very, very colourful. And I tried to embrace all the colourful aspect. I know many of them have been repainted throughout the years.



“So not all of the ones I posted currently look the way they did in those photos. They’re always changing.”

Atwater says her ultimate dream would be for

RuPaul to notice her project.

“Wouldn’t that just be the dream? Of course, I would love to hear from RuPaul. He’s a very busy person. I would be honoured completely.”

“I don’t know what I have to do to get it on RuPaul’s radar or any of the drag queens’ radars,” she admits.

“But I would hope that we could get the message out there, especially with *Canada’s Drag Race* just happening. Maybe we can get it on the radar of some of those Canadian queens.”

Lesbian niece suing Trump

Washington — Donald Trump is being sued by his lesbian niece Mary L. Trump for allegedly conspiring to defraud her of tens of millions of dollars, just weeks before he’s up for re-election.

Mary alleges that Trump, along with his late brother Robert and sister Maryanne Trump Barry, falsified documents to undervalue the share of the family business that she inherited when her father — Donald’s brother Fred Trump, Jr. — passed away in 1981 when Mary was 16 years old.

The lawsuit states that Donald, Robert, and Maryanne were supposed to “watch over her interests as fiduciaries” but instead conspired to take away her inheritance.

“They lied,” reads the complaint. “Rather than protect Mary’s interests, they designed and carried out a complex scheme to siphon funds away from her interests, conceal their gift, and deceive her

about the true value of what she had inherited.”

The lawsuit also discusses the death of Mary’s grandfather and Donald’s father — Fred Trump, Sr. — in 1999, accusing Donald and his siblings of threatening to bankrupt her interests.

She said that they also threatened to cut off health insurance for her nephew who had cerebral palsy in order to “squeeze Mary out altogether.”

Donald would eventually follow through on that threat. He cut off health care for the infant when Mary’s brother Fred Trump III sued him over the will.

“I was angry because they sued,” Donald Trump said in a 2016 interview, explaining why he ended the infant’s health care coverage.

Mary says her aunt and uncles “forced her to sign” fraudulent valuations in order to settle Fred Trump Sr.’s will.

New Pride colours in D.C.

Queen trips state politician

Dover, Del. — Drag queen and progressive Democrat Eric Morrison soundly defeated incumbent State Representative Earl Jaques (D) in Delaware's state's primary election, garnering 61% of the vote.

A staunch opponent of LGBTQ rights, Jaques had already lost one skirmish with Morrison when he launched an attack against his competitor for holding a drag show as a campaign fundraiser.

"That is so far off-base for our district, it's unbelievable," Jaques complained.

"You wonder what the point is. You can have fundraisers, I don't care about that. But dressing in drag? Really?"

He later apologized to Morrison, who performs as "Anita Mann."

Jaques admitted "It is wrong to attempt to pass judgment or impose one person's belief structure onto others."

Thai activists demand rights

Bangkok — Hundreds of Thai LGBTQ activists and allies raised rainbow flags recently as they called for democracy and equal rights, the latest in a series of youth protests calling for the government to step down.

Youth-led demonstrations have sprung up across the country after thousands of Thai activists defied a coronavirus ban on gatherings and staged one of the largest street rallies since a 2014 military coup. They danced, sang and performed stand-up comedy sketches making jabs at the government of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha. The former army chief ousted an elected government six years ago.

Pride flags were waved against the backdrop of Bangkok's Democracy Monument. "We're here today mainly to call for democracy. Once we achieve democracy, equal rights will follow," said a 21-year-old activist.

"The LGBT group do not yet have equal rights in society, so we're calling for both democracy and equality," he added.

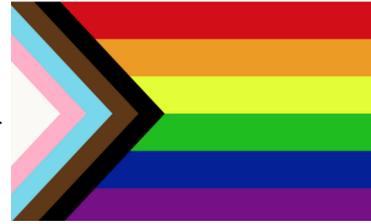
The protests continue despite a government decision to back a civil partnership bill that recognizes same-sex unions with almost the same rights as married couples.

Washington — In time for Pride month, the U.S. capital installed a rainbow crosswalk that uses the colours of the transgender flag along with black and brown stripes.

The expanded rainbow image was laid down at the crosswalk of 17th and P Streets NW.

At one end of the rainbow was a rainbow made up of pink, light blue, white, brown, and black stripes, representing the transgender flag and people of colour.

The design hearkens back to a flag designed by queer non-binary activist Daniel Quasar in 2018. The black and brown stripes were used the year before by the city of Philadelphia during Pride to represent LGBTQ people of colour, and Quasar's design took those stripes, added the transgender flag colors, and made them an arrow to indicate progress.



"I felt there needed to be more thought put into the design and emphasis of the flag to give it more

meaning," he explained.

The pink, light blue, and white transgender flag was originally designed by activist and veteran Monica Helms.

Rowling returns rights award

London — J.K. Rowling, author of the *Harry Potter* series, has returned an award from a human rights group after the president of the organization criticized her comments about transgender issues.

Rowling's decision came after Kerry Kennedy, the president of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights non-profit and the late American senator's daughter, published a statement expressing her "profound disappointment" with the author's comments.

Replied Rowling: "The statement incorrectly implied that I was transphobic, and that I am responsible for harm to trans people.

"As a longstanding donor to LGBTQ charities and a supporter of trans people's right to live free of persecution, I absolutely refute the accusation that I hate trans

people or wish them ill, or that standing up for the rights of women is wrong, discriminatory, or incites harm or violence to the trans community."

In an earlier series of tweets, Rowling said she supported trans rights but did not believe in "erasing" the concept of biological sex. She said she refuses to "bow down" to a movement seeking "to erode 'woman'" as a political and biological class, and offering cover to predators like few before it."

In a later post on her website, Rowling expressed "solidarity with those who have contacted me but who are struggling to make their voices heard."

