



2SLGBTQIA+
Pride Month

Minto Pride – Who are we?

Our growing committee of community members includes:

Parents

Educators

Local business owners

Volunteers in multiple Minto groups



What do we do?

Beyond the more permanent one-off installations like fundraising for the Inclusive Crosswalk in Harriston, there are many ongoing events and projects that Minto Pride is involved with:

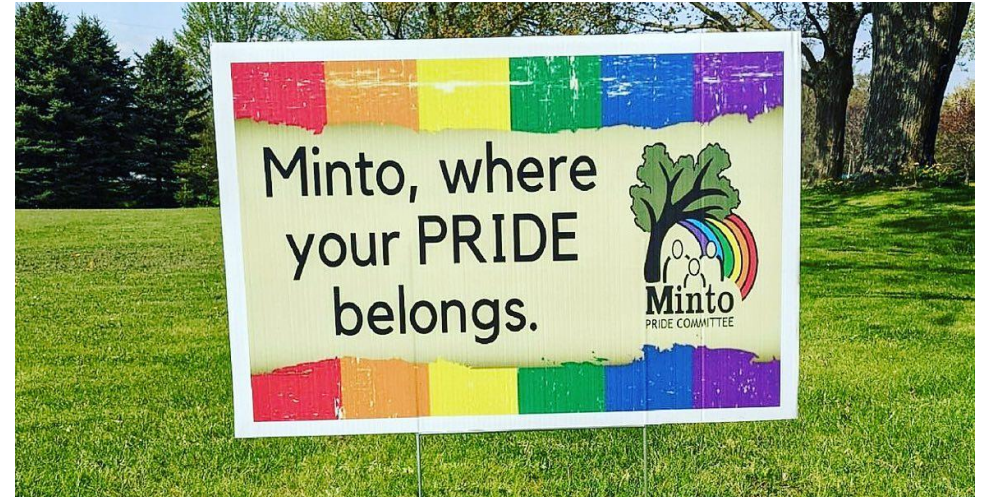
Pride in the Park	Decorating Towns for Pride Month	Representing at Community Events	Community Hikes	Socials	Donating to local initiatives
Annually in June	Annually in June	Ongoing	Annually in Fall	Ongoing	Ongoing
A family friendly celebration including music, games, activities, food and craft vendors, speakers, and a march through the park.	Recently, we fundraised for the light post banners for Pride month (4 per town) as previous years vandalism was making our other decorations unsustainable.	Participating in Christmas parades, and having tables to educate and promote inclusivity at Town events.	Hikes have been organized with ARCH, and independently to encourage a connection with nature and each other.	Including family socials, an adult bowling night, trivia, and connecting with other rural Pride groups to brainstorm ways to contribute to our towns.	Donations have been made in the past to MYAC, YouthLine, and Community Food Pantry in Clifford. We are always happy to help give back to other areas in our community.

What does this add up to?

All of those small pieces go towards building a safe, inclusive and accepting community.

It makes people feel like they can be themselves without needing to leave Minto. It reminds them that they are a welcome and valued member of the community.

Additionally, in the face of discrimination or hatred, it lets people know they are not alone. They have support here.



Pride Month

The significance of Pride Month

- Pride month is celebrated in June to honour the Stonewall Uprising in June 1969 which was a pivotal moment in the historical fight for queer rights in North America.
- It commemorates years of struggle for civil rights, and the ongoing pursuit of equal justice under the law, as well as celebrates the accomplishments of 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

What does Pride Month mean to us?

Why is it important?



2SLGBTQIA+

EXPLAINED

2
S

TWO-SPIRIT

A contemporary term that refers to the historical and current First Nations people whose individual spirits were or are a blend of male and female spirits. This term has been reclaimed by some in Indigenous Native American LGBT communities in order to honor their heritage and provide an alternative to the Western labels of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.

L

LESBIAN

A self-identified woman who is romantically/sexually attracted to other self-identified women.

