



# Pride is a protest

June 30th, 2023

Earlier today, members from our Board of Directors met with the Chair of Fierté Sudbury Pride to discuss Pride Week programming and safety efforts, particularly concerning the PRIDE MARCH scheduled for Saturday, July 15th in Downtown Sudbury.

We were incredibly disappointed when informed that Fierté Sudbury Pride had been in close contact with Greater Sudbury Police Services and that police **will** be involved with the march and other programming.

## **Police have a longstanding history of targeting queer spaces and criminalising 2SLGBTQ+ people:**

*On June 28, 1969, the New York Police Department raided the Stonewall Inn, a fixture of the Greenwich Village LGBTQ community. Unlike during previous raids, this time, people fought back, resisted, and rioted.*

*Stonewall triggered a series of uprisings against the criminalization and police brutalization of LGBTQ people and sparked what we now know as Pride Month.*

*On February 5, 1981, the Toronto police similarly carried out raids on four bathhouses that sparked similar protests resisting police violence in the city. The following year's Pride parade was initiated despite having any support from the city.*

**Let us not forget that without the longstanding community organising work largely done by Black and Brown 2SLGBTQ+ activists we would not be where we are today.**

Though current Pride events now look more like colourful, corporate parades, **the movement is rooted in organising and radical community care.**

Black and Brown 2SLGBTQ+ people have never stopped fighting for their rights and lives in the many years since the Stonewall Inn Uprising and Toronto Bathhouse Raids and the work of foundational activists including Marsha P. Johnson, Miss Major Griffin-Gracy, Stormé DeLaverie, James Baldwin, Audre Lorde, and Angela Davis can inform ongoing reckonings with violent systems and the reimagining of society

Pride March should be led by and for 2SLGBTQ+ communities.

**We call for Fierté Sudbury Pride to decenter police within their programming and to acknowledge their harmful actions.**

Black Lives Matter Sudbury  
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## Sources / Further Reading

Langness, Melanie, and Gabriella Velasco. ““No Cops at Pride”: How the Criminal Justice System Harms LGBTQ People.” *Urban Institute*, 30 June 2020, [www.urban.org/urban-wire/no-cops-pride-how-criminal-justice-system-harms-lgbtq-people](http://www.urban.org/urban-wire/no-cops-pride-how-criminal-justice-system-harms-lgbtq-people). Accessed June 2023.

“No Police at Pride.” *No Police at Pride*, 29 Jan. 2022, [nopoliceatpride.com/open-letter/](http://nopoliceatpride.com/open-letter/). Accessed June 2023.

NPPC · – *No Pride in Policing Coalition* (Toronto). [www.noprideonpolicing.ca/#:~:text=About%20NPPC](http://www.noprideonpolicing.ca/#:~:text=About%20NPPC). Accessed June 2023.