She has previously said she was partly motivated to speak out about the issue because of her personal experience of abuse and sexual assault.

Drone hoists rainbow in Kyiv

Kyiv — Ukrainian LGBTQ activists used a drone to hoist a giant rainbow flag and attach it to the famous "Motherland" statue — venerated across the country.

While the stunt was met with blowback in the conservative country, the government was powerless to stop them.

"Drone flights were carried out under the current legislation and according to the rules of the State Service," declared the company that arranged the flight.

"We are against the manifestation of aggression against the LGBT community, which we consider to be from the

Middle Ages," the company added on Facebook.

While homosexuality is legal in Ukraine, the country is anything but welcoming to LGBTQ people.

In 2017, a small group of activists who were trying to draw attention to the rampant anti-LGBTQ sentiments was violently attacked by thugs who burned their rainbow flag.

When police tried to intervene, the gang turned on the officers, sending four of them to the hospital.

Pride parades have been disallowed in recent years.

Idaho Trans ban killed

Boise - A federal judge says transgender women and girls in Idaho cannot be banned from sports teams corresponding to their gender, blocking an Idaho law.

"This is a victory for all women and girls in Idaho. Trans people belong in sports," wrote the American Civil Liberties Union, which provided legal representation.

Earlier this year, Gov. Brad Little signed the "Fairness in Women's Sports Act" to

block athletes from participating on a women's team without first verifying that person's "internal and external reproductive anatomy" if her sex is disputed.

Judge David Nye ruled "The State has not identified a legitimate interest served by the Act that the pre-existing rules in Idaho did not already address, other than an invalid interest of excluding transgender women and girls from women's sports entirely, regardless of physiological characteristics."

Virus ignored on Fire Island

Fire Island, N.Y. — Police were called to an LGBTQ beach party where hundreds of shirtless and maskless gay men were dancing on the crowded beach.

Video and pictures posted to Instagram showed the crowds on the beaches of Fire Island Pines, a Long Island resort town popular with gay men.

At least one person who was diagnosed with COVID-19 just before going has been identified. After being identified, the man posted on social media "Go f**k yourselves. I hope all of you get f**king COVID."

Another man who posted crude comments on Instagram has reportedly been thrown out of his home so he didn't infect his mother who is undergoing therapy.

The images and videos led to an outcry on social media, as few revelers appeared to be wearing masks while hundreds danced shoulder-to-shoulder.

One attendee gained attention on social media after posting that he had coronavirus — but was recovering.

After going to the Fire Island Pines party he posted that his coronavirus symptoms had returned.



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'Each of us have a place'

By LANE STERR
Chair, Lethbridge Pride Fest Society

If you would have told twelve-year-old Lane that I would get the opportunity to be involved in a beautiful LGBTQIA2S+ community such as Lethbridge's, I would have told you that you have the wrong person.

I came from a small town in British Columbia where I attended a private religious school. And it wasn't until I moved to Lethbridge that I finally allowed myself to explore a side of me that I had always known was there but too afraid to reach out.

I have served one year on the Lethbridge Pride Fest Society and it has been such an amazing and fulfilling experience to have the opportunity to meet so many unique people.

Reflecting on my time spent on this board as a queer person, I am so thankful and forever indebted to the trailblazers that have made leaps and bounds in Lethbridge to allow me to be openly and proudly queer.

I am so excited to work with such a well-rounded board filled with people that possess so many different strengths and abilities this year where a great focus



will be taking inventory of our internal operations, finding ways to fine-tune and make our Society a well-oiled machine to ensure the continuation of Lethbridge Pride Fest Society as we continue to grow.

Another focus of ours

will be to find new ways to unite everyone in our LGBTQIA2S+ community in a safe and mindful way of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

I want to try our hardest in making everyone in our community feel included, seen, and valid. Each of us have a place at the table in this community, no one left behind.

Lethbridge Pride Fest is always looking for community involvement, if you'd like to volunteer or sit in our monthly meetings, please reach out! We would love to hear from you!



Alberta

New board for Leth Pride Fest

A new chairperson and new board members will guide the Lethbridge Pride Fest Society for the coming year.

Lane Sterr, a very active member of the 2019-20 board, was elected by acclamation at the organization's annual meeting in September. About 20 people attended.

Joining Lane on the executive are Levi Cox as vice-chair, Katherine Culley as treasurer and Tyler Gschaid as secretary. The board also has five new or returning directors at large.

Outgoing chairperson Jesse Victoria reported with this year's events lost to the pandemic, plans and sponsorships are in hand for Pride 2021. She also praised the queer community's support of the Black and Aboriginal "Lives Matter" protest earlier in the year, and a Black member's participation in the "virtual" Pride flag-raising at city hall in June.

Representatives of the U of L queer community also attended the AGM, voicing their hope for greater interaction with Pride Fest. Both the university and Lethbridge College also raised flags in June.

Crosswalk smeared twice in Airdrie

Airdrie — When residents discovered the city's rainbow crosswalk had been vandalized with anti-gay slurs, they responded quickly. Members of Airdrie Pride, along with members of the community, got busy repainting the pathway.

But soon they were heartbroken to see it vandalized a second time — this time, tarred and feathered.

"Just when we think we can move ahead with our lives and be who we are, we get a reminder that our province is really not ready to be open-minded and accepting of all of the individuals who live here," said Tammy Plunkett with Airdrie Pride.

Airdrie Mayor Peter Brown said the city would work with the RCMP to determine who might have been involved.

"Words (come to mind) like sad, disappointed, pathetic. Just really angry, actually," Brown said. "I'm kind of in awe that there's a person or people who take the time to have those actions. It's really pathetic."

RCMP media relations officer Cpl. Teri-Ann Bakker said police were seeking the public's assistance to identify those involved.

"The RCMP takes the offences very seriously, and they are working with the community to do what they can do to help restore the pathway," she said.

