



(Flag created by Daniel Quasar,
(pronouns xe/they)
<https://quasar.digital/>)

This year, the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia asks communities around the Globe to Break the Silence. *Every* day across the Durham District School Board, we all have to actively speak up so that 2SLGBTQI students and families and educators can live with the safety, dignity and respect that they deserve under humanity and under the law.

No one should feel like they have to hide who they are. Schools and classrooms are places where all students should be able to learn about themselves and their histories to build a sense of pride that will nurture and protect them. They are places where educators should not feel shame or fear for being who they are.

We raise the Flag to honour our commitment to the Human Rights of Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning and Intersex individuals and all of those who identify along the spectrums of Gender identity, expression and Sexuality.

Wherever you are in your journey of solidarity, it's time to take the next step. Whether it is about your own learning, the design of your virtual environments or lessons, there is no better time than now.

Durham District School Board stands in solidarity with PFLAG Durham in raising awareness and support of Progressive Pride Flag. The raising of *this* flag represents our efforts to support the visibility of the diversity within the 2SLGBTQI community. We recognize that a continued commitment to the revision and implementation of policy, practice and procedure is necessary to bring about the *change* that our students, staff and families need and deserve.



Pflag Canada Durham Region- Support of Progressive Flag

April 28th, 2021

Durham Region, Ont. – Pflag Durham Region (PflagDR) is announcing support to the use of the progressive pride flag moving forward.

History:

1978, Gilbert Baker of San Francisco, Ca, USA designed a flag as a “symbol of hope”, liberation and to represent the diversity of the gay and lesbian community around the world. Originally the flag was designed with 8 colours. In the end 6 colours became the standard. Gilbert gifted this design to the community to be used widely and freely.

2017, the City of Philadelphia launched a newer version of the pride flag with the addition of black and brown stripes. This was a step to further inclusion. BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of colour) were the starting force of the queer movement. It was trans women of colour who were at the forefront of the Stonewall riots, which ultimately kick started the pride movement for equality.

2018, Daniel Quasar designed what is now being widely referred to as the progressive pride flag. He designed this flag to bring forth an even greater level of inclusion. The arrow points to the right to show forward movement of furthering inclusivity for all folk who identify in the 2SLGBTQI community.

February 2021, PflagDR reached out to the Durham community through our social media to ask community members which flag they would like to see for (IDAHOT) International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia and for Pride month. Overwhelmingly 87.5% of respondents said they wanted to see the progressive flag.

PflagDR is continuing efforts to promote further inclusivity within our organization. We have begun the work to recognize where our gaps are in understanding the needs of QTBIPOC and work towards mending any harm done in the past and to engage with community to find ways to best support.

We recognize the facts that various genders and sexualities were an integral and celebrated part of many Indigenous nations prior to colonization. Queer, trans, and Two-Spirit Indigenous people still exist today despite colonizers’ attempts to erase them. It’s important to know that Europeans’ introduction of homophobia and transphobia to this land is the reason we continue to our work to acknowledge, educate and to progress forward for full liberation of all the 2SLGBTQI community.

We are asking all places where flags are flown in the Durham region to consider the switch to the more inclusive progressive pride flag moving forward. Any questions or comments may be directed to Inquiries@pflagdurhamregion.com

Pflag Canada Durham Region supports all persons within our reach with their journeys through gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation. We seek to provide education and resources to the greater Durham community to help encourage inclusion, diversity and equity. Our vision is a Canadian society that embraces and values our inherent diversity; and that includes all areas of the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Pflag Canada Durham Region