

# CANADIAN ANTI-HATE NETWORK'S GUIDE FOR PRIDE DEFENDERS (ABRIDGED VERSION)

This flyer is an abridged version of our Guide for Pride Defenders, which we'll be launching shortly – keep an eye out for it on our website ([www.antihate.ca](http://www.antihate.ca)) and on Twitter (@antihateca). Below are some suggestions on how to participate in a Pride Defence during the event. See the other side of this flyer for some common goals of the far-right during Pride events, and how you can thwart them.

## Have a buddy

Using a buddy system allows you to stay safer, check in with each other and have a support system if needed. You don't need to be joined at the hip, but you should be aware of where the other person is at all times.

## Know your role

Some folks choose to be at the front, carrying banners or flags, while some prefer to be present, but in the background. These environments can be heated and triggering. Knowing your limits will help you make intentional choices.

## Take breaks away from the action

A Pride defence can be a long day. If you have the numbers for it, try to take breaks away from the core of the action. However, be aware of how many people you reasonably need to hold your defence line, and do your best not to let your numbers fall below that.

## Prioritize first aid

Heat-related conditions are really common at outdoor events in the summer – be on the look out for signs of heat illness (scan QR code for a list →) and respond quickly. Also be on the lookout for potential head injuries.



We hope your Pride defence does not face physical violence, but if it does, take any injuries – especially head injuries – seriously. Respect people's autonomy regarding medical care, and at the same time, strongly encourage anyone who receives a blow to the head to get checked out by on-site medics.

## Arrive together, leave together

It's important to make sure no one is left on their own at the event site before or after the action. Consider having a meet up spot on a transit route. People who are driving should think about parking further away and meeting up with transit users for part of the trip.

*We're in your corner. We know that we will win.*

*In solidarity,*

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# THE FAR-RIGHT'S GOALS AND HOW TO THWART THEM

Far-right protestors and bad actors have a variety of goals when they show up at Pride and other 2SLGBTQ+ community events. Here is a short list of some of those goals, and some strategies you can use to thwart them. See the other side of this flyer for some general suggestions for participating in a Pride Defence

## Far-Right Goal: Preventing or disrupting participants' access to the event

- Arrive early – long before the anti-2SLGBTQI+ protestors plan to – and take up space in the location the protestors plan to set up.
- Assign Defenders to offer friendly accompaniment past hate protestors.

## Far-Right Goal: Spreading hate messages (especially to a “captive” audience)

- Prepare to “hold the line” against their attempts to move in closer on the event.
- Use large banners and flags to create a visual barrier and claim physical space.
- Use loud music and whistles to disrupt the hate protestors' verbal harassment. Bring and distribute earplugs to protect your hearing.

## Far-Right Goal: Goading counter-protestors into confrontations

- They might try to start “debates” to provoke a hostile reaction. Remember, they aren't there with open minds and you don't have to talk to them.
- They may try to start a fight with inflammatory rhetoric or by getting inside people's personal space. Their goal is to get footage where they look like victims and martyrs (see next section). Keep a cool head.
- Consider whether being on the front line is a realistic option for you, as it can be highly triggering. This is not a moral judgement – there are other important roles!
- Do whatever is necessary, proportional, and reasonable to defend yourselves if they escalate to more serious physical violence.

## Far-Right Goal: Creating propaganda by filming

- Create enough of a ruckus with amplified music, drum lines, and whistles
- Refuse to be goaded into an argument or a fight (see above)
- Take safety precautions to conceal your identity – wear a mask at all times; cover tattoos and piercings; consider covering your hair and ears
- Far-right outlets like Rebel Media, The Post Millennial, and True North Centre (and other livestreamers and content creators) often attend progressive social justice events and interview participants in order to generate sensationalist content.
  - Inform others at the event who these reporters are, and what they are trying to do. Note that they may not self-identify, and you may have to press them for who they are filming for. Do not engage with the disruptive reporter at all – only the person they're trying to interview. You will likely be captured in the disruptive reporter's footage. This is a good role for someone with a lot of patience and ability to not be goaded into engaging with the disruptive reporter.