Theatre Outre experience sold out

Live theatre events were among the first casualties of the Covid-19 pandemic. For Theatre Outre, our city's professional alternative stage organization, the health crisis meant cancelling its spring shows.

But Outre founder Jay Whitehead and colleagues bounced back. And their latest event, "Confessional" was officially "sold out" shortly after it opened its planned Oct. 2-11 run.

It's described as a physically-distant event billed "a funhouse of the subconscious," designed to "take you on a solo journey into a dream-like world that will transport you to places you never imagined."

But now Outre fans who missed the first run may book tickets for its second set. Oct. 23 to Nov. 1, including Halloween. (Go to theatreoutre.ca)



And Theatre Outre has also relaunched several of its recurring events at Didi's Playhaus.

"Gomorra," the monthly "improvised soap opera" has returned along with the monthly "Drunk Improv."

A special event, "Tales from the Haus" was announced for an outdoor location on Oct. 10.

And well-known Outre performers David Gabert and Kathy Zaborsky will hold a series of "Improvisation Intensive" sessions Sundays from Nov. 8 to 22. Registration for the workshop is available online.

Hate mail backfires in Wetaskiwin

Wetaskiwin — To celebrate Canada Day, Jessi Hanks decorated her front yard with a Pride flag, a Treaty 6 flag and a miniature hockey rink. And she won first prize in Wetaskiwin's home decorating contest.

But then she received hate mail, slamming her use of the flag chosen by "the sick portion of our society." the anonymous sender wrote.

"Junk like the pride followers have no place in society and certainly not in Wetaskiwin, said the anonymous writer — who "I sincerely hope and pray you were not one of those who painted the avenue-way by NorQuest College. If you were, SHAME ON YOU!"

Hanks' 15-year-old daughter, who is bisexual, heard Hanks reading the letter. "I hugged her with every ounce of my soul and told her she is perfect the way she is," Hanks said.

After drying her own tears, Hanks posted the letter on her local Rant and Rave page as well as the mayor's Facebook page. The posts prompted hundreds of responses denouncing the letter.

"To see Wetaskiwin come together and support me

and my daughter was beautiful," Hanks said.

Mayor Tyler Gandam announced he was one of the people "who proudly helped paint the Pride crosswalks."

"I hope that we continue to build inclusivity in our community. If you're unhappy with how things are and need help finding a realtor, please let me know."

Soon, residents were displaying Pride flags around town. Others painted Hanks' fence in rainbow colours. But nearby, Chevi Rabbit, president of the Maskwacis Two-Spirit Committee, was targeted while getting pizza with her mom and nephew in town.

In the exchange posted in an online video by Rabbit, the man can be heard describing the term two-spirit as "total garbage" and saying "it's either him or her."

The verbal attack led to a rally at city hall to promote love and inclusion that drew dozens of supporters including the mayor and leaders from the neighbouring Maskwacis First Nation.

The rally "let everybody know that hate will not be allowed in their community," Rabbit said.

'Therapy' ban passed by council

Though two councillors remain opposed, Lethbridge City Council has formally approved a ban on "conversion therapy."

"We're showing a marginalized population that we actually care," Mayor Chris Spearman said, as council gave third and final reading to a bylaw "to prohibit the business practice of conversion therapy."

The bylaw was approved by a 7-2 vote at the well-attended July meeting.

Councillors Blaine Hyggen and Joe Mauro, who opposed by in initiative earlier, called for a public hearing on the issue — and further delay in passing the bylaw.

While it will not prevent church or non-profit groups from providing free "therapy" to teenagers and adults, the bylaw is aimed at stopping amateur or professional "counsellors" from being paid to "convert" someone to a "straight" sexual orientation.

Here, there . . .

Burger King loves Ronald

Helsinki — A recent promotion by Burger King celebrating LGBTQ pride featured the fast-food mascot kissing rival Ronald McDonald. Posters included the tagline, "Love Conquers All."

The ads celebrated Pride week in Finland, where normal festival events were cancelled by coronavirus restrictions but celebrations continues virtually and with smaller public events.

"Burger King has always stood for equality, love, and everyone's right to be just the way they are," said Burger King Finland's brand manager, Kaisa Kasila.

"The only instance where it might not seem so is when we're bantering with our competitor. But we want to be clear — it all stems from the respect we have for them. And we know McDonald's stands for the values we stand for, too."

"The idea behind the painting sprung from our desire to celebrate love in all forms," she continued. "We thought, what a better way to convey our values than by portraying an all-encompassing kiss between Burger King and McDonald. We wanted to show that in the end, love always wins."

Cool 'propaganda'

Moscow — Anti-LGBTQ sentiment has hit a fever pitch here, with President Vladimir Putin now calling a rainbow ice cream gay propaganda."

In a video conference with Putin, the leader of Russia's Union of Women Yekaterina Lakhova complained about a brand of rainbow ice cream.

"They're quietly promoting these nice rainbow colors, using nice words, they're advertising an ice cream called Rainbow," she said, claiming the rainbow is an attack on Russia's "traditional values."

"Even indirectly, such things make our children accustomed to that flag. I don't like the rainbow, just as I don't like the swastika," she said.

While homosexuality is legal in Russia, the country banned "propaganda" for "non-traditional sexual relationships," a law that has been used to quash Pride events, LGBTQ activists, and even LGBTQ teens speaking on social media.

In response, Putin agreed with her.

"If there are reasons to believe that something is propaganda for values that are not traditional to us, then... it must be managed by society, but not aggressively."

Many opportunities Kiss-in to protest ban

Monterrey, Mexico — After mall security kicked out a gay male couple for kissing, local LGBTQ supporters held a "Besotón vs Homofobia 2020" kiss-in protest at the mall.

The kiss-in, organized by drag queen collective Regias del Drag, included a march around the Galerías Monterrey mall and a rainbow flag hanging on a balcony overlooking the plaza. Below, a crowd of 100 or so protesters gathered and cheered as same-sex couples kissed in front of cameras.

