



June 4, 2010

Pride Winnipeg names Ken Coolen as Honourary Marshall

Winnipeg, MB – Leading into weekend events that culminate in Pride Day on Sunday, June 6 with the largest Pride parade in Winnipeg history, the Pride Winnipeg committee is pleased to name one of its special guests, Ken Coolen, President of the Vancouver Pride Society, as an honorary parade marshall.

The Pride Winnipeg committee is recognizing Coolen as an honorary marshall for his contributions towards the fights for equality and LGBTTTQ rights. The parade's Grand Marshall is Glen Murray, the first openly gay mayor not only in Winnipeg, but also in Canada, and a true pioneer in the Winnipeg LGBTTTQ community.

Coolen joined Vancouver Pride in 2005 as the Parade Director, became the Treasurer in 2007 and in 2009, President. During this time, he became the subject of a documentary, "Beyond Gay – The Politics of Pride" which was released in 2009 and is now being showcased at Pride celebrations around the world. The documentary focuses on the relevance of Pride today. Ken travelled to Prides in Moscow, Warsaw, Sao Paulo and New York to show the different faces of Pride and those who fight for LGBTTTQ rights around the world today.

Ken is also co-producer of Whistler's Lesbian and Gay ski week, WinterPRIDE which this year, achieved monumental global recognition for producing Pride House during the 2010 Winter Olympics. This first-ever LGBTTTQ Olympic pavilion provided an open and welcoming venue for the community and allies to celebrate diversity and inclusiveness through sport. It also put the spotlight on the discrimination and in some cases persecution of LGBTTTQ people that occurs around the world.

"Ken's passion for the fight for global LGBTTTQ human rights is the reason for our decision to recognize him as an honorary parade marshall," said Barb Burkowski, chair of the Pride Winnipeg committee. "We are excited and honoured to have him be a part of this year's Pride celebrations in Winnipeg."

For more information about the Pride Parade and other Pride celebrations happening through the weekend, please visit our website:
www.pridewinnipeg.com.



Also online:

www.vancouverpride.ca

www.gaywhistler.com

www.biggaymovie.com

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