



PRIDE SOCIETY OF THE COMOX VALLEY

December 6, 2024

Dear Mayor Wells and Courtenay City Council,

We are requesting support for our application to the *Local Festivals - Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage* grant, aimed at expanding Pride Week in August 2025. There is an attached Municipal Government Support form that can be completed; however support may also be confirmed in a letter outlining the cash and/or in-kind value on an official letterhead from the city's finance department. While cash or in-kind support (e.g. venue rentals and park permits) is preferred, the updated grant guidelines now accept letters of support, even without financial contributions. In brief, our grant application includes three key components:

1. **Heritage Component:**

- Capturing the **local history of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community**, an **Indigenous-Led Workshop** discussing how queer history began with Two-Spirit people and the impacts of colonization, and an **Allyship Workshop** focusing on combating hate and discrimination.

2. **Performance Component:**

- **Pride in the Park & Pride Youth Dances:** Featuring local drag performances, DJs, and choirs.

3. **Arts Component:**

- Showcasing 2SLGBTQIA+ artists through **vendor booths**, a **literary event** at the library, and **art workshops** on historical 2SLGBTQIA+ culture, including accessibility-led events.

The grant would allow our organization to provide more inclusive and accessible gatherings, reducing reliance on sponsorship funds, which historically have only supported the Pride in the Park event. While we cannot guarantee the success of our grant application, we have implemented contingency plans to prioritize key events, ensuring that the expansion of Pride Week will move forward regardless.

We want to extend our deepest gratitude for your previous and ongoing support. Your commitment to ensuring the 2SLGBTQIA+ community remains visible, celebrated, and supported has made a profound impact in our city, and we are incredibly thankful for your efforts.

Questions can be directed to Janine at psc2021@gmail.com.

In Pride,

Janine Scheffler, Facilitator
The Pride Society of the Comox Valley Board of Directors