

# *Silver Dart*

Canada's LGBTQ+ Aviation Newsletter  
Le bulletin LGBTQ+ en Aviation du Canada



Canadian Aviation Pride  
Fierté en aviation canadienne



September **2019** Septembre

"Connecting Canada's LGBTQ+ Aviation Community Since 2008"  
"Rassembler la communauté en aviation LGBTQ+ du Canada depuis 2008"

# Welcome Aboard

# Bienvenue à bord



Greetings from Amsterdam, still on deployment for another month before returning home to Vancouver.

It's been a great summer and a busy month for Canadian Aviation Pride in August, starting with the Vancouver Pride weekend social and booth.

Then it was the Montreal Fierté social and booth and more recently the Brantford airshow last week where we were able to have a booth up for that event.

I wish to thank all the sponsors. Including Nav Canada, Jazz Aviation, Air Canada, Sunwing and Boeing for providing support and swag.

Our booths and socials were run with help from Vera, George, Dorian, Adrian, Ed, Avin, Barret, Tommy, Rodrigo, Eric, Brad, Matt, Cindy, Max, Charles, Lee, Doris, Marc, Jonnie, Yanko, Bo and our other volunteers, who helped this summer. Without the passion and support of everyone, none of this would be possible.

One hundred percent of the donations and income from sales goes right back into the organization to allow us to participate in these events and create material like our Diversity and Inclusion resources.

THANK YOU!!!

I wish everyone smooth flying this summer.

Peter Litherland  
Co-Chair  
Canadian Aviation Pride  
[peter.litherland@aviationpride.ca](mailto:peter.litherland@aviationpride.ca)



Our cover photo features Nav Canada, the sponsor of our three Pride booths, in Toronto, Vancouver and Montréal, both last year and this year. Their Bombardier CL-600 Challenger aircraft was photographed in the static display at the Abbotsford Airshow on 12 August 2018.

Our Pride booths form part of our promotional program, but since we are a not-for-profit organization, it is not about advancing ourselves, but about showing our community that an LGBTQ+ organization exists in Canada for aviation professionals and enthusiasts. It is perhaps surprising how often at our booths people come up to us and say “I had no idea that an LGBTQ+ aviation organization existed”. Nav Canada’s sponsorship helps us spread that word.

That in turn leads to our social program which features events across Canada to bring together and provide networking opportunities for members of our community and our allies.

Our third program is our Diversity and Inclusion program which consists of outreach to aviation companies including airlines, to assist and support them on Inclusion issues.

All three programs rely on the donations of Directors, and the sponsorship of progressive companies who work with us to improve inclusion in our aviation industry, not only for our LGBTQ+ community, but for all under-represented groups. 84% of our revenue comes from these sources, and the remaining 16% from the sales of logo items at our booths. We invite you to check out the details in our [Annual Report](#).

We salute the commitment of sponsors like NAV CANADA.

Best wishes,

Adrian Walker  
Editor & Co-Chair  
[adrian.walker@aviationpride.ca](mailto:adrian.walker@aviationpride.ca)

# Progress to Inclusion Progress vers l'Intégration



## THE LGBTQ2+ EXPERIENCE IN CANADA

by **MARC LACROIX**

*Manager, Technical Operations  
Montreal Flight Information Region  
NAV CANADA*

### Growing up

In 1969, the Government of Canada took a substantial step in decriminalizing homosexual acts; this began the journey to ending our country's longstanding persecution of citizens based on their sexual orientation. As an adult looking back, I can only imagine what an incredibly difficult time that was for members of the gay community.

At the age of 12, I found myself reading about homosexuality in my grandmother's nursing textbooks. I wanted to know more about "myself", so I decided to do some research. The book defined homosexuality as a "mental illness" and a "personality disorder". Needless to say, this had quite an impact on my self-confidence given my young age, not to mention the societal influences at the time.



### Forever grateful

My formative years were spent in rural Ontario for which I am grateful. At that time, HIV was raging havoc mainly on the LGBTQ2+ community and perhaps more prevalent in larger communities. I am also very fortunate to have never been a victim of violence (robbery, physical or sexual assault) given the much higher victimization rates for gay, lesbian or bisexuals compared to heterosexuals.