Jorge Anguiano posted about him and his boyfriend Ivan's experience being kicked out on a Facebook video that he posted immediately after the incident.

The couple was waiting for their film to start at the nearby movie theater before security guards approached them and told them to leave. Anguiano's video included footage of his conversation with the security guard and it soon garnered over 43,000 views.

In the video, the mall security guard told Anguiano that mall customers were complaining about the couple's public display of affection and that it isn't permitted. When Anguiano asked whether security also ejected straight couples for kissing, the guard said he didn't see any straight couples kissing.

Anguiano then challenged the security guard's authority to kick them out.

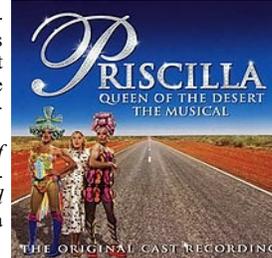
Aussies embrace 'Priscilla'

In 1994, a broken-down bus named Priscilla departed Sydney's gay enclave, carrying three glamorous performers to the rural heart of Australia on the most perilous journey of their lives. And although there were only three people aboard, they were soon followed by an entire drag army.

That's the set-up for the film *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, a mid-90s comedy-musical starring Hugo Weaving (Elrond from *Lord of the Rings*), Terrence Stamp, Guy Pierce, and a whole bunch of blindingly cheerful ABBA songs.

The movie was recently highlighted by Culture Cruise, a YouTube series that explores LGBTQ+ moments from film and TV that changed the world.

When *Priscilla* came out, Australia was surprisingly ahead of countries like the U.S. when it came to drag. There were nationally-known and loved Australian drag performers, even then!



After the film was released, the country completely embraced it, paying tributes to it in informal touring shows and during the Sydney Olympics.

Drag queens began touring to remote outposts with Priscilla-inspired shows and

before long an annual drag festival started in one of the tiny towns featured in the film.

The real-life impact of the movie is truly amazing, drag fans observe. By getting out of the gayborhood, that little group of performers really did manage to "change the world."

Tribunal backs rainbow flag

Vancouver — A B.C. Human Rights Tribunal has dismissed a complaint filed by social conservative activist Kari Simpson, protesting the City of Langley's decision to fly the rainbow flag.

About the same time, city officials denied Simpson's request to hoist what she referred to as a "Canadian Christian" flag.

Simpson claimed in her complaint that she was discriminated against when the LGBTQ flag was flown at Langley city hall, while her supposedly "Christian" one was not.

According to Simpson, this violated the B.C. Human Rights Code — which provides, among other things, that no one should be discriminated against in the provision of service, accommodation, and facility, on the basis of religion, sexual identity, and gender identity or expression.

Ruling on an application by the city, tribunal member Paul Singh dismissed the complaint without a hearing.

"LGBTQ+ communities have faced historical disadvantage, discrimination and barrier to equal social rights, equal access to services, and equal treatment under the law," Singh wrote in his reasons for decision.

Singh ruled Pride celebrations "help to counteract the historical discrimination committed against LGBTQ+ communities and help to bring those communities from a position of disadvantage to a more equal standing with heterosexual and cisgendered individuals who have historically enjoyed societal acceptance."

"The act of flying the Rainbow Flag also serves a similar purpose," Singh explained.

Singh pointed out the flag is a "symbol of pride representing the diversity of LGBTQ+ communities

and is a symbol to promote inclusivity and to address issues such as racial discrimination, cultural exclusions, and other challenges faced by those in the LGBTQ+ communities".

Singh said the city's decision to fly the rainbow flag and not the "Canadian Christian Flag" could be seen as "differential treatment."

But "differential treatment in the service of equity does not necessarily constitute discrimination."

"It has long been established in Canadian law that differential treatment alone is not sufficient to establish discrimination," according to Singh.

He ruled there is "no evidence to suggest that any distinction in treatment has adversely impacted Ms. Simpson in any meaningful way".

Singh noted that despite Langley's denial of her request, Simpson and others displayed their "Canadian Christian flag" in front of city hall in October 2018.

"There is no dispute that Ms. Simpson was able to exercise her freedoms of expression and religion to celebrate her 'National Day of Blessings' and display her flag."

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to celebrate Pride Pride in Chinatown

Vancouver — There was no Pride Parade this year. But Pride in Chinatown celebrated its third anniversary with a month-long public event.

“The idea of Pride in Chinatown (is) to have a presence,” said Paul Wong, the artistic director and curator of the street art festival.

The celebration features eight artists’ projects scattered throughout the neighbourhood, promoting the inclusion of LGBTQ people in the community.

“Chinatown has been segregated through discrimination and racism and fear. Chinatown has evolved from being very conservative and being very repressed ... and homophobic,” Wong explains.

Most of the festival’s artworks are displayed at a single location. But artist Kendall Yan’s creation *Quarantine* has several locations. The drag performer — whose stage name is Maiden China and who has family ties to Chinatown — turned one of his Instagram self-portraits into a poster and put it up at several spots across the neighbourhood.

The project began when he uploaded 41 portraits to the photo-sharing platform while stuck at home during the height of the pandemic, one photo per day. But what came next was unpleasant.



Yan initially wanted to display all 41 of his self-portraits on a storefront. He approached three businesses near his studio, but said the responses were disappointing.

“People are very hesitant to give space that’s very visible, in the fear that someone is going to vandalize their business,” he says. “That is a very homophobic thing in and of itself.”

Wong faced similar resistance when he dispatched volunteers asking business associations and community service organizations to put “Pride in Chinatown” stickers on their doorways and windows.

“It’s been an interesting way to see that kind of embracing or resistance to being queer out loud and proud in Chinatown,” he admits.

