



VISIT [queerontario.org](http://queerontario.org)  
EMAIL [info@queerontario.org](mailto:info@queerontario.org)  
TWITTER [@queerontario](https://twitter.com/queerontario)  
FACEBOOK [Queer Ontario](https://www.facebook.com/QueerOntario)  
MAIL c/o 519 Community Centre, Toronto, Ontario M4Y2C9

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## Queer Ontario Stands in Solidarity with Capital Pride

As Pride season winds down amid ongoing efforts to silence those calling for an end to the genocide in Palestine, Queer Ontario stands in solidarity with Capital Pride.

Following the release of a [Statement in Solidarity with Palestine](#) on August 6, 2024, numerous organizations and individuals – including Mayor Mark Sutcliffe, the Ottawa Hospital, the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario, the Liberal Party of Canada, Public Service Pride Network, the Bank of Canada, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, Giant Tiger, Loblaws, the Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est, and the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board – have publicly withdrawn their participation in Capital Pride, citing concerns ranging from a lack of community safety to the desire to avoid the perception that participating may call into question their commitments to equity, diversity, and inclusion.

By misconstruing the substance of Capital Pride’s concern for rising levels of antisemitism, islamophobia, the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people, and an uptick in hatred toward 2SLGBTQIA+ communities across the country, these withdrawals are a cowardly bow to Zionist pressure in the face of global injustice. Moreover, they contribute to the pinkwashed perception that Pride is reducible to highly commodified parades and parties made possible by professional institutions, politicians, and corporate sponsors. In short, the selective deployment of these tropes and the conditional support they offer 2SLGBTQIA+ people are as insulting and ill-informed as they are tired. Experiencing discomfort is not the same as being unsafe.

In resolute opposition to this backlash and those perpetuating it, Queer Ontario applauds Capital Pride for outlining a principled stance and taking reasonable actions to express solidarity with the Palestinian people. Similarly, and in contrast to the approach of Pride Toronto to these issues, we are grateful to Capital Pride for having the courage to act in the spirit of Pride by reminding people across Ontario that Pride is rooted in protest.

Standing against oppression and injustice is the backbone of queer resistance. With this in mind, Queer Ontario calls on 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and their allies across the province to join us in standing with Capital Pride!

### Contact:

Leonard Halladay  
Chair, Queer Ontario Steering Committee  
[info@queerontario.org](mailto:info@queerontario.org)

Queer Ontario is a provincial network of gender and sexually diverse individuals — and their allies — who are committed to questioning, challenging, and reforming the laws, institutional practices, and social norms that regulate queer people.