



It's Pride Week in Halifax! This year we are celebrating all the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Questioning, Two Spirit and all the other identities on the spectrum (LGBTQ2S+) students, faculty and staff at Dalhousie and King's. Pride is a time to recognize all the power, strength and resilience of LGBTQ2S+ people and communities on our campuses, in this country and around the world. Pride is also a time to think about the work that still needs to be done and recommit ourselves to continue to fight against homophobia, transphobia, racism, xenophobia, islamophobia, colonialism and sexism in the Dalhousie and King's communities.

Pride's history is political. Pride was originally a rebellion against the forces and institutions which sought to oppress and limit LGBTQ2S+ folks. The Stonewall riot, the act of resistance that started Pride, was a riot that was led by Transgender Women of Colour, in response to police brutality and surveillance. Over time, some of the political aspects of Pride have been minimized, ignored, or covered up, and Pride has primarily become a celebration of what gains and progress have been made. It is important to recognize this often happens in corporate and academic spaces. While it is important to celebrate fights that have been won it is equally important to acknowledge and fight for those whose struggles still remain.

These struggles have been especially apparent this year, as LGBTQ2S+ organisers from across the country, predominantly Black Queer and Trans people, have been fighting to re-politicize Pride. This has been happening in many forms, including:

- [Black Lives Matter- Toronto shutting down the Toronto Pride Parade](#) to demand more funding, support and space for Black and Racialized LGBTQ2S+ folks
- [Saint John's Pride is asking that Police Officers to remain plain-clothed](#) while walking in the Parade as a participant
- Black Lives Matter-[Vancouver](#) and organisers in [Ottawa](#) questioning the role that police play or should play within Pride festivities
- [Queer Arabs of Halifax calling out Halifax Pride](#) for years of [pink washing](#) through Tel Aviv tourism having a booth in the community fair following the parade.

Collectively representing 19,000 students, we believe all students should feel supported and included by our students' unions – this means LGBTQ2S+ students as well. We are committed to being accountable to our LGBTQ2S+ members and to take an intersectional approach to our campaigns and advocacy that centers different identities, experiences and positions. We commit to hold our institutions to account around LGBTQ2S+ issues. We want to create and hold space for LGBTQ2S+ members to grow, share, learn, inspire and effect change here on campus and in the greater community. We hope that you continue to think about these issues and work with us to ensure that Pride stays political and directly serves, supports, centers, and benefits the most vulnerable and marginalized of the LGBTQ2S+ community.