



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## 2014 Pride Parade Marshals Announced

**(Winnipeg, MB; May 7, 2014)** – Pride Winnipeg is pleased to announce the 2014 Pride Parade Marshals. This year's marshals were nominated by the community and embody the spirit of the Pride Festival.

"We at Pride Winnipeg are excited to have these Marshals lead our parade," says Jonathan Niemczak, President of Pride Winnipeg. "Each of them perfectly exemplify what it means to help people live and love without borders, not only locally but internationally as well."

### Grand Marshal- Hamed

*As per his request, we will not be identifying Hamed by his last name.*

Hamed is a refugee that originally came from Iran, and took safe haven here in Canada two years ago. He fled to Turkey after his boyfriend's family found out about their relationship, and threatened Hamed's life. He was accepted into Canada in 2012. Hamed is the living definition of what it means to be Without Borders, and it is for this reason that he will be the 2014 Grand Marshal for Pride Winnipeg's 27th annual parade.

### Honorary Youth Marshal- Evan Maydaniuk

Evan was responsible for starting one of the city's first Gay-Straight Alliances in a high school setting, and he has proven himself to be a huge supporter of human rights, both for the LGBTTTQ\* community and non. Evan spends much of his time directing meetings for the Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties, volunteering with community outreach programs, and is constantly proving himself to be a positive role model for youth across the province.

### Honorary Community Group Marshall – Reaching Out Winnipeg

Reaching Out Winnipeg (ROW) is a program to help people who face serious persecution and intense discrimination based on sexual identity and/or gender identity across the world. ROW's objective is to create an increased number of permanent resettlement opportunities for LGBT refugees in Winnipeg. ROW is the group that aided in Hamed's resettlement in Winnipeg.

**Pride Winnipeg** – The Pride of the Prairies – is one of the largest celebrations between Toronto and Vancouver of LGBTTTQ\* (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and two-spirited, intersex, and queer/questioning) people and their allies, supporters and friends. Our mission is to affirm the lives of everyone by generating and participating in events that celebrate the history, culture, spirit and pride of people within the Winnipeg community. We invite everyone from far and wide to join our welcoming city and celebrate Pride in Winnipeg – the heart of the continent.

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