New approaches in Calgary

Calgary — Organized to celebrate resilience, love and community, this year’s Calgary Pride Festival found new forms of expression despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

“Pride is a celebration of the contributions and the challenges still faced by the gender and sexually diverse,” said Parker Chapple, the executive director of Calgary Pride.

“It’s an opportunity for people to connect, to be visible, to know that they matter, that they’re important. And it fosters connectivity and community — which I think that we all need right now.”

Shone Thistle, this year’s president of Calgary Pride, totally cancelling the celebration due to COVID-19 simply wasn’t an option.

“When everything happened in March, and things started to shut down, I don’t think we even considered not having a festival,” he said. “What we knew was that we would need to adapt.”

So Calgarians were invited to celebrate Pride with a virtual parade, online workshops, pop-up shops, food truck drive-throughs, drive-in movies, art installations and performances by 300 LGBTQ artists — all streamed for free.

The agenda for Calgary Pride in 2020 was shaped, he said, by three initiatives. The downtown parade was moved online, offering 15 hours of virtual programming.

The #OurPride events involved physically distanced gatherings and fundraisers in collaboration with local businesses.

And the Calgary Pride Learning Series offered a gamut of free workshops throughout the summer. They covered more than 50 themes, including trans and non-binary history, Indigenous issues and decolonization, anti-racism, and “how to slay with your makeup.”

“Pride, at its very core, is very intersectional,” Chapple noted. “There’s a lot of diversity in our community, so any time that we have an opportunity to bring more than one voice to the table, we’re reflecting the core values and roots of what Pride is about.”

Diversity within the gender and sexually diverse community was also represented with four temporary art mural installations at the four corner entrances to Central Memorial Park on 4 Street SW in the Beltline neighbourhood.

Van. arts festival proves resilient

Vancouver — Now in its 12th year, Vancouver’s Queer Arts Festival didn’t let physical distancing measures get in the way of its programming, as organizers reimagined the festival for the digital realm.

Thierry Gudel, president of the Pride in Art Society, said the festival it puts on is as resilient as the communities it represents.

“Safety is a luxury afforded to few: to those with homes, accessible health care, as well as those who don’t need to protest to have their lives valued by the state. As a result, our communities have become resilient.”

“Queer Arts Festival is resilient, thanks to the passion and dedication of artists, volunteers, audiences, and staff,” he said.

The festival, which took place July 16-26, featured a variety of performance, theatre, music, dance and literary events — all digitally streamed — plus art installations throughout the city.

Festival organizers also created a Queer Arts Festival magazine that was sent to metro Vancouver residents on a festival mailing list, and made available for pick-up at select open venues in the city.

The festival’s artistic director, SD Holman said ultimately, art can have transformative powers.

“We are often attracted to things, things that are written or other things that we already believe in,” he said.

“Good art has the ability to cut through that confirmation bias and open you up — and transform you to new ideas.”

and everywhere

Most crosswalks in Chilliwack?

Chilliwack — Is it a world record? At least 11 Pride crosswalks were painted here — after city council refused to allow one downtown.

Many are located at local schools. Some of the rainbows are painted on private residential property, four are on First Nations land, and one at the Chilliwack School District office.

“We also have three unique takes on the rainbow of inclusion: a rainbow mural at The Book Man, a bench at Central Elementary and the iconic Rainbow Piano courtesy of Bobbypin’s Curiosities,” reported activist Amber Price.

Price and her community group have appealed to the Guinness Book of World Records to create a new category: Most Rainbow Crosswalks in a City.

City council refused the LGBTQ community’s request, with only Coun. Jason Lum voting in favour. The word “divisive” came up several times during council’s discussion, describing the effect the issue had on the conservative rural community.

“We may have surpassed major urban centres with the sheer volume of crosswalks that we have seen installed in Chilliwack,” Price says.

“I would like to see that recognized on an international scale if it is the case.”

She added local youth in particular need to see more community support.

Dallas installing 10 crosswalks

Dallas — It’s still in Texas. But Dallas may become the city with the most rainbow crosswalks in the U.S.

Ten are currently being installed in the city’s LGBTQ neighborhood of Oak Lawn, a place described as “the heart of the North Texas LGBTQ community.”

A group of business owners and elected officials collectively raised funds for the \$128,000 project; no public funds will be used.

Since the neighborhood is near the airport, they even secured a donation from Southwest Airlines.

“This is still the geographic heart of our community,” said Tony Vedda, president of the North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce.

“So to have this, I think people will feel pride in knowing that we’re doing something to not just preserve this community but to really make it stand out.”

Many Dallas residents are excited about the project, celebrating by taking selfies at the first crosswalk to be installed.

City council member Adam Medrano wrote on Facebook:

“FINALLY! As chair of the LGBT task force one of the things I heard over the last seven years was that our community needed representation, a symbol that would let you know you were in the City of Dallas’ LGBT community.”

Last year the Donald Trump administration told the city of Ames, Iowa that its crosswalks were in violation of federal law because they distracted drivers and encouraged loitering in the street.

But Ames elected officials knew they were not in violation and ignored Trump’s directive to remove the crosswalks.

Other views Refugee finds home in Alta.

Edmonton — Even after escaping Syria, Basel Abou Hamrah was afraid to reveal who he really was. Coming out as gay in his home country or in the Lebanon refugee camp where he spent two years was a dangerous, impossible prospect.

"I would be disowned by my community, by my father, by my family. If they figured out that I had a boyfriend, maybe I could go to jail.

"It's tough to be part of the LGBTQ community back home. We lived secretly."

Fear of persecution followed Abou Hamrah to Canada and hung over him as he sought assistance from refugee support workers in Edmonton, his new home.

"When I came here I was looking at how I could be connected, but I was too afraid to come out to anyone here to help me."

For months following his arrival in 2015, Abou Hamrah was wary of stepping foot inside the Pride Centre of Edmonton.

