



## **Statement on Anti-2SLGBTQIA+ Demonstrations**

**SEPT. 18, 2023** – PSAC 901, the union comprised of graduate student employees at Queen's University, strongly condemns the anti-2SLGBTQIA+ rally titled "1 Million March 4 Children" taking place across Canada on Sept. 20, 2023, including in Kingston, Ontario. Gender affirming care, education and policies save lives and help children of diverse gender backgrounds thrive. PSAC 901 is determined, alongside 2SLGBTQIA+ activists in Kingston, to keep hatred out of our city and university communities.

PSAC 901 is a pro-2SLGBTQIA+ organization that values its gender diverse, queer and trans members. As a chartered local of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, we practice a zero-tolerance policy toward hate. We are participating in a peaceful Counter Protest alongside a number of groups, including Kingston-based gender diverse, trans, queer Muslims, drag artists and union activists, from 9-11am on Sept. 20, in front of Kingston City Hall and Confederation Basin. We call on our membership and everyone in Kingston, including the Queen's University community, to join us in countering this hateful and harmful demonstration in ways that are safe for them.

The "1 Million March" is protesting queer inclusive education in schools, demanding that educators only use transgender pupils' given names and pronouns in class, and want to out trans children to their families. Many supporters of the March want to ban life saving gender affirming care, and are pressuring the government to enact laws like the "don't say gay" bills in the United States, which prohibits any mention of sexual orientation and gender identity within the public education sector.

PSAC 901 is disturbed to see how far-right politicians are pandering to various hate groups through transphobic statements and the promise of anti-trans legislation in Canada under the guise of 'parents' rights.' In an alarming development, the federal Conservative Party of Canada [voted to include two anti-trans policies in their Party Platform during their policy convention](#) the weekend of Sept 16, 2023 (Salerno 2023). Not only are these policies fueling the far right's hatred and discrimination towards 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals in Canadian society, it is also manipulating religious fundamentalist groups into joining this banner. These violent policies, and the discriminatory beliefs which fuel them, have devastating consequences on the safety, security, and freedom of 2SLGBTQIA+ people, particularly minors and students.

As the union of graduate student employees at Queen's University, PSAC 901 stands in solidarity with 2SLGBTQIA+ people around the world, in Canada, and those in our community affected by transphobia, homophobia, biphobia, and all oppressive derivatives of cis-heteronormativity. Hate and bigotry have no place in our communities.

***For additional comments or information, please contact: Qazi Mustabeen Noor, Equity Officer, [equity.psac901@gmail.com](mailto:equity.psac901@gmail.com)***

**<http://psac901.org>**