



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***Interim Place launches gender diversity and trans inclusion policy during Pride month***

JUNE 8, 2020- PEEL REGION, ON- Interim Place, a leading provider of supports for survivors of gender-based violence in Peel Region for over three decades, is opening its doors to trans, non-binary, Two-Spirit, and genderqueer communities.

***“With the commencement of Pride Month in June, we recognize our responsibility to speak out about structural and systemic barriers that result in homophobia, transphobia, violence, harm, and exclusion,” said Sharon Floyd, Executive Director, Interim Place. “We know that social change is often made possible by the mobilization of community in response to injustice.”***

Recent events and disregard for Black Lives that have been captured by the media, including the tragic death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, serve as a stark reminder of the continued violence and racism enshrined in our existing socio-political structures. During this year’s pride, it is especially important -and our collective responsibility- to continue to elevate the voices of queer and trans people of colour, whose experiences of violence are compounded by homophobia, transphobia, racism and other forms of oppression.

Pride Month reminds us of 2SLGBTQ+ communities’ roots in the uprisings against police brutality at Stonewall. The Stonewall riots acted as a catalyst for change, advancing gay rights around the world. Marsha P. Johnson was a revolutionary 2SLGBTQ+ rights activist who is credited with being instrumental in defending transgender rights. In the words of Marsha P. Johnson, “No pride for some of us without liberation for all of us.”

As a leader in Peel Region, Interim Place recognizes our role in amplifying the voices of all communities impacted by violence as well as the importance of challenging systemic violence, racism, oppression, and exclusionary practices. Recognizing our responsibility, we conducted an audit in 2018 on 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion and accessibility with Springtide Resources. The findings presented multiple avenues for agency growth and inclusion. A pivotal recommendation was to be clear internally and externally on how - and for whom- we provide support. This led to the revision and expansion of our Trans Inclusion Policy to include two-spirit, genderqueer, trans, and non-binary people.

As of June 2 ,2020 with the launch our Gender Diversity and Trans Inclusion Policy, Interim Place now provides services to cis women, as well as two-spirit, genderqueer, trans, and non-binary people. Services include access to Interim Place’s 24-Hour Crisis Line Program, the Central Intake Line Program that provides coordinated access to Transitional Housing Supports in Peel Region, the Community Support and Outreach Program, the Sexual Violence Support Program, and the Shelter Program.

***“This policy is long overdue. It is important that we ensure our supports and services are responsive to all survivors of gender based violence, ” said Rebecca Rogers, Manager of Programs and Services. “Trans and genderqueer people face additional barriers and transphobia***

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***when accessing shelter services and community supports. For example, we know that trans men have reported that they are unsafe in men's shelters and feel unwelcome in women's shelters. We are creating safer and more inclusive services for all survivors of gender based violence. We want Two-Spirit, trans, non-binary, and genderqueer communities to know that they are welcome here!"***

Those interested in improving or adopting a 2SLGBTQ+ policy framework can contact Interim Place to obtain a copy of Interim Place's Gender Diversity and Trans Inclusion Policy. Please contact Rebecca Rogers, Manager, Program and Services at [rebecca@interimplace.com](mailto:rebecca@interimplace.com).

If you or someone you know has experienced violence, we are here to support you. Please contact our 24-hour Crisis Line at 905-403-0864.

### **About Interim Place**

Interim Place is an anti-violence organization providing shelter, counselling and advocacy supports for women, Two-Spirit, gender queer, trans and non-binary folks and their children experiencing any form of violence in the Region of Peel and beyond. Interim Place operates two Emergency Shelters, Crisis Support Lines, Community Support and Outreach Program, a Central Intake line, Sexual Violence Support Program, and Public Education Program.

### **For media inquiries please contact:**

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