

February 18th 2021

CUPE 3906 Executive Stand in Solidarity with Hamilton Pride Defenders:

Today we call attention to the on-going persecution of our city's LGBTQ2SI and anarchist community by Hamilton Police following the terrible events of Pride 2019, in which homophobic and white supremacist aggression was facilitated through deliberate police inaction. A year and a half later, members of the pride community continue to navigate unjust legal charges for protecting their celebrations from targeted violence. Amongst these members is Barry Conway, a long-time labour activist facing trial in March 2021. The CUPE 3906 Executive stands in solidarity with Barry and all Pride comrades in their fight against policing, white supremacist and right-wing organizing in Hamilton.

There are deep-rooted connections between this instance of persecution and the state-led police violence against 1492 Land Back Lane, the systematically racist operations of Hamilton Police Service, and the criminalization of community members who are unsheltered or who experience economic violence. As social movement unionists we recognize how policing serves the interests of capital and the ruling class through the above-mentioned harms, and we condemn the distinct role of police in breaking strikes, sabotaging worker organizing and attempting to repress collective power. With this understanding, we recognize our common interest in supporting Pride Defenders and the imperative to work toward dismantling systems of oppression that are upheld by hate groups in Hamilton and the city's Police Service.

In Solidarity,
The CUPE 3906 Executive