



Youth Leadership Shines at Pride Launch 2024

May 31, 2024

Local high school students were at the head of the class during the Pride Month Launch 2024 event hosted in the Municipality of the County of Kings Council Chambers May 30.

Two Northeast Kings Education Centre students, both members of the school's Sexuality and Gender Awareness (SAGA) Club, volunteered to host the event.



“The fact that we have this club where we can go and feel safe without harassment or judgement of who we are and just be the people we are is a real privilege,” they said.

Before hosting the Pride Launch, they asked fellow students to share a few thoughts on pride.

“For me, pride means to be yourself unapologetically... enjoy what you enjoy, be with it, do what you love, be with the people who make you happy and just live life the way you want to live it,” one student responded.

They also asked students to reflect on why it's important for schools to celebrate Pride. Here are a few examples of what students had to say:

- “I think it shows the queer students of the school that the administration cares and even if the administration isn't queer, they get it. ... queer acceptance tends to go hand-in-hand with other forms of acceptance. People who accept one group tend to accept others, so showing support for one group... can also show a certain level of support for other groups as well.”

- “It’s important that schools celebrate pride because there is so much hate in the world and it’s important that schools are a place where everyone can feel welcomed and safe.”
- “It shows kids... and just people in general, that you’re not alone and that it isn’t something to be ashamed of and that... you can actually be yourself and be proud.”

Matt Butler, Supervisor of School Support and Equity with the Annapolis Valley Centre for Education, thanked the students for being involved in ongoing efforts to promote health, acceptance, and positive self-concept.

“You are the absolute future, and you have the answers,” said Butler. “We just need to listen to you.”

Diversity Kings County representatives Coun. Lexie Burgess and Coun. June Granger spoke of the importance of creating safe spaces and working with youth leading the way for positive change in our communities.

“Thank you for being patient with us while we learn,” said Granger.

“Not only do we have to learn, we have to unlearn and relearn.”

For more information about the upcoming Pride Festival Valley Pride planned in celebration of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, visit <https://www.avalleypride.ca/>.