

## **Minto Pride Committee response to PXO Report**

The Minto Pride Committee is grateful for the ongoing support from the Cultural Roundtable and the Town of Minto. Thank you to Minto staff for pricing the cost of the colour pallets to add the recognition and celebration of the LGBTQ2S+ and BIPOC Communities in the new Harriston crosswalk.

The group does have a concern with the cost of the colour pallets. We understand that to buy road safe paint is costly, and are very appreciative of the suggestion that future maintenance of this crosswalk would come out of the Town of Minto and County Wellington budgets.

We feel that part of the issue with the suggested amount for Minto Pride Committee to fundraise is that we are considered a community service group like other groups in the Town (Legion, Horticultural Society, etc.) However, unlike those groups we are very small with only a handful of members who all work full time in addition to our volunteer work with Minto Pride. We absolutely are happy to fundraise to cover a portion of this Pride Crosswalk, but don't believe we can commit to successfully raising \$7000.

In addition to the practical considerations, we don't consider ourselves a hobby group, or a special interest group. Rather we are a social justice group. As such, we are working on increasing safety, inclusion, and representation of diverse peoples in the Town of Minto which we believe is a shared vision of the Town. With that lens, having the consistency with other Town of Minto community service groups is less of a concern if there are questions for why we are asking for more funding for this project.

We propose to split the installation cost equally with the Town of Minto, and commit to fundraising \$3500. The equal financial contribution from the Town for the installation would show the support to the LGBTQ2S+ and BIPOC communities, and be a wonderful symbol of working in allyship. By splitting the cost of this project, we are also sharing the ownership, and we think the Town claiming ownership of this message of equality, inclusion, and welcome is important.

Thank you again for your work in gathering the information for this proposal, and we look forward to discussing it more,

Minto Pride Committee

*Rosie Krul, Caitlin Hall, Raissa Rogers, Jessica Rowden, Brayden Scott*