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Capital Pride
PO Box 2428, Station D
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5W6
Phone: 613.252.7174
Fax: 613.317-0417
www.capitalpride.ca

Capital Pride Human Rights Candlelight Vigil: Overcoming Barriers and the Next Frontiers of the GLBTTQ Movement

For immediate release

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Capital Pride will host the 5th annual Human Rights Candlelight Vigil on Thursday, August 25, 2011 at the Human Rights Monument on Elgin and Lisgar Streets at 7:30 p.m.

A diverse group of speakers, including MPP for Ottawa Centre Yasir Naqvi and representatives from the AIDS Committee of Ottawa, The North Star Triangle Project, Youth Services Bureau, the Centre for Inquiry and The Village project will speak to the past, the present and most importantly the future of the GLBTTQ movement within Canada and beyond.

The theme for this year's Vigil is "The Courage and Right to be...You!" "The theme reflects the diversity and significance of the Pride movement and recognizes the importance of breaking down the remaining barriers that exist within mainstream society to move towards full fraternity, openness, inclusion and social equality," said Alan Chaffe, Event Coordinator and Past Chair of Capital Pride.

"From social exclusion, to 'corrective rape' of lesbians in Africa to the banning of gay-straight alliances in some Catholic schools in Ontario and the stigma towards persons living with HIV in Canada and around the world, GLBTTQ individuals continue to be disproportionate victims of discrimination, violence and criminalization," he added.

"As long as there are people out there feeling marginalized or threatened, we must continue to tackle prejudice. Statistics Canada recently released a report indicating that hate crimes motivated by homosexuality remain on the rise and that such incidents are more likely to be violent. With Pride Celebrations like the Capital Pride Festival and events like the Human Rights Candlelight Vigil we have the chance to change the story of the future to one where no injustice is committed against GLBTTQ individuals," he added.

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Contact Information:

Doug Saunders-Riggins, Chair
Capital Pride Committee
E-mail: doug@capitalpride.ca
Tel : 613-252-7174

Lauryn Kronick, Vice-Chair, Communications
Capital Pride Committee
E-mail:lauryn@capitalpride.ca
Tel: 613-898-0129

