

Intl Day of Pink Presents

# COLOURING

WITH

PRIDE

2nd  
EDITION

12 trans and queer Canadians  
you SHOULD know

ART: RON CREPIN

INTL.  
DAY 08  
OF APRIL  
PINK

Colouring with Pride  
Day of Pink  
Launched Spring 2020

# CREATOR'S NOTE

Since launching the first edition we continue to be inspired by trans and queer people in Canada.

Thank you to all those who nominated this new set of heroes who continue to create safer and more inclusive spaces.

We also want you to know that this book is not done. We will be creating more, so please reach out, send us your ideas and names of folks you wanna see featured!

Learn more about the Day of Pink at:  
[DayOfPink.org](http://DayOfPink.org)

Thank you,

Ron Crepin



# Haran Vijayanathan

## SPEAKING UP FOR POC

Haran Vijayanathan has over 16 years of experience working in the non-profit sector.

He has been working in the area of HIV sector in Community Health Centre settings and in social service organizations. He has lived and worked in many communities in Ontario and brings with him the cultural sensitivity on addressing issues around HIV,

2SLGBTQ+ issues and intersectional identities and diversity within these communities through work with Rainbow Health Ontario.

He is the founder of My House: Rainbow Resources of York Region and the Executive Director of the Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention (ASAAP). ASAAP is the only AIDS Service Organization serving the South Asian community in Ontario and in Canada.

In his current leadership role, Haran has most recently been a critical thought leader in national media, addressing systemic racism, homophobia and classism as it relates to missing persons and families/friends of LGBTQ community impacted by the serial killings in Toronto.

Haran is Community Advisory Group member with the Independent Review of Missing Persons.

Haran was the 2018 Grand Marshal for Toronto Pride.

### *Keep learning:*

- Is there still racism in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community? Does this discrimination affect folks of South Asian descent differently?
- What letter did ASAAP write that forced police to re-evaluate how they handled violent crimes in Toronto?
- What can you do to advocate for QTIPOC folks?





# Sharon Blady

## ADVOCATE & HEALTH MINISTER

Sharon's career began as a decolonization scholar where her love of sharing knowledge for social change first thrived. This desire for change also came from being a single-mother who never felt safe coming out to her family because of the homophobia she witnessed and her dependence on them in the years she raised her eldest son alone. Her experience of biphobia and bi-erasure meant that she continued to pass as straight for physical and financial security, despite the psychological toll.

Sharon was elected into the Manitoba Legislature in 2007. In her first months in office Sharon began her ongoing support of the Rainbow Resource Centre's Camp Aurora for LGBTQ+ youth. She participated in RRC, PRIDE, TDOR, and International Day of Pink events and gave several Member's Statements in the Legislature celebrating achievements in the LGBTQ+ community.

Before being appointed to Cabinet, Sharon crafted two pieces of first-in-Canada human rights legislation. Her first portfolio, Minister of Healthy Living and Seniors, included all government files associated with supporting the LGBTQ+ community. The work she began here would come to fruition with her appointment to Minister of Health.

Since leaving office, Sharon has become a mental health advocate, healthcare consultant, and public speaker. She is a member of the Manitoba TransHealth Coalition. Her appearance here marks her public coming out as a member of the LGBTQ+ community.

### *Keep learning:*

- Check out Sharon's websites: [speak-up.co](http://speak-up.co) and [sharonblady.ca](http://sharonblady.ca)
- Sharon worked for LGBTQ+ rights, yet felt unsafe coming out. Why do you think many like Sharon still do not feel safe coming out? Especially if they are in public life? Or have children?
- What do we still need to work on?





# *El-Farouk Khaki*

## HUMAN

He was born in Tanzania, which his family fled in 1971 escaping political persecution. His parents arrived in Canada in 1974 and settled in Vancouver where Khaki grew up. He earned a law degree from the University of British Columbia before moving to Ottawa in 1988 and has lived and worked in Toronto since 1989.