"I was going to the offices and seeing that rainbow flag on the door and I was thinking, 'Oh my God, they are welcoming.' But I kept thinking, how will I tell them?"

Hamrah finally worked up the courage to come out to his caseworker. In turn, she helped him connect with other LGBTQ refugees.

Now he's helping others build those same vital support networks, as a settlement counsellor with the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers. He also founded a support group for LGBTQ newcomers.

"When they meet me, they relate to my story. They relate to me as a person and that makes it easier for them to express themselves and to ask for support and engage within the community.

"When I arrived here, I felt that this country and the Edmonton community saved my life and they brought me here so I have to give back," he adds.

The support group, funded by the Edmonton Mennonite Centre and operated in partnership with the Pride Centre, gathers every Friday and has participated in community events like the Pride parade.

"If we go all as a community, they feel like, I can be who I am. I am free."

LGBTQ newcomers are especially vulnerable and need immediate support through their settlement process, says Ricki Justice, deputy executive director for the Edmonton Mennonite Centre.

Of the thousands of refugees entering Canada every year, many are drawn to Edmonton by the promise of work. But the city is also developing a reputation as a safe haven for refugees fleeing persecution based on their gender or sexual orientation.

"There is almost an underground railroad," Justice says. "They know where the welcoming places are, they know where there is a good support network and Edmonton is known for that.

"Known as far as Ghana, Uganda, Jamaica. People know about Edmonton through word of mouth."

Editor's view

Closing in on victory?

Southern Albertans have taken the lead in the battle against a human rights travesty — "conversion therapy."

Lethbridge residents successfully convinced city council to take a stand, banning any business or for-profit agency from using the discredited procedure.

Many Albertans have also supported local rights advocates calling for the provincial government to act as well. Sadly, the Jason Kenny party has shown little interest.

But a nation-wide petition launched by a Lethbridge group — the YQueerL Society for Change — has had much greater impact. It led to a private member's bill in Ottawa, then to a promise of action by the Liberal government.

And now, as one of the first acts of the new parliamentary session, that bill has been re-introduced in preparation for debate, endorsement and proclamation.

And although the opposition Conservatives — including local MP Rachael Harder — have not voiced their support, the bill is expected to win enough votes to pass. We'll be watching to see how that plays out.

But really, it's difficult to understand why any political party would take a stand against basic human rights — including the right to be who you are!

Canadians know only too well how destructive and dehumanizing it is to attempt to change anyone from who they were born to be, to meet society's or another person's idea of how they should live. That became the tragedy of government-backed residential schools for First Nations children across the land.

Yes, Canada's major churches became the perpetrators. And now we may see some conservative denominations voice opposition to this human-rights initiative.

Remember, one of the largest churches in the U.S. endorsed slavery, and resisted civil rights advocates for generations!

Fortunately here in Canada, many churches today are on the front line of women's rights, Indigenous rights and human rights battles.

We trust our national government will soon fulfill its promise to rid Canada of this destructive "therapy" for good.

Queens become innovative

Calgary — The show must go on!

And for Mona Moore, a Calgary queen and winner of Miss Canada Continental 2020, that meant hosting a weekly Instagram live session to share facts and information about coronavirus.

"OK, I'm going to use the term COVID-19, to be a little bit more businesswoman fish," she said, brushing her hair out of her face before launching into the latest numbers and stories of people helping their neighbours.

Moore supplements her performing income by working as a flight attendant with Sunwing. She was laid off April 1 and now she's filling her time by working on sewing and rhinestoneing her costumes and using her online shows to stay positive.

"Those bars and those event spaces, those are our means to express ourselves," she points out, "It was very exciting to get into full drag and do a little show for everybody on Instagram."

But Moore is not the only performer who's been forced to get creative. Glamorous Legends of Calgary, who held a weekly screening of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, moved to hosting an online chat show to recap each episode. They welcome tips through Paypal or e-transfer, which are split between the artists hosting.

But others are struggling to find a way to shift their art online and with unknowns about just how long closures will last, its left them in a financially precarious position.

"There's quite a few entertainers, not just drag queens, we're all in a bind," said Terri Stevens, a full-time drag queen for more than 35 years.

Stevens lost all her upcoming private gigs, and her four-day-a-week stint at Calgary bar Twisted Element. She was reluctant to jump into online performance.

"I do know one person, and no names shall be named, they did it but their video got pulled almost immediately from Facebook for copyright infringe-



Performers find new ways to entertain

ment for the music."

While superstar queens like Trixie Mattel and Katya have popularized the art, many queens make low wages and craft their costumes by hand, at their own expense.

Gemma Nye, the event organizer for Party Queens, an Edmonton drag talent agency, said pivoting to online shows has been easier for younger queens but harder for some founding members of the community who don't already have an online presence to rely on.

Nye said Edmonton's only gay bar, Evolution is the primary space LGBTQ+ people gather in the city.

"Having a space like that taken away due to the bar ban, it's really detrimental to people."

An online fundraiser was held to support queens in the city without a space to perform, with a portion of the funds going to support the bar during its extended closure.

In the meantime, Nye said she hoped queens would be able to support each other and keep expressing themselves online.

"Doing shows like this will encourage people to stay in because it gives us something to do," she said.

"Obviously, it's nothing compared to the real thing ... but we're just trying to keep people hopeful. We're not going to give up."

John Turner backed rights

Toronto — He served just briefly as our nation's 17th prime minister. But many Canadians will remember John Turner as the justice minister who backed plans to end legal oppression of LGBTQ people across Canada.



Turner — who served as justice minister for Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, and was also instrumental in allowing women the option of legal abortion — died in his sleep at 91 years.

Turner was a track star while attending the University of British Columbia in 1949 and won a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford University thereafter.

He served as justice minister in Pierre Trudeau's

cabinet from 1968 to 1972, when he also proposed a national legal aid system and created the federal court — allowing citizens to sue their government.

