

**Fernie Pride Society
Annual General Meeting
March 28, 2018**



The FERNIE PRIDE SOCIETY supports and connects the LGBTQ community in the Elk Valley. Incorporated in December 2016, the Society is a hub for LGBTQ people and their allies, programming special events as well as providing resource referrals.

Our vision is that the Elk Valley will be a safe, inclusive community for LGBTQ people celebrating our uniqueness and diversity.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Sara Funk, President
- Teresa Caufield, Treasurer
- Kevin Allen, Secretary
- Jennifer Gardiner, Director
- Jennifer Asselin, Director
- Melissa Creelman, Director

Annual Report: December 13, 2016 to December 31, 2017

Our first year was a busy one! The Fernie Pride Society Board of Directors worked not only to create a new non-profit society, but also to run the programs and initiatives of the society. Here are just a few of the things we achieved last year!

Getting Started!

- The Fernie Pride Society was incorporated December 13, 2016. We elected a board of directors, created mission and vision statements, adopted by-laws, and filed incorporation documents for the society.
- We applied to various organizations for funding and opened a bank account at TD Canada Trust with the knowledge that TD is a large financial supporter of Pride organizations across Canada.
- We created an attractive logo for the society that reflects Fernie and the spirit of Pride.
- We created a website, facebook page, and Instagram page to get the word out about events, special dates, programming, and initiatives.
- We researched, compiled, and created a resource and referral page on our website for LGBTQ2+ individuals looking for support services in the Elk Valley.
- We created a membership structure and signed up 22 new members to the society.
- We connected with other local and regional organizations to provide more services for individuals in the Elk Valley. Among them were Cranbrook Pride, ANKORS, Trans Care BC, and an Interior Health representative for HIV/AIDS testing and awareness.
- We became members of Fierté Canada Pride, Canada's national pride organization, and InterPride, an international pride organization.
- We presented to municipal organizations such as the City of Fernie, District of Sparwood, and the District of Elkford to create awareness around LGBTQ2+ initiatives and challenges in the Elk Valley, as well as apply for funding.

Down To Business

- The board of directors met monthly over the course of the year to make governance decisions and run the programs and initiatives of the organization.

- We brought an educator from Trans Care BC to present to the Fernie Academy and the Fernie Secondary School Planning 10 class.
- Each month we hosted an outreach event called Beers & Queers in partnership with the Valley Social in Fernie. This event has been instrumental in connecting LGBTQ2+ individuals from all over the Elk Valley, and has been a safer space for people looking for support and social interaction. Each month we host anywhere between 5 and 35 people.
- We hosted a Queer movie night at the Fernie Arts Station for LGBTQ2+ individuals and allies to attend.
- We polled the LGBTQ2+ community for suggestions on what they would like to see from their local Pride organization, and have incorporated those ideas throughout the year.
- We have met individually with people from the LGBTQ2+ community in need of support, who weren't comfortable with the visibility of our public outreach events.
- In July two of our directors attended a free 16 hour Suicide Intervention Training workshop offered by the Outreach and Education Program of Lethbridge Family Services.
- In November the board participated in a strategic planning session to set goals for the following year.

Having Fun and Proliferating Pride

- In March we were the first pride organization to march in the Elk Valley as a part of the Griz Days parade. 25 people of all ages, including allies, marched with us down 2nd Avenue in Fernie handing out flags and stickers.
- In June we were integral in helping the Fernie Secondary School student council install 6 rainbow crosswalks in Fernie.
- In October we hosted Elk Valley Pride 2017; the first ever pride festival in the Elk Valley. The 5 day event was called a massive hit and was attended by over 400 people.

