



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2014 Trans Day of Remembrance

(Winnipeg, MB; November 20, 2014) – Pride Winnipeg will be observing Trans Day of Remembrance (TDOR) on November 20, 2014. TDOR is an annual worldwide observance on November 20 that honors and memorializes individuals whom identify as, but not limited to, trans, transgender, transsexual, two-spirit, travesti, genderqueer, gender independent, and gender non-conforming, whose lives were lost due to acts of prejudice and hatred.

TDOR originated as a reaction to the 1998 murder of Rita Hester. Rita was a highly visible member of the trans community in her native Boston, where she worked locally on education surrounding trans issues. On Saturday, November 28, Rita was stabbed 20 times in her apartment. A neighbor called for emergency personnel, and Rita was rushed to the hospital. She passed away from cardiac arrest shortly after being admitted. To this day police have still not found Rita's murderer (or murderers).

In 1999, one year after Rita's murder, advocate and writer Gwendolyn Ann Smith coordinated a vigil in Rita's honor and also launched the 'Transgender Day of Remembrance' website to recognize all lives lost to anti-trans violence and hate. Organizations throughout the world have since taken to recognizing TDOR.

The first TDOR event in Winnipeg was held after the 2004 murder of Divas Boulanger, an indigenous transgender woman. Divas was murdered in Winnipeg and her body was left outside a highway rest stop east of Portage La Prairie. In 2010, police charged and arrested Theodore Raymond Heritier for the murder of Divas.

Winnipeg's TDOR vigil will be held at Young United Church on November 20. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with the ceremony beginning at 6:30 p.m. The space is welcoming, safe, all ages, and accessible with gender inclusive washrooms. Due to the nature of the event some portions may be difficult for some attendees. Peer supporters will be in attendance to offer assistance.

For more information about TDOR in Winnipeg please visit their Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/7200966467/?fref=ts>) or visit the Facebook event page for this year's ceremony (<https://www.facebook.com/events/1533277706913889/?ref=4>).

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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