

Drag Storytime FAQ

“Drag is something that’s really accessible to kids because they’re so used to dress up and play as a part of their everyday routine,” Lindsey Amer, 2017

https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/entry/queer-kid-stuff-drag_n_594d8816e4b05c37bb768284

What is the program?

- The Library will be hosting a Virtual Drag Storytime as part of the Pride Month 2020 celebration and activities on offer at Spruce Grove Public Library (SGPL).
- The virtual program will consist of a performer reading books and sharing some songs and rhymes.
- The program will be age appropriate for 0-7 year olds with caregiver, though everyone is welcome to enjoy, sing along, and “attend”!

Why host a drag storytime program?

To sum it up it’s about having fun, celebrating diversity and letting kids know there’s nothing wrong with them if they don’t follow the “normal” gender rules such as only girls like pink and boys like blue or girls play with dolls and boys with trucks. If they’re totally the opposite then that’s just fine!

In these times especially it’s so important to promote kindness and inclusivity.

Exposure to a diversity of cultures and lifestyles develops a deeper level of understanding of others. People with this knowledge are more likely to have strong collaboration skills and are less likely to discriminate/bully those that are different.

Why celebrate Pride Month?

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan, New York. The Stonewall Uprising was a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in North America. Today, celebrations include pride parades, parties, workshops and concerts, and LGBTQ Pride Month events attract millions of participants around the world. The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that LGBTQ individuals have had on history worldwide, and celebrate diversity and inclusion.

If you are interested in finding out more about the history of Pride Month in Canada try these articles:

<https://www.queerevents.ca/canada/pride/history>

<https://www.cbc.ca/arts/10-canadian-lgbtq-stories-that-need-to-be-made-into-films-or-tv-series-1.4713244>

<https://www.pridetoronto.com/organization/history/>

<https://archives.ca/category/newsfeed/>

Where did this program come from?

Programs featuring drag performers have been hosted throughout Canada and North America for years, including the New York Public Library. Closer to us, the Edmonton Public Library and the Calgary Public Library have hosted similar events. We also hosted an in-person drag storytime last summer (2019) with great success.

If you are interested in finding out more about drag storytime try these articles:

<https://www.teachwire.net/news/drag-queen-story-time>

<https://www.oif.ala.org/oif/?p=14620>

<https://torontolife.com/culture/books/inside-drag-queen-storytime-toronto-librarys-fiercest-kids-reading-series/>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/ca/blog/understanding-the-erotic-code/201901/drag-queen-storytime-children>

I'm unhappy the Library is offering this program

If this program does not meet your needs, we respect your choice not to attend, and hope that you will find a Library program that does meet your needs. The Library offers a variety of engaging programs, including a number of regular storytimes, and we look forward to welcoming you at those.

As proud participants in the global Libraries are for Everyone campaign, we promote equality, acceptance, and safety for all. Additionally, the [Spruce Grove Public Library 2019-2023 Plan of Service](#), the document that directs all of our programs and services, was created by a Community Planning Committee comprised of Spruce Grove residents that advised the library to focus on three areas in everything we do: practice and promote inclusion, provide a welcoming place, and encourage literacy.

Spruce Grove Public Library along with all libraries in our province subscribes to the Library Association of Alberta's [Statement on Intellectual Freedom](#) which states:

"Alberta libraries have a responsibility to guarantee and facilitate access to all expressions of knowledge, opinion, creativity and intellectual activity including those which some elements of society consider unconventional, unpopular, unorthodox or unacceptable." Throughout the year, SGPL promotes many celebrations and supports all people.

Ultimately, parents and guardians are responsible for supervising Library use by their – and only their -children. The Library does not stand in loco parentis and cannot allow others to censor or decide on the library activities of other children.