Even as late as 2014, Statistics Canada reported that Canadians aged 18 years and older who identified as lesbian or gay and bisexual were much more likely than their heterosexual counterparts to be victims of violent crime. \*

### Present Day

At present, I am very thankful to have the support of my partner, Félix, my family, many friends and colleagues who have accepted me for who I am. I cannot overemphasize this enough.



I recall with great pride (no pun intended) the warm and accepting welcome I received from the NAV CANADA Executive Management Committee, the Board of Directors and other senior managers while attending the 2016 Points of Pride ceremonies with Félix.

Leading up to the event, I was concerned that it may be difficult and uncomfortable however; it proved to be an extremely positive experience to share. It reinforced my sense of confidence in our leadership and their commitment to Diversity & Inclusion.

In some ways, society has changed at an exponential pace in the last 20 years. The idea that I could write an article like this, serve on NAV CANADA's CEO Diversity & Inclusion Forum, or help lead and organize an LGBTQ2+ mentoring and recruitment activity at NAV CANADA would have been unimaginable for me, even five years ago.

Human Rights have a unifying effect on us all through the sharing of a set of fundamental values. This allow us to understand and appreciate who we are as a collective society today and can help us shape the future.

\*Source: 2014 General Social Survey on Canadians' Safety (Victimization), Statistics Canada

## Aviation Cartoon

## Caricature en aviation

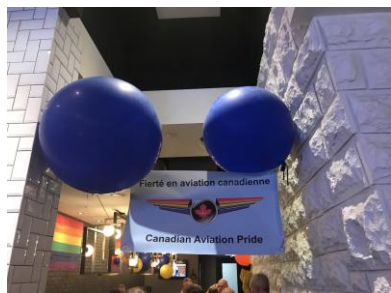


by [Kelly Kincaid](#)





### Vancouver Pre-Pride Party – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August



We held our summer celebration at Moxie's restaurant on Davie Street in Vancouver. CAP provided platters of meats, cheeses, fruit and veggies which the restaurant's chef put together for us, and kindly allowed us to bring in a couple of shrimp dishes. The restaurant is in the heart of Davie Village and was well-decorated for the Pride weekend, and even put up one of our CAP banners at the entrance to the room where we were holding our party.



Johnathan brought some door prizes courtesy of our friends at Sunwing and Boeing, and with the assistance of Moxie's management, we did draws for three lucky attendees.

Though we anticipated about 30 people, in fact we ended up with some 50 members and guests in attendance, including Director Doug, and Co-Chair Kit from our friends south of the border in the NGPA. We really appreciated seeing them join us for this key event in Vancouver's calendar.

There was no doubt that everyone was enjoying the event which went on well into the evening, and made an excellent start to the weekend's celebrations.







### Vancouver Pride Booth – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August



CAP's annual Vancouver Pride booth was set up as usual at Sunset Beach, with volunteers Barrett, Tommy, Rodrigo, Matt and Dorian doing the setup from 9:00 am onward, all choreographed by our Co-Chair Peter from across "The Pond" in Amsterdam!

We met many interesting people who came to the booth to find out what CAP is all about and what we do, and once again our signature rainbow necklaces were on sale along with a selection of luggage tags, keychains, wings pins, blue CAP buttons and other logo items. We rely on our booth sales across Canada to bring in a portion of our revenue each year to fund costs such as insurance, IT costs for website and email, brochure printing, as well as for buying tents and banners.



Several people took advantage of the opportunity to sign up for our free subscription service which makes sure they get a copy of our monthly newsletter and event advisories.

By 5 o'clock it was time to dismantle the booth, and Eric, Max, Graham, Ed and Adrian did the disassembly and with hand trucks and suitcases in tow, kindly brought the equipment back to its storage down the road.

## Member Profile

## Profil du membre



### Name

Bo Wang

### Age

37

### Residing City

Toronto

### How did you find out about CAP?

Facebook

### Why did you get involved in aviation?

Dreams become a pilot.

### Aviation Background

Student Pilot



### Tell us about the best trip you've ever taken or your favourite destination to jet off to.

Rome

### Anything else you want to say about yourself?

I enjoy keeping active and doing anything outdoors, respect nature and animals. Free Spirits have to Soar.

