

Intl Day of Pink Presents

# COLOURING

WITH

PRIDE

5th  
EDITION

12 trans and queer Canadians  
you SHOULD know

ART: RON CREPIN

JOURNÉE  
ROSE  
INTL.  
DAY OF  
PINK

Colouring with Pride  
Day of Pink  
Launched Winter 2022

# CREATOR'S NOTE

Since launching the first edition we continue to be inspired by trans and queer people in Canada.

Thank you to all those who nominated this new set of heroes who continue to create safer and more inclusive spaces.

We also want you to know that this book is not done. We will be creating more, so please reach out, send us your ideas and names of folks you wanna see featured!

Learn more about the Day of Pink at:  
[DayOfPink.org](http://DayOfPink.org)

Thank you,

Ron Crepin



# Martha Chaves

## COMEDIAN

Martha Chaves is a Latin-Canadian-LGBTQ award-winning comedian, actor, activist, and playwright.

With her unique sense of humour, friendly-in-your-face style, and devilish charm, Martha paints hilarious stories drawn heavily from personal experiences, like her upbringing in Latin America. She came to Canada as a refugee, but Martha has established herself as one of the country's most sought-after comedians.

She's known throughout Canada for her coast-to-coast stand-up tours and for her tailor-made corporate shows, her many appearances on the Just for Laughs Festival, the Winnipeg Comedy Festival, The Debaters, and as a regular cast member of the hit CBC show Because News.

She starred in her two national comedy specials: Comics! on the CBC and Something About Martha on the Comedy Network.

Martha won Stand-up Comic of the Year at the 2018 Canadian Comedy Awards, and her comedy album, "CHUNKY SALSA," was featured among the 11 Best Comedy Albums of 2019 (Interrobang Magazine.)

She is also a fierce human rights activist, using humour to challenge the status quo in four different languages. She's the host of "When Feminists Rule the World"- a new podcast series produced by The Nobel Women's Initiative, which is run by five Nobel Peace Prize winners.

### *Keep learning:*

- Follow her on Instagram @comedianmarthachaves
- As a lesbian comedian of colour, Martha lives with diverse lived experiences. Why are diverse voices important in the 2SLGBTQIA+ community?
- Martha has centred her storytelling and comedy to always include human rights activism. What can you do to be an activist every day?





# Amanda Rheume

## SINGER, SONGWRITER

One of Rheume's great gifts as a songwriter is her ability to take the personal and make it universal, drawing upon her own experience to deliver messages with a wide resonance.

She digs deep on *The Skin I'm In*, reflecting upon her Metis heritage, as on the profoundly moving title track and "Return To The Water," and addressing issues of identity and mental health. Her earlier albums met with widespread critical acclaim.

2013's *Keep A Fire* earned her a 2014 Canadian Folk Music Award for Aboriginal Songwriter of The Year as well as a Juno Award nomination for Aboriginal Album of the Year, while 2016's *Holding Patterns* received a Canadian Folk Music Awards nomination. An engaging performer, Rheume has developed a following across Canada and in Europe, where she tours regularly.

She has long employed her music as a force for good, as shown by three trips to Afghanistan to perform for Canadian military personnel, plus visits to the Alert base in Canada's far north and the Indigenous community of Attawapiskat.

Rheume co-founded *Babes4Breasts*, an initiative that, through concerts and recording projects, raised money for breast cancer charities across Canada over a 10-year period. This is an artist with a heart as big as her talent.

### *Keep learning:*

- Check out her website: [amandarheume.com](http://amandarheume.com)
- Amanda speaks about her experiences as a Metis queer & trans rights activist. Can you describe the distinct experience of Metis People, compared to First Nations or Inuit Peoples?
- Music is very powerful. What is your favourite song that speaks about important issues or acts as a call to action?





# Jonathan Nathaniel

## ACTOR & ADVOCATE

Jonathan Nathaniel is an unapologetically queer, Black Canadian television actor and 2SLGBTQIA+ rights advocate, based in Toronto, whose affable and gutsy personality landed him a seat 'on the couch' for 3 seasons of MTV Canada and LOGO's 2009 groundbreaking, sleeper hit '1 Girl 5 Gays'.

Its personal, provocative and progressive nature is what garnered the show its fervent cult following and cemented its place in queer television history.

Jonathan started performing and training in theatre as a child and, after graduating from the Dramatic Arts Program at Mayfield Secondary School, moved to Toronto to continue training and embark on a career as a professional actor in television and film.

Between work on various television productions, Jonathan co-produced and starred in 3 short films

that had successful screenings on the film festival circuit including Toronto's Inside Out LGBT Film Festival at TIFF Bell Lightbox and ReelWorld.

The future looks brighter for QTBIPOC talent in the Canadian entertainment industry today and Jonathan is looking forward to being, one of many diverse artists, to provide much-needed representation and multifaceted performances of the queer experience onscreen.

### *Keep learning:*

- Follow Jonathan on Instagram @jnthnntl
- The experiences of QTBIPOC folks are very important. Can you name 5 other QTBIPOC leaders in Canada?
- Why is it important for 2SLGBTQIA+ communities to challenge racism and create space for the stories and experiences of QTBIPOC folk?