G

GAY

A self-identified man who is romantically/sexually attracted to or involved with other self-identified men. 'Gay' can also be used to talk about both men and women or, more generally, the "gay community", but it commonly refers to men.

B

BISEXUAL

A person who is romantically/sexually attracted to or involved with people of the same gender or another gender, "both"/all genders, or is open to such attraction. Note: the word "both" appears in quotation marks to reference the root of bi as meaning two, but also to challenge the binary notion that there are only two genders.

T

TRANS, TRANSGENDER OR TRANS-IDENTIFIED

A term for people whose gender identity, expression, or behaviour is different from those typically associated with their assigned sex at birth. Transgender is a broad term and "Trans" is shorthand for "transgender."
Note: Transgender is correctly used as an adjective, not a noun, thus "transgender people" is appropriate but "transgenders" is often viewed as disrespectful.

Q

QUEER

An umbrella term for a social, intellectual, and/or political movement that seeks to encompass a broad range of sexual identities, behaviours, and expressions. It is also a personal identity that has been "re-claimed" because 'queer' has been historically used as a vicious insult. The letter "Q" added to the end of the acronym LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) can refer to either queer or questioning.

Q

QUESTIONING

The questioning of one's gender, sexual identity, sexual orientation, or all three is a process of exploration by people who may be unsure, still exploring, and concerned about applying a social label to themselves for various reasons.

I

INTERSEX

A term to describe people who are born with reproductive or sexual anatomy that does not fit typical definitions of male or female. The terms 'intersex' and 'trans' are distinct and should not be used interchangeably.

A

ASEXUAL

A newer term used to describe people who do not experience sexual attraction. Asexuality is not the same as celibacy, which is the willful decision to not act on sexual feelings. Asexual people are quite capable of loving, affectionate, romantic ties to others. In fact there is a lot of diversity in how asexual people experience things like relationships, attraction, and arousal.

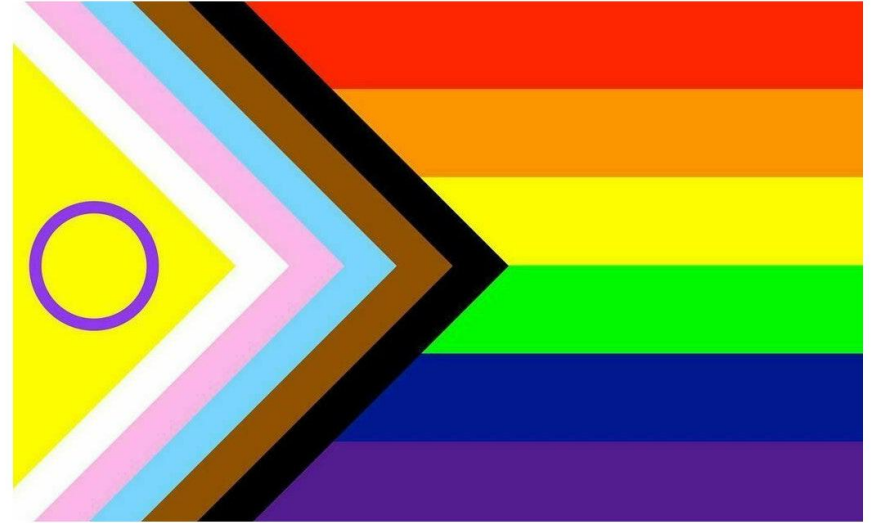
+

PLUS SIGN

A plus sign (+) is added to represent the infinite variety of identities outside of, or not represented, by this acronym.

What does the Pride flag mean?

- Yellow with Purple circle – Intersex people
- Light Blue, Pink & White – Trans & nonbinary people
- Black & Brown – POC
- Black – People living with AIDS and those who have been lost
- Red – Life
- Orange – Healing
- Yellow – Sunlight
- Green – Nature
- Blue – Harmony
- Purple – Spirit





Why are visual symbols important?