*Would you like to be featured in our Monthly Member Profile? Everyone is welcome to submit their profile, whether you're a long time member or are new to Canadian Aviation Pride. You can answer as many or as few of the questions as you feel comfortable with, and use of your last name and employer are optional. If you'd like to share your story, [CLICK HERE](#)*

*Souhaitez-vous figurer dans notre profil de membre mensuel? Tout le monde est invité à soumettre son profil, que vous soyez un membre de longue date ou un nouveau membre de Canadian Aviation Pride. Vous pouvez répondre à autant de questions que vous le souhaitez, ou en utiliser le moins possible, et l'utilisation de votre nom de famille et de votre employeur est facultative. Si vous souhaitez partager votre histoire, [CLIQUEZ ICI](#)*





## Photo Album

## Album photo



Montréal Pride Booth, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2019. A big thank you to our volunteers!



## Photo Album

## Album photo



Here are a couple of photos from our Brantford, Ontario booth on Wednesday 28th August. Our sincere thanks to George and Bo, as well as to Jonathan and Jamie who were there to help set up and subsequently move the whole booth to a spot where it wouldn't get blown away (in winds of 20 gusting to 40 knots!) and to take it all down afterwards.



## Flight Plan 2019

## Plan de vol 2019



With our summer celebrations now behind us, we have a few events left for 2019. Stay tuned for the dates of our pre-Christmas parties!

### Vancouver

December

Year end party

### Toronto

Saturday 21 September  
November

Wings Magazine 'Careers in Aviation' Expo – Booth  
Year end party

### Montréal

November

Year end party

### External Organizations Organisations externes

Saturday 21 September  
Saturday, 28 September

Pearson airport runway run  
Northern Lights Award Gala (Sheraton Parkway Toronto)

## Our Organization

## Notre Organization



### CO-CHAIRS - COPRÉSIDENTS

Peter Litherland  
Adrian Walker

### DIRECTORS - DIRECTEURS

George Patton  
Vera Teschow  
Dorian Pope

### COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR

Paul Latoza

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**On Line**

**En ligne**



## Web Page - Page Web



Canadian Aviation Pride's Web Page contains information about our organization, our objectives and who we are. Check it out, including our Resources and Newsletter pages!

<http://www.aviationpride.ca>

La page Web de Canadian Aviation Pride contient de l'information sur notre organisation, nos objectifs et qui nous sommes. Découvrez-le, y compris nos pages des ressources et des bulletins!

## Social Media - Médias sociaux



[FB Page](#)



[FB Group](#)



[Instagram](#)



[Twitter](#)

## Sponsors & Partners Commanditaires et Partenaires



We greatly appreciate the contributions from each of the following sponsors and partners who are supporting our outreach programs. Their support allows us to maintain our diversity and inclusion initiatives, our encouragement of youth entry into aviation and our promotional programs.

Canadian Aviation Pride is Canada's own federally incorporated LGBTQ+ Aviation organization, and encourages and assists both individuals and industry in reaching their inclusion goals. **Please support these progressive companies and organizations.**



[Web Site \(English\)](#)  
[Site web \(Français\)](#)



[Web Site \(English\)](#)  
[Site web \(Français\)](#)



AIR CANADA

[Web Site \(English\)](#)  
[Site web \(Français\)](#)



[Web Site \(English\)](#)  
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THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR  
**GENDER+SEXUAL  
DIVERSITY**

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[Web Site \(English\)](#)  
[Site web \(Français\)](#)



First Nations  
Technical  
Institute

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## In Closing



## En clôture

Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter. As we get closer to each event, we will send out further details and a reminder.

If you would like to volunteer or help lead an event, or if you have ideas you would like us to consider, please don't hesitate to let us know. Email us at [info@aviationpride.ca](mailto:info@aviationpride.ca).

Blue skies and tail winds!

Merci d'avoir pris le temps de lire notre bulletin. Plus proche de chaque événement, nous enverrons d'autres détails et un rappel.

Si vous voulez être un bénévole, ou aider à diriger un événement, ou si vous avez des idées à nous soumettre, n'hésitez pas à nous le faire savoir. Envoyez-nous un courriel à [info@aviationpride.ca](mailto:info@aviationpride.ca).

Ciel bleu et vent arrière!

**CANADIAN AVIATION PRIDE**  
**FIERTÉ EN AVIATION CANADIENNE**  
[www.aviationpride.ca](http://www.aviationpride.ca)



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