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**BLACK**



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Charitable Number  
1322-19601 RR0001

# BLACK COALITION FOR AIDS PREVENTION

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Frances Pritchard  
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

May 18, 2011

Dear members of the Executive Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention (Black CAP), an organization that works in Toronto's Black, African and Caribbean communities to prevent new HIV infections and support those who are living with HIV and AIDS. I am writing in support of funding for Pride Toronto and urge the City to maintain its support of this important event. As a non-profit organization that is mandated to work in Toronto's Black LGBT communities, we strongly recognize and value the promise of Pride. Pride is a key event for us and we have a significant interest in supporting its stability and development.

The City has an important role to play in funding community festivals such as Pride and Caribana as it creates significant economic impact, creates visibility for the diverse communities that live in Toronto, and allows AIDS service organizations to conduct important outreach and education. As an organization representing racialized communities, we value every opportunity to conduct outreach and education at events such as Pride; it is a safe space and provides a venue to conduct education in a community that is at especially high risk for HIV and sexually transmitted infections. The Pride festival has also historically created visibility for our agency, fight HIV stigma and homophobia, provided opportunities to recruit volunteers, and to conduct fundraising.

In many respects, the success of the Pride festival is dependent upon City of Toronto funding. Pride Toronto is viewed as an essential organization in supporting Toronto's LGBT communities and it is important that Council members consider this and the broader implications of a potential decision to no longer fund this event. The reality is that events such as Pride cannot be delivered by volunteers and Pride Toronto requires the funding support of all three orders of government to maintain its operations. As a citizen, I believe that local government must play a central role in supporting both this event and the LGBT community. A decision to no longer fund Pride sends a strong message that members of the LGBT community are not valued as citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts about the value of this organization, the significance of the Pride festival, and the importance of City's role in its success. If you have any questions about this deputation please feel free to call or email me at [s.ryan@black-cap.com](mailto:s.ryan@black-cap.com).

Thank you,

Shannon Thomas Ryan  
Executive Director



Unity



Strength



Hope



Together we are linked in life and death