



Pride Winnipeg Festival  
*Pride of the Prairies*  
May 27 – June 5, 2016  
#pridewpg  
#beauthentic

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**In the Manitoba Election, Actions Speak Louder Than Words**  
*All parties must own up to their past behaviour and take action to make things right*

**(Winnipeg, MB; March 13, 2016)** – In light of recent discussion surrounding past disparaging comments towards women, indigenous, and LGBTTTQ\* (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, and queer) people in Manitoba's political arena, Pride Winnipeg vehemently condemns any use of misogynistic, derogatory, and discriminatory language. All parties have a responsibility to take ownership of past comments, apologize for their language/ behaviour, and demonstrate their commitment to change with positive actions.

Following these steps are crucial to a healing process. The colour orange on the Rainbow Flag symbolizes 'healing,' a process that the LGBTTTQ\* community experiences after facing discrimination and oppression. Healing is vital to the health and well-being of a society because it ensures that we can forgive and move forward, and it all begins with accountability. Accountability in politics is important when there is still a lack of education and understanding surrounding the issues that women, LGBTTTQ\*, and indigenous people confront on a daily basis.

Pride Winnipeg is asking for all candidates in the Manitoba election to take ownership of their previous comments and/or actions, issue an apology and demonstrate the commitment to change with positive actions. Positive actions for the LGBTTTQ\* community can include joining the Pride Parade, engaging with LGBTTTQ\* people at the Pride Festival, volunteering for community resource groups, or voting in favour of protections and equal rights ordinances for women, LGBTTTQ\*, and indigenous people.

Pride Winnipeg will be inviting members of all the major Manitoba political parties to an upcoming meeting to allow them to have the opportunity to learn more about the LGBTTTQ\* community and to share their ideas on how they plan to demonstrate a commitment to engaging the community with positive actions.

Finally, Pride Winnipeg encourages everyone to get out to vote on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> because actions speak louder than words!

**Pride Winnipeg** – The Pride of the Prairies – is one of the largest celebrations between Toronto and Vancouver of LGBTTTQ\* (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, queer, questioning, intersex, and pansexual) 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.

For more information about Pride Winnipeg please visit [www.pridewinnipeg.com](http://www.pridewinnipeg.com).

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