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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 2, 2021

SPARK YOUR PRIDE 2021, PRESENTED BY DELOITTE CANADA, TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY ON TUESDAY, JUNE 15 AS A NO-CHARGE EVENT IN THE SASKATOON PRIDE FESTIVAL

Spark Your Pride is a storytelling event that celebrates the lives of 2SLGBTQ people. It aims to express and preserve stories and accomplishments that are important to the history of Saskatchewan and to amplify them. **Spark Your Pride** creates safe space for all queer communities, their families, and allies. By reclaiming institutional space for 2SLGBTQ voices in the history of our province, **Spark Your Pride** is a positive step towards building trust, healing, and inspiration for everyone.

Spark Your Pride is a trailblazing partnership between Saskatoon Pride and the Western Development Museum (WDM) and is in its third successful year. We welcome Deloitte Canada as Presenting Sponsor.

This year's **Spark Your Pride** theme is **Bridging Differences, Discovering and Honouring our Diverse Stories**. This year's event will be held virtually on **Tuesday, June 15**, during Saskatoon's Pride Festival which runs from June 12 to 19 this year.

"We believe everyone deserves to feel like they belong, and that people's lives are enriched by connecting with Saskatchewan's diverse histories" said Joan Kanigan, CEO Western Development Museum. "Spark Your Pride has evolved into a world class experience and we are tremendously proud of this ongoing, meaningful partnership with Saskatchewan's 2SLGBTQ community."

"As leaders, we need to do more for diversity and inclusion by providing a safe and equitable environment for people to be their whole self both inside and outside of the workplace," said Dailene Kells, Partner, Risk Advisory at Deloitte Canada. "Spark Your Pride is a step forward in continuing the conversation and for recognizing the LGBTQ2S community's efforts in fighting for equality. Deloitte is proud to help amplify their voice."

Mike McCoy, chair of the event on behalf of Saskatoon Pride, says "Spark Your Pride brings queer people out of the shadows of history, disrupting the "othering" of communities marginalized through transphobia, homophobia, and racism, with a sense of 'coming in' to the mainstream of history instead of being invisible to it after 'coming out.' 2SLGBTQ+ stories deserve to be heard, honoured, shared, celebrated and preserved in spaces like the WDM. We are pleased to see that begin to happen with the support of trusting partnerships like the one with Deloitte."

Spark Your Pride sessions include:

Two Spirit Voices – a discussion to break the silence and the mystery surrounding two-spirited women's lives and experiences shared through stories of reflection, joy and sorrow aimed at opening the minds and hearts of our community. (Session sponsor: U of S Library)

My Immigrant Story – The Rainbow Railroad - a harrowing first-hand story of persecution and torture escaping from the anti-gay purge in Chechnya and Amin's journey to start a new life in Canada, assisted by the Rainbow Railroad.

To register, go to the Events tab at saskatoonpride.ca and register for **Spark Your Pride** using the link provided. Pre-registration is required. Your privacy will be respected.

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MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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