The longtime Liberal also served as Canada's finance minister while on the rise to his brief stint as country's 17th prime minister in 1984 — only for his party to then be dealt to a massive electoral defeat at the hands of Brian Mulroney.

Voicing his condolences, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said "He was deeply committed to the law and democratic process, bringing about much-needed reforms to the Criminal Code."

"Mr. Turner was a humble man with a strong social conscience. He supported many charitable organizations, including Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto," he added.

"He was also an honorary director of World Wildlife Fund Canada and an ardent advocate for the protection of Canada's lakes and rivers."

So political...



Candidates cut

Fredericton — Two New Brunswick parties' candidates were dumped before election day after voicing offensive comments about the province's LGBTQ community.

Saint Croix Liberal candidate John Gardner and PC candidate Roland Michaud in Victoria-La Vallée were each told they could not bear their party's banner for the Sept. 14 election. Both were rejected by voters.

"Previous comments made by Mr. Gardner on social media are offensive to both women and the LGBTQ2I+ community and not in keeping with the values of the New Brunswick Liberal Party," said leader Kevin Vickers.

Earlier, Premier Blaine Higgs — re-elected with a majority government — dropped Michaud after he reposted a Facebook meme encouraging violence against transgender people.

"While I respect everyone's right to have their own personal views, I cannot endorse the promotion of messaging that is clearly sexist, offensive and hurtful to many people," he said.

Ban in Colorado

Denver — Colorado has proclaimed four pro-LGBTQ laws, including one that will make Colorado the 11th state to ban the gay and transgender panic defenses.

Gov. Jared Polis (D), the first out gay governor in the U.S., signed the bills saying the state has "come a long way... since our days as the Hate State."

"We really went from a place where discrimination was legalized in the 1990s to where we are today, where Colorado is a leader," said Polis.

Another bill signed by Polis allows pharmacists to prescribe and dispense pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, which are medications taken to prevent the spread of HIV.

Q businesses back Biden

Washington — Democrat party presidential candidate Joe Biden has been endorsed by the nation's LGBTQ business community.

"The National LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce is proud to endorse a champion for inclusion," said NGLCC president Justin Nelson. "We need to elect a president with a commitment to LGBTQ equality, ending racism and racial violence, promoting small businesses and entrepreneurship, and ensuring a safe and equitable society for every American. Joe Biden is that candidate."

The NGLCC describes itself as the "only national advocacy organization dedicated to expanding economic opportunities for the LGBTQ business community."

The organization said that it supports Biden because of his support for economic stimulus in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, his support for using executive orders and other presidential instruments to fight discrimination against the nation's

LGBTQ people.

It also highlighted Biden's past support for the Equality Act, which would add sexual orientation and gender identity to existing civil rights legislation, and his support for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, a program from the Obama administration that allowed some undocumented immigrants to avoid deportation.

"Joe Biden proudly affirms an essential core value of the NGLCC: that we all deserve our shot at the American Dream, and that our economy only succeeds when it is available to all LGBTQ and allied Americans," Nelson said.

"Our campaign is deeply honored to receive the endorsement of the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce," the Biden campaign said in a statement responding to the endorsement.

The NGLCC certifies LGBTQ-owned businesses, which the organization says added \$1.15 billion to the economy in 2015.

Harris earned LGBTQ 'cred'

San Francisco — Kamala Harris is no stranger to the nation's LGBTQ voters. Observers say Sen. Harris — Joe Biden's choice for vice president — has been campaigning for the LGBTQ vote for years. And she's been a long-time proponent of LGBTQ rights.

As San Francisco's district attorney, she created a special hate crime unit focused on crimes against LGBTQ children and teens. She pushed for legislation to ban a gay/transgender "panic" defense and to ban conversion therapy for minors.

Harris also vigorously opposed Proposition 8, the state's anti-marriage measure, and provided legal arguments against it cited by the Supreme Court when it was overturned.

Then she presided at the wedding celebration of the couple who brought the suit against the initiative.

In the Senate, Harris made Brett Kavanaugh squirm during his confirmation hearings by questioning him intently on marriage equality.

As an early entrant in this year's Democrat candidate selection process, Harris urged passage of the Equality Act, reinstating Obama-era protections, and vigorously pursuing hate crimes.

And she dismissed the idea of widespread homophobia in the black community. Almost all communities harbour bias "and in particular homophobia and transphobia," she said. "But to label one community in particular as being burdened by this bias... is misinformed, it's misdirected, it's simply wrong."

U.S. cancels health protections

Washington — The Trump administration has removed protections against gender identity discrimination in health care regulated by the Affordable Care Act.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said in a statement it would recognize "sex discrimination according to the plain meaning of the word 'sex' as male or female and as determined by biology."

The move means insurance policies and health care services covered by the

Obama-era Affordable Care Act can deny services to transgender people.

Many organizations strongly criticized the move, with the Human Rights Campaign vowing to sue.

"We cannot and will not allow Donald Trump to continue attacking us," the group said in a statement.

"LGBTQ people get sick... people need health care. LGBTQ people should not live in fear that they cannot get the care they need simply because of who they are."

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Breaking NEWS

'Bone player blocks hatred

Columbia, S.C. — A freshman at the University of South Carolina earned online fame when he used his trombone to silence hate speech from a racist and homophobic demonstrator on campus. Try Hogan also earned the applause of classmates, a local pizzeria, and national media.

The demonstrator, who wore Trump's trademark "Make America Great Again" hat while standing under a sign that said "(Black Lives Matter) are racist garbage," used his megaphone to shout racist and anti-LGBTQ slurs at students.

Hogan began playing his trombone whenever the demonstrator tried to speak, and student Sawyer McDuffie caught Hogan's actions on video.

