

Local News | “There’s this small but vocal minority of far-right individuals who constantly think they’re the majority, and that everyone shares their views,” Worthman said.

# Events planned across Canada to counter upcoming anti LGBTQ rallies

**The Canadian Press**

Protests and counter-protests for and against Canada’s trans and LGBTQ community are being planned across Canada on Wednesday.

Posters created by a group called “1MillionMarch4Children” say rally participants are “standing together against gender ideology in schools,” which is a reference to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity programs being taught in B.C.’s public schools.

Sarah Worthman, an LGBTQ advocate who is helping organize at least 63 counter-protests across the country, said Canadians need to stand up for the community outside of Pride events.

“Allyship is a verb,” she said, as she called on supporters to stand in solidarity with LGBTQ folks who have increasingly been the subject of hate and political debate by attending the No Space for Hate events.

“There’s this small but vocal minority of far-right individuals who constantly think they’re the majority, and that everyone shares their views,” Worthman said.

She said she hopes the planned counter-protests can help show most Canadians are generally supportive, while countering hateful messaging they expect from protesters.

“Doing these small things shows there is social pushback,” she said. “There is real danger in all of this.”

British Columbia’s Human Rights Commissioner, Kasari Govender, called the anti-LGBTQ marches “hate-fuelled” and said while peaceful demonstration protects democracy and generates debate, the human

rights of the trans and LGBTQ community “is not up for debate.”

She said in a statement Tuesday that an inquiry by her office showed almost two-thirds of LGBTQ students don’t feel safe at school, compared

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with 11 per cent of heterosexual students, and attempts to erase them from school curriculums are hateful.

Worthman said politicians, too, “should be louder” about their support for the LGBTQ community, and against individuals who seek to further marginalize members.

Clint Johnston, the president of the BC Teachers’ Federation, wrote a letter to B.C. Premier David Eby about the union’s concerns about the planned protests.

He said they’re part of a co-ordinated attack against the trans and LGBTQ community.

“These rallies are part of a movement across North America that uses ‘parental consent’ as a dog whistle for rising homophobia and transphobia. This movement is concerning and must be stopped,” he said in the letter.

In response, the premiersaid school must be a place where every student feels secure and it’s upsetting to see misinformation and disinformation used to attack vulnerable children and youth.

“Without hesitation, I denounce threats, hate and violence against 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. We are seeing a concerning rise in incidents where trans people are being targeted with threats and violence in person and online,” Eby said in the statement.

“We cannot and must not stand idly by in the face of any kind of bullying. Any political leader who targets our most vulnerable, at-risk children and youth is no leader at all.”

A statement from the City of Whitehorse said it is aware of a march planned for Sept. 20 in the Yukon city, and anti-LGBTQ messaging that targets community members will not be tolerated.

Bylaw officers in Whitehorse are also aware of the planned march as a counter-protest and the city said RCMP will be monitoring.

Govender said in a statement that those who want to “protect” children by removing school-based supports for gay, bisexual, trans and other students are misinformed.

“As a parent, I plead with those who may think they are protecting their children: Erasing LGBTQ2SAI+ people from our curriculum will not change

your child’s identity, but it will make schools, and the LGBTQ2SAI+ people in them, less safe,” she said.

Trans people have become the focus of a “surge of disinformation, conspiracy theories and hate,” Govender said.

“This is not only about hate on the basis of gender identity; these rallies are an affront to human dignity, expression and rights for all of us,” she said.

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A letter from Govender to Eby, urged him to release details about the effectiveness of 12 recommendations Govender’s office submitted to the province in March.

The recommendations flowed from a public inquiry that examined reports of hate in B.C. and provide a “road map of how to take tangible and transformative action against hate,” Govender said.

## Potton fire department

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Department. A lesson on security with a focus on teaching the kids not to be scared in a fire emergency. The youngsters had so much fun learning this important message and they even got to wear the fire chief’s hat (although that was apparently supposed to be kept hush hush). Mansonville Elementary extends a big thank you to Gabriel & Carine, for going above and beyond, the children are safer thanks to you.

The Municipality of Potton fire station is located at 2 Vale Perkins

Street, in the same building as the Town Hall. Fire Protection Service covers the entire territory of the Township of Potton, a 262 square km area. A mutual aid agreement exists with the fire services of North Troy and Austin to allow us to meet the legally required response time.

For more information about the Potton Firefighter and First Responder services contact: James Bouthillier, Director of the Fire and Civil Security Service : 450-292-3313, ext. 240 | serviceincendie@potton.ca

## Cervical cancer

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These clinics are for women aged 21 to 65 who do not have access to a Pap smear through a family doctor or gynecologist, who have not had a Pap smear in 2 to 3 years, and who have not undergone a hysterectomy.

“The Pap smear may seem trivial, but it can truly save lives,” Dr. Josianne Paré, obstetrician-gynecologist at the CIUSSS de l’Estrie – CHUS explained in a press release about the upcoming clinics. “In recent years, we have seen a steady

decline in the incidence rates of this type of cancer. This can probably be attributed to the increased use of the Pap smear for screening precancerous lesions,”

One in 168 women will develop cervical cancer in her lifetime. One in 478 will die from it. Most cases (67 per cent) affect women aged 30 to 59.

To make an appointment, details and registration can be found at [santeestrie.qc.ca/cancerducol](http://santeestrie.qc.ca/cancerducol).