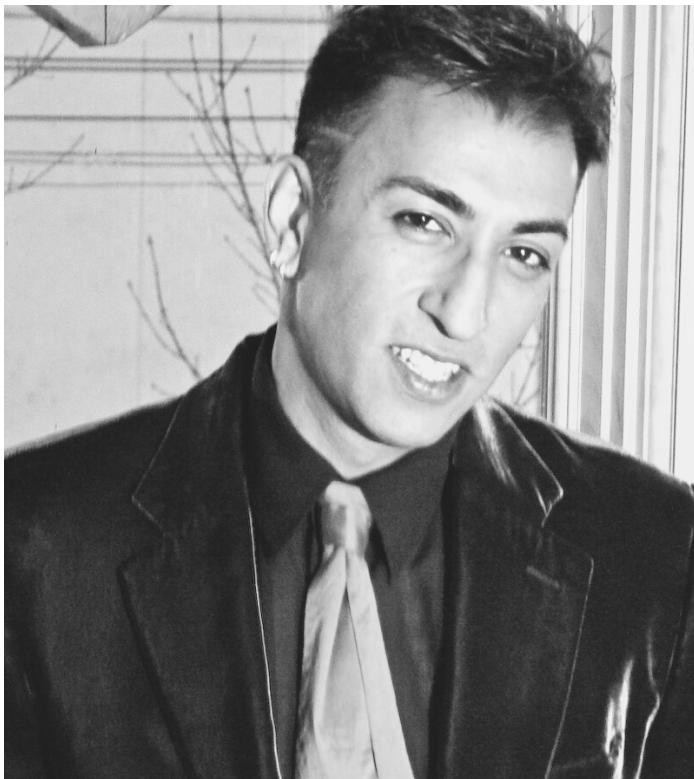
He worked as a political staffer at Queen's Park until 1993 when he left to establish his legal practice. Khaki is a member of the Law Society of Upper Canada and has been in private practice since 1993. On June 26, 2014, he married his longtime partner Troy Jackson. Khaki founded Salaam in 1991, a support group for gay Muslims. In 2003, he helped organize the first female-led, mixed-gender Muslim congregational prayers in Canada for the Salaam/Al-Fateha International Conference, and in 2005, organized the first such prayers anywhere to be held in a mosque.

He has served on the Toronto Mayor's Committee on Community & Race Relations, on the board of The 519 Community Centre, and is now elected chair of Africans in Partnership Against AIDS. In May 2009, The Toronto Unity Mosque/el-Tawhid Juma Circle was founded by Laury Silvers, a University of Toronto religious studies scholar, alongside Muslim gay-rights activists El-Farouk Khaki and Troy Jackson. Unity Mosque/ETJC is a gender-equal, LGBT+ affirming, mosque.

In 2016, Khaki was named by The Advocate magazine to a list of "21 LGBT Muslims Who Are Changing the World." In 2018, El-Farouk participated in a TEDxUTSC talk about intersectionality and validity of gay Muslims.

### *Keep learning:*

- Check out his TED talk. What are the key points he is trying to make?
- When looking at intersectional communities, do you recognize that racism can exist in 2SLGBTQIA+ communities? What can we do to address it?







# Priyanka

## THE QUEEN PRIYANKA

Say her name it's Priyanka!

One of the newest drag queens taking Toronto by storm! Starting drag in July 2017 – she is one of the most booked and blessed queens out there. She got her start in Crews & Tangos Drag Race 2017 and is a former Miss Crews and Tangos 2018-19, Woody's Queen of Halloween 2018 and reigns as Now Toronto's Best Drag Performer! Oh and she has two singles on iTunes? Priyanka lights up any stage she walks on and always likes to ask the question...what's my name?

It's Priyanka!

Priyanka was selected to compete on the first season of Canada's Drag Race.

Her instagram is @thequeenpriyanka

### *Keep learning:*

- Why is Drag a revolutionary art? What have drag queens done to advance rights in our community?
- What impact does Prianka have as a queen of colour? Why does representation matter to South Asian communities?
- For a long time in Canada, dressing in opposite gender clothing was illegal. Can you find out how long?





# *Karim Ladak*

## INTERNATIONAL PHILANTHROPISTS

Karim, a Tanzanian born Canadian citizen, reflects a true global footprint, having lived in 10 countries: Tanzania, Kenya, Canada, Israel, France, UK, India, Japan, Russia, and Romania.

Since his childhood, Karim was taught about the value of “giving” by his parents. Explains why he has been a committed volunteer for the past forty years, a significant portion of it as an advocate and activist in the LGBTQ and South Asian communities.

Karim has co-founded several groups, and held a variety of leadership positions, including the Chair of the Aga Khan Social Welfare of Canada, where he was the first openly gay man appointed to that position in the Ismaili Muslim community.

Karim was recognized as one of the top 150 philanthropists in Canada in 2017.

Karim ended a successful career as an executive with P&G and retired 7 years ago. He now dedicates his time to volunteering and helping people in need. He also travels the world to learn about culture and politics, now travelled to 180 countries. His book “The Cosmopolitan Nomad, A globetrotter’s Story “ details his observations about life’s struggles and immense beauty.

Karim is known to give of his time and money quietly, without seeking recognition. It is therefore a pleasure to profile him here, and give him his “day in the sun”.

### *Keep learning:*

- His professional website is [KarimLadak.com](http://KarimLadak.com) and his personal travel website is [CosmopolitanNomad.com](http://CosmopolitanNomad.com)
- Why is philanthropy so important to queer and trans activism?
- Check out his book: *The Cosmopolitan Nomad - A Globetrotter’s Story*.





# Todd Ross

## COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

Todd Ross is an activist. He is Métis and is a veteran.

Todd volunteered to join the Canadian Armed Forces in 1987 at the age of 18. He served as a Naval Combat Information Operator on HMCS Saskatchewan. While serving, he was brought under investigation by the Special Investigation Unit of the Military Police. After an 18-month investigation, he was discharged after admitting to being gay. He is one of three representative plaintiffs in the successful Ross, Roy Satalic vs Canada class action lawsuit (LGBT Purge).

Since being released from the Navy, Todd has stood up to advocate for others in the LGBTQ2 community, Indigenous communities and in his local communities. He is a founding member of The Rainbow Railroad and has served on numerous boards and committees including the Toronto and York Region Métis Council, the Toronto Atmospheric Fund, the Toronto AIDS Candlelight Vigil, Anishnawbe Health, the Toronto Aboriginal Affairs Committee, and the Canadian Human Rights Voice.



Todd currently volunteers with the LGBT Purge Fund, Rainbow Veterans Canada, the Charlotte County Fall Fair, the Town of St. Andrews Environmental Advisory Committee and Charlotte County Pride.

Professionally, Todd is a Public Affairs Consultant and has served as an Advisor to Ontario's Deputy Premier and to the President of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

Todd's heritage is mixed primarily with Red River Métis, Irish, Scottish, French, German and Danish. He moved back to his home province of New Brunswick in 2019 and now lives in St. Andrews with his partner Kirk, who is also Métis.

### *Keep learning:*

- Visit <https://lgbtpurgefund.com>
- Todd is Métis, what do you know about the Métis people?
- Get active. Think about the issues that you are passionate about? What are the ways you can get involved or help?





# Julie Green

## NORTHERN ACTIVIST

Yes of course. I am the first openly lesbian woman elected in the NWT. In my early days in NT I was involved with equal rights advocacy for LGBTQ and worked on the first Human Rights ACT for NT which included protection for trans folks. I have been married to Janice McKenna since 2006.

Julie Green was re-elected to the 19th Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly representing the constituency of Yellowknife Centre. Ms. Green was first elected to the 18th Assembly in 2015 and was the Chair of Caucus as well as the Chair of the Special Committee to Increase the Representation of Women in the Legislative Assembly. Ms. Green was also Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures, and Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Development. Ms. Green was also a member of the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning.

Ms. Green spent 16 years reporting for CBC including on the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project and the development of diamond mines in the territory. She was also a contributor to Far North Oil and Gas Review, which later became Up Here Business.

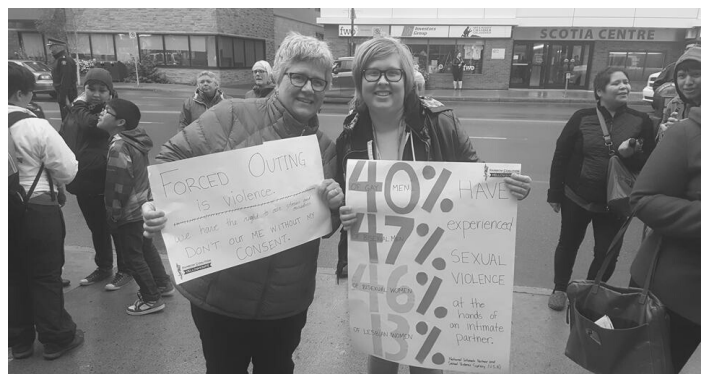
Ms. Green left CBC in 2009 to focus on advocating and fundraising for services centered on women, families and children in need at the YWCA Yellowknife. Working with representatives from the GNWT, Indigenous governments, municipal government and the business sector, she helped create the anti-poverty strategy and action plan, Building on the Strengths of Northerners.

Ms. Green holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the University of Saskatchewan, a Master of Arts in History from the University of Calgary, and a Master of Arts in Journalism from the University of Western Ontario. As well, she recently completed a Certificate in Fundraising Management from Ryerson University.

Ms. Green is married and has one grown daughter.

### Keep learning:

- Learn more about Julie Green here: <https://yellowknifecentre.ca/>
- How is northern queer and trans activism different than those in the south?







# Kate Krug

## CAPE BRETON

Kate Krug is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Department of L'nu, Political, and Social Studies at Cape Breton University. Kate practices Interpretive Political Sociology with a particular focus on genders, identities, sexualities, Queer theory, and critical pedagogy.

For Kate, teaching is a performative, political, and transformative act that can provide the foundation for equity and social justice in the worlds we live in.

Kate has been a Queer activist since she came out as a lesbian in 1983. As an undergraduate, she volunteered with GLOW (Gay & Lesbian Liberation of Waterloo), was frequent guest speaker in various classes and provided workshops on meeting LGBT health care needs for Kitchener-Waterloo Family Physicians. In the 1990's Kate volunteered with the Campaign for Equal Families on the campaign for Bill 167 in Ontario.



Since moving to Cape Breton in 2001, Kate has put her pedagogy into activism as well as putting activism into her pedagogy. In 2005, Cape Breton University Student's Union gave Kate the Father Paul Abbass Award for being a resource for and active supporter of the campus Women's Centre and the Sexual Diversity Centre, for standing with the students in tuition protests and helping them give voice to their advocacy. Known as "Uncle Kate" to queer youth all over Cape Breton, Kate provides workshops on queer activism, ally-ship, history, and politics for schools, businesses, and just about anyone who wants to hear about it.

Kate is a Queer BIPOC ally who puts into action each day her ally-ship by calling the status quo into question and was a key voice in Cape Breton arguing for the CB Pride parade to stand in solidarity with BLM by speaking out about police presence at Pride.

### *Keep learning:*

- Jeanette Auger and Kate Krug co-authored *Under the Rainbow: A Primer on Queer Studies in Canada*. What do you think of the book?
- Kate worked with Sheila Christie on the Gender Change Room Project, two plays adapted from trans positive children's books. What do you think of the plays?





# Mark Tewksbury

## OLYMPIAN, HUMAN-RIGHTS ADVOCATE

In 1992 Mark Tewksbury burst onto the international scene following a thrilling come-from-behind victory in the 100-metre backstroke at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games. This gold medal performance capped a remarkable 16-year swimming career which included three Olympic medals, seven world records and a cover appearance on TIME Magazine.

Today Mark is recognized as a leader of social change. Author of three books, including *Inside Out: Straight Talk from a Gay Jock*, Tewksbury is one of the few openly gay Olympic champions in the world and was one of the very first to come out publicly.

2006, Mark was the president of the first World Outgames held in Montreal, and was recognized as one of OUT Magazine's top 100 people.

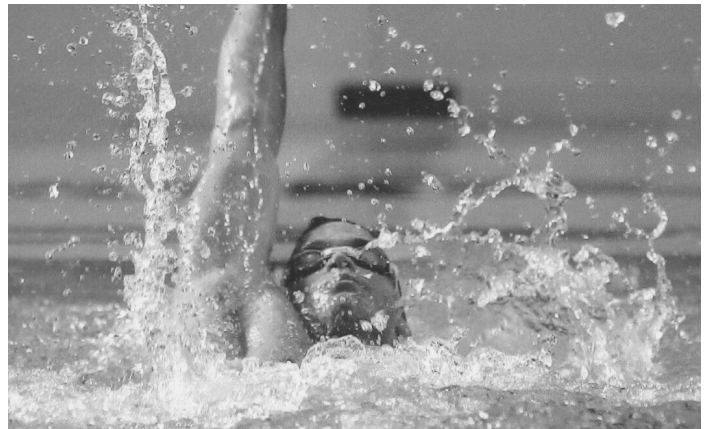


In 2007, he was named by Foundation Emergence as the person of the year for his fight against homophobia, and in 2008, he was asked by the Government of France to speak on LGBT issues at the United Nations in New York. He was also an ambassador for the historic Pride House at the Vancouver Winter Olympic Games in 2010, ensuring the LGBT community had a presence for the first time at the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In 2019 Mark received the Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Award for his ongoing fight for inclusion, equality and justice.

### *Keep learning:*

- Check out his website: [www.marktewksbury.org](http://www.marktewksbury.org)
- What is the impact of being the first openly gay Olympian? How would it feel?





# Mark Bonham

## PHILANTHROPIST

An LGBTQ2SI educator, activist and philanthropist, Mark S. Bonham is the benefactor of the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies at the University of Toronto, the world's largest academic research centre for queer studies.

Mark was included in the Financial Times of London (UK) OUTstanding LGBT Global Business Leaders list in 2017 and was named the 2018 Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Mark has had an extensive career in the Canadian financial industry, having founded two of Canada's largest mutual fund companies. He writes books on the LGBTQ2SI community, including *A Path to Diversity: LGBTQ Participation in the Working World* (2017), *Notables: 101 Global LGBTQ People who Changed the World* (2015), and *Champions: Biographies of Global LGBTQ Pioneers* (2014). As an LGBTQ activist,

Mark is Co-Founder and Managing Editor of the online biographical encyclopedia *QueerBio.Com*, a source of biographical information on over 17,000 international LGBTQ2SI individuals. Mark is also a contributor to *The Canadian Encyclopedia* on the financial industry. He has endowed the Bonham Scholarship and the Bonham Chair in International Finance at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto.

Among his many community projects, Mark has co-chaired the capital campaign for Toronto's new LGBTQ2SI youth homeless centre and was the lead donor and co-Chair of the Casey House Hospital Capital Campaign. Mark is a Member of the Group of 175, being the 175 most influential graduates of the University of Toronto.

### *Keep learning:*

- Check out his websites: [QueerBio.Com](http://QueerBio.Com) and [MarkSBonham.ca](http://MarkSBonham.ca)
- Creating 2SLGBTQIA+ programs have resulted in countless queer & trans academics. Why is this important?





# Michael Bach

CEO, AUTHOR, ADVOCATE, HUMAN

In the last twenty years, Michael Bach has built a solid reputation as one of the leading voices on workplace inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA) in Canada and internationally.

He has spent his adult life fighting for LGBTQ2+ inclusion, working with organizations like the LGBT Youth of Toronto, and the NYC LGBT Anti-Violence Project. He is the founder of Pride at Work Canada.

Some of Michael's colleagues have described him as 'that white guy who has a lot of the privilege but none of the fragility!'. Michael has worked professional in the area of IDEA for over 15 years. He founded the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI) in 2012 and continues to reshape the narrative of diversity and inclusion in Canadian workplaces. [Nzw/edit](https://www.nzw/edit)

CCDI has done extensive work in the LGBTQ2+ space. It was lauded for its extremely successful 2014 Sochi Winter Games protest campaign which drew much needed attention to Russia's institutionalized homophobia and transphobia at a time when it was hosting the Olympics. CCDI challenged the world with: "The games have always been a little bit gay. Let's fight to keep them that way".

## *Keep learning:*

- Michael's new book *Birds of All Feathers: Doing Diversity and Inclusion Right* is scheduled to be released in September 2020. Learn more at [www.michaelbach.com](http://www.michaelbach.com)
- His Monday Morning Musings on D&I related current affairs are available every week on YouTube
- You can keep up with all of Michael's thoughts and insights through social media. He is [@diversitydudemb](https://twitter.com/diversitydudemb)







# Randall Garrison

## MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR ESQUIMALT—SAANICH— -SOOKE

First elected to the House of Commons in 2011 and re-elected in 2015 and 2019,, Randall Garrison has been a strong voice for sexual orientation and gender identity rights both at home and abroad.

In 1996 Randall became the first out gay man to serve on a municipal police board in BC. In 2008 was the first openly gay candidate elected to the Esquimalt Municipal Council. Currently he is one of only four openly gay MPs.

Randall has been the SOGI Spokesperson for the NDP since 2011. He has been a champion for transgender rights, for employment equity rights, and for a clear path to safety in Canada for SOGI refugees. Randall continues to be an advocate for improved access to HIV testing and treatment for rural, remote, racialized, and indigenous Canadians and for decriminalization of sex work.

### *Keep learning:*

- Check out Randall's website: [randallgarrison.ndp.ca](http://randallgarrison.ndp.ca)
- Randall has not been afraid of talking about important issues in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Why is it important to help the most vulnerable members of our community?
- How can you help advocate for those who are struggling?