Hogan played his trombone to interrupt the man's message of hate for nearly two hours until the battery in the demonstrator's megaphone died. "He was saying some pretty hateful stuff, and I just didn't agree with any of it," Hogan said. "We support everyone here. It's just not okay, and we don't want that on this campus."

Buttigieg joins Biden's team

Washington — Pete Buttigieg, an early favourite in the Democrats' nomination process, has been named to front-running Joe Biden's presidential transition team.

Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Ind., became the first out LGBTQ person to win Democrat delegates support with his strong showing in Iowa. He endorsed Biden after he dropped out of the primaries in March.

The advisory board will help Biden with government appointments, if he wins the general election against Donald Trump in November. The team also includes former Obama administration officials including former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy and former deputy attorney general Sally Yates, and vice presidential contenders like former national security advisor Susan Rice.

Esks fire player for 'phobic tweet

Edmonton — The Edmonton Eskimos promptly sacked a player who sent out homophobic comments on international Pride day.

Wide receiver Christian Jones tweeted his opposition to gay and lesbian relationships on June 27, as people across the world celebrated Global Pride Day.

"Man ain't suppose to be with a man. A women is not supposed to be with another women," he posted.

His tweet was quickly condemned as hateful by people on Twitter. But Jones initially stood by his comments, sending out more than 50 tweets responding to his detractors over five hours.

"I STAND ON WHAT I SAY. Regret nothing. Apologize to who???" he wrote.

In follow-up tweets, Jones said he would never apologize.

But minutes before the team announced he had been released from the roster, Jones recanted.

"My words were deeply hurtful, painful and served zero purpose. I added to the struggle of a community, to live a life free of oppression of any kind. I sincerely apologize," he said in a final tweet.

Museum hid Q content

Winnipeg — Officials at Canada's vaunted Museum of Human Rights hid queer-related material when asked by visiting religious groups.

That's the word from present and previous staff members at the well-attended facility in downtown Winnipeg.

And LGBTQ tour guides were told not to speak about the same-sex marriage exhibit when it was open to the public, they add. Employees say the practice was common for at least two years and in one case a staff member from the LGBTG community was asked to physically block a same-sex marriage display from a passing group.

Gabriela Agüero, a former program developer and tour guide, went public recently with allegations of censorship.

"When I complained about it, (management said) 'Well, that's what we request and we have to honour the requests from the schools because they pay us for those tours'.

"It was horrendous because then I had to go sit with my gay friends on staff and tell them I did. It was a horrific sense of guilt and very painful."



John Young, the museum's CEO, left after the revelations.

But officials confirmed that from January 2015 until the middle of 2017, schools and classes could make a request for content to

be excluded, including stories about diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.

A staff member said the practice was common with groups of all ages, including high school students from Hutterite colonies.

"We no longer adapt any of our education programs at the request of schools," says spokesperson Maureen Fitzhenry.

Another employee said after the museum stopped allowing requests for gay content to be hidden, some school staff members started standing in front of queer-related exhibits to block them from students.

Employment rights

Landmark victory in U.S.

Washington — A Trump-appointed judge has surprised many with a decision supporting employment rights for gay and transgender Americans.

Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch ruled against any employer "who fires an individual merely for being gay or transgender.

"Today, we must decide whether an employer can fire someone simply for being homosexual or transgender. The answer is clear. An employer who fires an individual for being homosexual or transgender fires that person for traits or actions it would not have questioned in members of a different sex," he wrote for the majority decision.

"Sex plays a necessary and undisguisable role in the decision, exactly what Title VII forbids," the decision reads. "An employer who fires an individual merely for being gay or transgender violates

Title VII."

"Those who adopted the Civil Rights Act might not have anticipated their work would lead to this particular result. Likely, they weren't thinking about many of the Act's consequences that have become apparent over the years, including its prohibition against discrimination on the basis of motherhood or its ban on the sexual harassment of male employees," he continued.

"But the limits of the drafters' imagination supply no reason to ignore the law's demands," Gorsuch stressed.

"When the express terms of a statute give us one answer and extratextual considerations suggest another, it's no contest.

"Only the written word is the law, and all persons are entitled to its benefit."

'Rainbow' recognition for Iceland employers?

Reykjavik — Iceland, the first nation to certify equal pay between the genders, is considering "rainbow certificates" for businesses that employ LGBTQ workers.

The National Queer Organization of Iceland and Reykjavik Pride are proposing guidelines on how to foster diversity and make the labour market welcoming for all.

"We see that there is a will to show support, but this needs to go deeper

than waving the rainbow flag once a year," says Vilhjalmur Ingi Vilhjalmsson, with Reykjavik Pride.

The finance ministry has agreed to test guidelines on diversity.

Iceland is considered a trailblazer when it comes to LGBTQ rights. It was the first nation to elect an openly lesbian prime minister.

Yet a recent survey showed that many LGBTQ people here still feel insecure in their work place.

'Freedom' resembles Jim Crow

Ketchikan, Alaska — City council passed a law prohibiting discrimination against LGBTQ people after a local florist refused to provide flowers for a same-sex wedding.

Heather Dalin, owner of Heavenly Creations, was adamant.

"When it comes to the holy sacrament of marriage, God's word is clear," she insisted.

"For you to pass an unnecessary ordinance to try and force myself to participate in a ceremony that violates not only God's holy truth, but also strips me of my rights as an American tax-paying, law-abiding citizen is unreasonable."

But other citizens of the tourism-oriented coastal community — on the "Alaska Panhandle" north of

Prince Rupert — had a different view on the use or abuse of Christian scriptures.

"Much like their pro-slavery predecessors, segregationists during the Jim Crow era cited scripture as justification for maintaining racial segregation and inequality," Tongass Historical Museum curator Ryan McHale told city council.

"There is little that distinguishes the religious freedom claim of today from those of the segregationists who argued that they should not be forced to hire, serve or associate with African Americans or Native Americans," he said.

The city's new ordinance prohibits discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations.