

*Corner Brook Status of  
Women Council*  
NEWSLETTER - July 2020

## Pride

The importance of pride in my personal life has only grown as I've gotten older for many reasons, most of which (believe it or not) actually has very little to do with the realization of my own identities within the LGBTQ+ community over time!

Firstly, pride as a celebration is extremely important to me as I've learned that it is not just a celebration of our own identities and perseverance through the personal struggle that go with those identities. It's a commemoration of liberation and a celebration of remembrance for those who never got to experience a day where who they were was okay, or even legal for that matter, or those who never survived the violence or non-acceptance imposed on them. Pride month each year reminds me to appreciate why we are here in the first place. We owe it to people such as Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, and other trans women of colour that we are here today and it is time to acknowledge the true intensity of violence imposed against Trans Women of colour, even in the LGBTQ+ community, when they were the catalyst for our freedom at all. The true intention of pride goes unnoticed when they, too, go unnoticed.

Secondly, It's important to me as my way of celebrating rarely has to do with my own

needs, but rather other people's needs, which is a major value of mine. Sure, as a trans man I can say that not everything is easy. From the prejudice and stereotypes imposed on Trans people, to struggling with dysphoria and dating life, and the medical system, having a month to celebrate my identity rather than sulk about it when it gets hard is great! However I recognize as well that I am privileged- I am almost 20 with a very supportive family, I've had access to certain medical procedures and help that others have not, and I've had access to more resources in general regarding mental health and finances. Pride is for everyone. So, I should do my part to make sure pride is available and accessible for everyone. Pride to me means directing Camp Ohana every year as not only a celebration, but as a tool to offer an educational, accepting, and celebratory experience any young person can participate in during an age where they need it the most.

All in all, if there's any message to take from the celebrations we hold to honour or pride, it's that we can learn from those from the past to push forward for those in the future. We deserve to have fun, listen to music, wear rainbow colours and parade. It's a celebration of us as whole, too, after all. But it's important to remember who got us here and that we need to do our part to make sure these celebrations can continue for years to come with youth who feel empowered and educated enough to understand that they deserve to celebrate, and always will.

**Vinn Elliott** is a co-founder of Camp Ohana, a youth led 2SLGBTQIA camp, with which the Corner Brook Status of Women Council is a proud partner.

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## Upcoming:

Wednesday July 1st - Happy Canada Day!  
Hope you enjoy family, friends, Bbq and beautiful weather. The office will be closed on this day.

Monday July 13th - Orangemen's Day - commemorating the Battle of the Boyne, which took place in 1690 outside Drogheda, now in the Republic of Ireland. The office will be closed on this day.

Thursday July 30th - International Friendship Day. A day internationally recognized day to help end violence and spread kindness.

Thursday July 30th - World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. On this day the UN aims to create awareness about human trafficking and worldwide efforts to defeat this scourge.

## In the news:

**Local:** On Friday July 3rd, Newfoundland will enter the Atlantic Bubble, allowing the people of all four Atlantic provinces to move about freely within the bubble. Reaction to the news is divided as strongly for the bubble or strongly against it.

**Nationally:** This month the entire country has been asked to take a good look in the mirror and recognize that racism is not just an American problem. From the shameful removal of Jagmeet Singh, to the release of a surveillance video showing the brutality experienced by a UCB nursing student at the hands of the RCMP during a wellness check, to the unnecessary killings of Chantel Moore and

Rodney Levi. Racism has been and continues to be a Canadian problem.

**Internationally:** Amid a rapidly spreading pandemic and justified civil unrest, the United States continues to be troubled by the actions and inactions of the president. It is alleged that he ignored intel that Russia has been paying a bounty to the Taliban to kill American soldiers. It is known that he is fighting to preserve the statue of former president and slave owner Andrew Jackson, he is sharing videos with a rallying cry for white power and he is spending the remainder of his time golfing.

## The Final Word:

The world is crying out for policing reform, and although work remains to be done here and everywhere I would like to bring attention to a RNC program that is a big step in the right direction.

The Mobile Crisis Unit was first introduced by the RNC in St. John's in early 2018 and has since expanded to CBS, Lab West and Corner Brook. The Mobile Crisis Unit pairs a police officer with a social worker or a registered nurse.

Although training may look slightly different from site to site the training focuses on mental health and wellness basics, signs and symptoms of mental illness, de-escalation, harm reduction, access to local mental health services and an introduction to a number of community agencies, such as CBSWC.

In case of a mental health emergency this team can be reached through 911, the local RNC detachment at 634-4100 or the Mental Health Crisis line at 1-888-737-4668.