- This photo is of two community members replacing Pride decorations out of the kindness of their hearts when they noticed the fabric had been vandalized with spray paint.
- Decorations may seem trivial, but they signify to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community that they are welcome and belong here.
- They signify to the rest of Minto that discrimination and homophobia won't be tolerated in our community.

Clearing Misconceptions

- Pride flags do not push sexuality or sex
- Educating children does not endanger them – it protects them both physically and mentally
- Sexuality isn't a “choice” and our identities are not “alternative lifestyles”
- Removing Pride flags and maintaining the historical status quo would not be neutral
- Celebrating Pride does not take away from any other amazing initiatives, groups, or identities

Human rights are not negotiable.

Feedback and Impact

██████████ well said ❤️ My son had to leave Palmerston approximately 12 years ago so he could live his life and be open about who he is. They have no idea the struggles just sad

Neutrality is the bystander. While they may not actively support the bully, they do not support the victim either. That then allows the bully to continue. Neutrality is to pretend that there is equity when we are far from it.

It makes my heart so so happy to see my home town all decorated for Pride. 25 years ago I couldn't even imagine this. Thank you!

I can't wait to come see it in person on June 29!!

So proud to live in an inclusive and diverse town. Thank you #townofminto



Reply Hide

My wife and I moved to Clifford in 2018. We fell in love with this beautiful area. I was thrilled the first year when Pride was celebrated here. As the parents of 2 Gay kids we felt like we had moved into a safe space for our Family. Both of our kids are adults now and both are very involved in their community. Our daughter and her partner are actually one of the Food Venders today in Palmerston.

Pride month isn't about me, or the individuals who don't fall under the Rainbow. Pride month is for our LGBTQ+ Humans who are fighting still to have the same rights as everyone !!

It shouldn't be a debate !!

It's not about the people who feel uncomfortable, it's for possibly that one child who is feeling like they don't belong.

The one who doesn't feel safe talking to their parents or friends about how they feel or who they are. It's so upsetting as a parent to read all the hate filled comments put up every June!!

People calling individuals like our Son and his friends pedophiles because they come out and read to children!!

We don't have the luxury of staying "neutral" Whether people want to realize it or not Gay people live in our community and they deserve to be fully included, this means CELEBRATING PRIDE!!

YOU represent ALL people living in the community that you serve. This proud Mom and Dad really hope that Pride and all it's glory continues to be Celebrated here every year moving forward.

██████████ June 28, 1970 was the first #pride march for equality and freedom to LOVE!!! When I was 17, I was walking down the street not understanding myself, and a pick-up truck full of guys my age (who I would also see in class at school) drove by and yelled hateful, derogatory and hurtful comments at me with the sole purpose to make sure I knew I didn't belong.

So many moments happened like that growing up in a small farming community. Being pushed down stairs, my locker at school with a bag of horse manure in it and just plain old name calling are just a few.

I felt that I would never be free to learn, understand and accept myself if I stayed there. A space was created around me where the thought of trying to understand myself was something I didn't even consider.

Yesterday, I was on that same street. While standing in the exact same place where hate was hurled at me, I was with the man I love and I was filled immense #pride and gratitude to see the entire town lit up with all the colours of the rainbow, beautiful art installations and a vibe of inclusivity like never before!

There is a long way to go in this world for equality, acceptance and feeling like you belong, but it is SO comforting to see positive changes happening so that the next generation can live in a community that they are safe and encouraged to be themselves. Remember that you DO BELONG, you are IMPORTANT and that LOVE will always WIN! Well done #townofminto 🏳️‍🌈🏳️‍🌈🏳️‍🌈

Why we love Minto

We passionately believe that Minto is a place where ALL families belong.

Our Town does an amazing job of making Minto stand out as an incredibly vibrant, accomplished, and welcoming community.

We are proud not only to be who we are, but to call Minto home. We believe there is beauty in diversity, and that our efforts in June take away nothing from the other amazing causes and groups in our wonderful area. We are happy to celebrate and acknowledge them as well. More, not less, is what keeps our community growing and thriving.



**Visibility is important.
All families belong in Minto.**

Questions & answers

