



17 AUGUST 2022

Press Release
London Ontario
To All Members, Media and Partners

PRESS RELEASE

Board Changes Announcement

To All Members of our Community

London,Canada
info@pridelondon.ca

To my fellow Londoners;

It is with many emotions that I announce that I have ended my tenure serving as Vice President of Pride London Festival. It has been a humbling privilege to represent the community over the past 3 years as part of a widely known, respected and impactful non profit organization.

Working with so many fantastic partners, organizations, sponsors and community members has remained an absolute pleasure and has afforded me many opportunities to learn, grow and champion various causes and issues for members within our community.

My vision for Pride London Festival was to see new ideas, thoughts and expressions be presented throughout the year, to create a more accountable and focused bylaw document, to be far more transparent about all aspects of the organization and to quickly recognize, educate and improve on areas that our community felt most under-represented.

Joining in 2019 and working until September of 2020 as ByLaw Chair - I am so very proud of the (long) hard, dedicated work that Myself, Jason, Rod, Amanda and others put into the incredibly important new bylaws document that also saw the inclusion of a code of conduct and updated gender neutral language among a large list of other items.

In November of 2020 I was elected as Pride London Festival's first African American (or Black) President and was encouraged and in awe by the hard work put in by board members across their tenure and fellow community members when asked - ; from the creation of Pride London Network and it's many unique and community focused programs, to the introduction of a full month of Black History programming and over 200 hours of digital content including an full Digital Festival to Vaccination Clinics and Outdoor Pop Up Events.

In November of 2021 We were thrilled to welcome back Deb Abdalla to Pride London as her wealth of experience and knowledge were paramount in our festival for 2022 and I am so very thankful to her for passion, dedication and hard work throughout the year. As Vice President of Pride London Festival for 2022 it has been nothing short of an emotional ride as we dealt with challenges from all aspects and put together a celebration and parade that Londoner's could be proud of - especially considering how long we have all waited!

Moving to this city in 2001 I saw the birth of Pride London Festival and have been honored to serve as one of its many amazingly dedicated Presidents and Vice Presidents who have stewarded this organization . With that being said, I'd like to encourage you to become a member today , if you have some fantastic ideas or relevant work experience that you think could help? Reach out today!

Pride London Festival is set to have our Annual General Members meeting in November (roughly slated for the 20th) and I encourage you all to consider applying to be on the board!

As I wind down my duties and ensure the organization continues to shift towards accountability to members and board members I will remain as an Vice Presidential Advisor to both Deb and Robyn (our co-secretary) who will be handling the transition and election in November.

My tenure ends as of today, but my passion, love and dedication to improving Pride London Festival will continue on and I ask you to join me in making Pride London Festival the very best of all of us ;

On August 19th 2022 I ask you join me in my next chapter of community involvement. I will be at City Hall on this day at 2pm to announce my future plans followed by a family focused outdoor event at Stoney Creek. I hope to see you all out as there will be lots of fun games and music for kids and adults of all ages.

Thank you to everyone that helped, supported and provided kind words over the past 3 years, you have all been very important and I do hope to work with you all again very soon.

With love, respect and admiration for all,

Stephen D'Amelio - aka DJ Kevin Evans

www.pridelondon.ca

Important Reminder : October 19th is the final date for declaring your candidacy for the board. Nominations from the floor are no longer possible.