



**THE
READY
COMMITMENT**

MARCH 8, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SASKATOON PRIDE FESTIVAL 2023 EVENT INFORMATION

Saskatoon Pride announces that Fabulous Futures is the theme for this year's Saskatoon Pride Festival, presented by TD Bank Group, taking place June 9 to June 18, 2023. We are forever grateful for the commitment TD has made to support the 2SLGBTQ+ community and beyond.

This year's theme is an affirmation to 2SLGBTQ+ youth that their future is bright and fabulous and deserves to be celebrated. It is also a nod of support to the colourful drag artists in our community who have faced unwarranted criticism and attacks. The logo and graphics for Fabulous Futures have been designed by 2Spirit Cree designer, Denita Gladeau.

In the days leading up to the Saskatoon Pride Parade and Pride in the Park on Saturday, June 17, Saskatoon will welcome thousands of people to celebrate in a myriad of events and activities. From activism, to drag artistry, to human-rights-related panels and discussions, Saskatoon Pride is dedicated to providing a diverse and expansive festival for the 2SLGBTQ+ community and its allies.

The highlight of the festival will once again be the Saskatoon Pride Parade—the largest parade in Saskatchewan, featuring over 200 entries—as well as Pride in the Park, an all-day festival featuring amazing talent, a marketplace filled with local artisans and makers, and delicious food and drink. To accommodate the growing numbers the festival attracts, plans are to expand its footprint to include both River Landing and Friendship Park to the east. Applications for parade entries, prospective performers, and marketplace vendors and artisans are now available at www.saskatoonpride.ca.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

Saskatoon Pride will continue to work with other organizations, individuals, and businesses to coordinate a festival with a focus on the many different voices and lived experiences of the queer community, centring the voices of those whose stories and aspirations need to be amplified such as members of the 2Spirit and trans communities, older adults and vulnerable youth. Limited financial and organizational support may be available to qualifying events and organizations and Saskatoon Pride will endeavour to be an information clearing house so that events have the marketing profile to be successful. Applications for support and for inclusion in the 2023 Pride Festival calendar are available at www.saskatoonpride.ca.



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Q-FACTOR TALENT SEARCH

Saskatoon Pride will kick off this year's Pride season by hosting "Q-Factor: A Quest for the Next Queer Superstar." Thursday, April 13th, 2023 at PINK Lounge & Nightclub. This 19+ event will feature contestants vying for a featured spot on the festival mainstage!

A second family-friendly Youth Q-Factor will be held on Saturday, April 22nd, 2023 at Grosvenor Park United Church. Details regarding talent entries and tickets are available on our website at www.saskatoonpride.ca.

SUPPORT FABULOUS FUTURES

Saskatoon Pride needs community partners to help build Saskatoon's Fabulous Futures. Unique sponsorship opportunities are available at all levels of participation. The festival's sponsorship package is available on the website at www.saskatoonpride.ca or contact us at info@saskatoonpride.ca for more details.

BE PART OF THE HOUSE OF FABULOUS FUTURES

From its volunteer board through to the scores of volunteers required to mount events and add sparkle, muscle, smiles, and smarts to the parade, Park festivities and elsewhere throughout the year, volunteers are the lifeblood of Saskatoon Pride. With this in mind, Saskatoon Pride is instituting a new volunteer program to recruit, train, recognize, and retain these special people and to add value to their experience. More information will be announced soon but those interested in volunteering, including corporate volunteers, can register at saskatoonpride.ca now.

Watch for more announcements and excitement in the weeks ahead as we all get ready to celebrate FABULOUS FUTURES with Saskatoon Pride 2023.

CONTACT SASKATOON PRIDE

For all inquiries, email us at info@saskatoonpride.ca

Co-Chair:

Mike McCoy (he/him) - mike@saskatoonpride.ca

Media and Public Relations enquiries:

Claire Wyant (she/her) - claire@saskatoonpride.ca



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SASKATOON PRIDE'S COMMITMENT

Saskatoon Pride strives to bring connection and visibility to the queer community and its allies and to celebrate the value of diversity and inclusion in our region. As a leader in the provincial movement, and a part of the fabric of Pride events around the world, Saskatoon Pride continues to educate and highlight the value and contribution of the queer community to the life of our city, through events like the Pride Festival and by donating and raising funds for like-minded non-profit organizations.

Many of the issues which have impacted our queer communities and especially the Indigenous peoples who are part of them, in particular 2Spirit and IndigiQueer people who have inhabited Turtle Island from time immemorial, have direct roots in the long history of colonialism in North America. We acknowledge that we live and celebrate on what is described as Treaty 6 territory—which is comprised of the traditional lands of the Cree, Saulteaux, Dene, Dakota, Lakota, Nakota, and Métis nations.

We also acknowledge that the treaties have not been fulfilled in letter or spirit and that each of us has a responsibility to learn more about the treaty system and how its abuses have affected Indigenous people and settlers. We acknowledge the long and vibrant history of traditional Indigenous lands. For our part, we consider how we can better treat each other and fulfill the recommendations in the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Saskatoon Pride strives to centre Black, Indigenous, and all Peoples of Colour as they struggle to be heard, valued, and respected. Saskatoon Pride vows to use its platform to elevate queer, trans, and non-binary BIPOC voices. It is our responsibility as a 2SLGBTQ+ community organization, and as individuals, to act, to listen, to learn (and unlearn) and to uplift and prioritize QTBIPOC voices.

We work with others to make our community a safer one, one that is welcoming, accessible, inclusive, barrier-free and equitable. We want to ensure that Saskatoon Pride events and programming represent the needs, interests, and desires of our community. Pride began as a protest and a riot, and continues to evolve into a celebration as more rights are won in the fight for inclusion and acceptance. We recognize that our work must be intersectional, and we take every opportunity to seek community input, ensure that our Board of Directors, volunteers and stakeholders represent and reflect the diversity of the queer community and welcome feedback from those who participate in and attend Saskatoon Pride events year-round. We are constantly evaluating our events, activities and engagement and welcome constructive input and feedback with respect to our programming.