



The Minto Pride Committee would like to address the recent concerns raised by members of the community with regard to our accepted proposal to the town to have inclusivity banners installed from the light fixtures entering each town during Pride month, and into the month of September. The committee would like to clarify the misunderstanding and misinformation being presented around this initiative.

The Minto Pride Committee works year round to offer opportunities, events, and an overall visual presence to amplify the voices of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and represent the voices of marginalized individuals living in our communities. One way the Minto Pride committee has worked towards increasing representation is through the decorations that are put up every June in Clifford, Harriston, and Palmerston. Traditionally, this has translated to having rainbow fabric placed on the poles, and a chalkboard and Pride flag displayed in a dominant area within the town. Every year our Pride decorations are targeted, and the outcome usually results in them being vandalized and destroyed.

The banners suggested by the committee have a longer life-span than our temporary solution to wrap the light fixtures within the town, are more environmentally sustainable and cost effective, making it a lot more difficult for them to be vandalized and destroyed.

Minto Pride fundraised the full amount to support this initiative, with the town offering the support of installing the banners. The reasoning behind the banners being displayed for a duration of four months is due to the cost and efficiency of installing and removing the banners. This is no different than any of the other banners that are displayed in Minto. Minto Pride supports diversity and inclusion and though we appreciate that representation is important for everyone and that there are many worthy causes out there deserving of representation, our committee works directly to increase the representation of marginalized voices within the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Instead of working to oppose the great work that is already being done, we encourage others to become advocates for change in more positive and constructive ways, specifically towards the representation of those in marginalized communities to increase and make visible their human rights.

The Minto Pride Committee commends the town of Minto for their leadership, continued support and dedication to make Minto a place where everyone belongs, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. It is our responsibility as a community to ensure that our communities are safe and inclusive spaces. Though the visual representation of an inclusivity banner may seem small, its impacts for those in marginalized communities is much bigger. We seem to forget that these inclusivity banners don't take anyone's rights away or represent one single voice. In fact, they represent everyone, even those who do not identify within the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

It is our wish that one day we will no longer need a pride month, or inclusivity banners prominently displayed in communities and that everyone will be treated with dignity and respect. However, until that day comes, it is important to show the Town of Minto's dedication to celebrating diversity, equity, and inclusion. We will continue our work and our belief that one day we can be a society that is free from hate, violence, and discrimination.

Brayden Scott and The Minto Pride Committee  
Chair of Minto Pride