# Rahim Thawer

## INTL ADVOCATE

Rahim Thawer has had a strong presence in Canada's LGBTQ community since he began working in the HIV/AIDS sector in 2009.

He works as a psychotherapist, clinical supervisor, facilitator and public speaker, sessional lecturer, writer, and community organizer. Rahim loves all things mental health and is particularly interested in examining innovation in queer relationships.

Whether in a classroom or therapy consulting room, he strives to operate from a harm reduction, sex-positive, anti-oppressive and trauma-informed approach providing psychotherapy to newcomer, racialized, queer, trans and HIV-affected communities around issues of anxiety, depression, trauma, body image, and problem substance use. This is complemented by his vast public speaking portfolio, which is both thematically and regionally diverse spanning from Toronto to Ottawa, Winnipeg to Vancouver, and from New York to Austin to Atlanta.



He developed curriculum for a number of courses in Centennial College's Addiction and Mental Health Worker Program (AMHW) before its launch in Fall 2016.

Rahim was one of the co-founders of Ismaili Queers: Advocates for Pluralism and dedicated almost 10 years to community organizing with Salaam Canada, a national volunteer-run LGBTQ Muslim organization. He was also a co-editor and essay contributor in a local history anthology entitled *Any Other Way: How Toronto Got Queer*, which was shortlisted for the 2017 Toronto Book Awards.

### *Keep learning:*

- Check out Rahim's work: [affectiveconsult.ca](http://affectiveconsult.ca)
- Rahim talks about the importance of taking care of your mental health and well-being. What do you do to support your health?
- Rahim believes in talking about difficult topics. What topics do you feel are difficult to talk about, and why is learning about them important?





# Gavin Crawford

## CANADIAN TREASURE

Gavin was born in Taber, Alberta. After graduating from the BFA Acting Program at the University of British Columbia, Gavin moved to Toronto where he quickly took the comedy scene by storm.

His unique style of performing character monologues in a stand-up setting got him noticed by Toronto's famed Second City where he joined the cast in 1998 for two main-stage productions: Y2K: The Chip Hits the Fan and Nude Beachwear, 100% Off.

In 2000, The Gavin Crawford Show was a critical success for the Comedy Network. Following international recognition, he would star in 8 seasons of This Hour has 22 Minutes on CBC. during which he created countless original characters and interviewed many politicians, (including Prime Minister Stephen Harper) often in character as teen correspondent Mark Jackson.

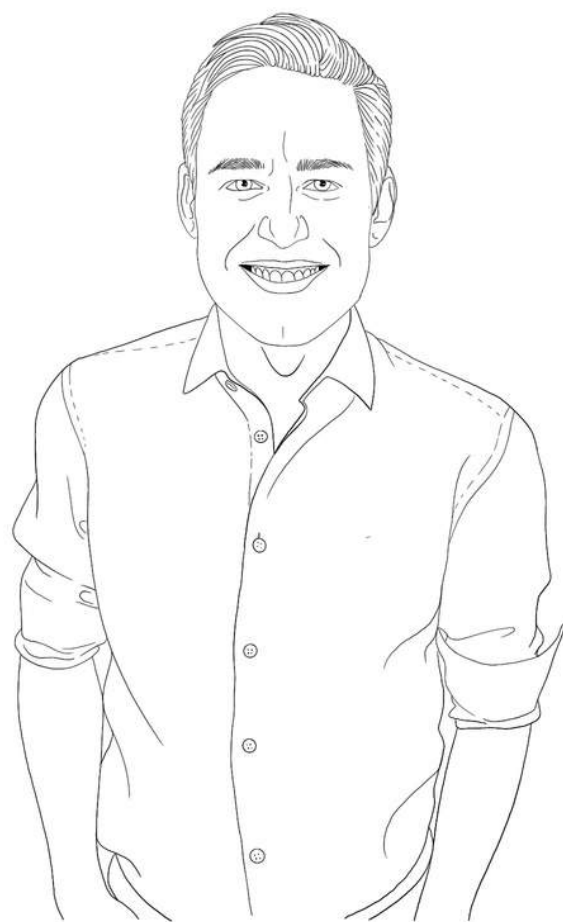
After 8 successful years with 22 Minutes, Gavin made the difficult decision to leave the show. His most recent work includes a recurring role on the upcoming series 24 Hour Rental and his 1/2 hour pilot, Gavin Crawford's Wild West aired on CBC in July, and he continues to perform live with upcoming solo shows at Montreal's Just For Laughs Festival and the Edinburgh Fringe.

Today you can hear Gavin on Because News on CBC. He is also a regular at Fringe festivals and live performances.

### *Keep learning:*

- Check out Gavin's website: [gavincrawford.com](http://gavincrawford.com)
- Gavin is always his authentic self and brings that queerness to his work. Why is the representation of queer stories so important?
- Comedy is a significant tool, and Gavin has used it to talk about important issues, most recently with Because News. How can you use comedy to discuss difficult issues?





# Tim McCaskell

## HIV ACTIVIST

Growing up in the little town of Beaverton Ontario, well before the “decriminalization” of same sex sex, seems an unlikely springboard for a life associated with queer activism. But Tim McCaskell was soon caught up in the anti-war, anti-establishment movements of the 60s and 70s which finally led him to gay liberation.

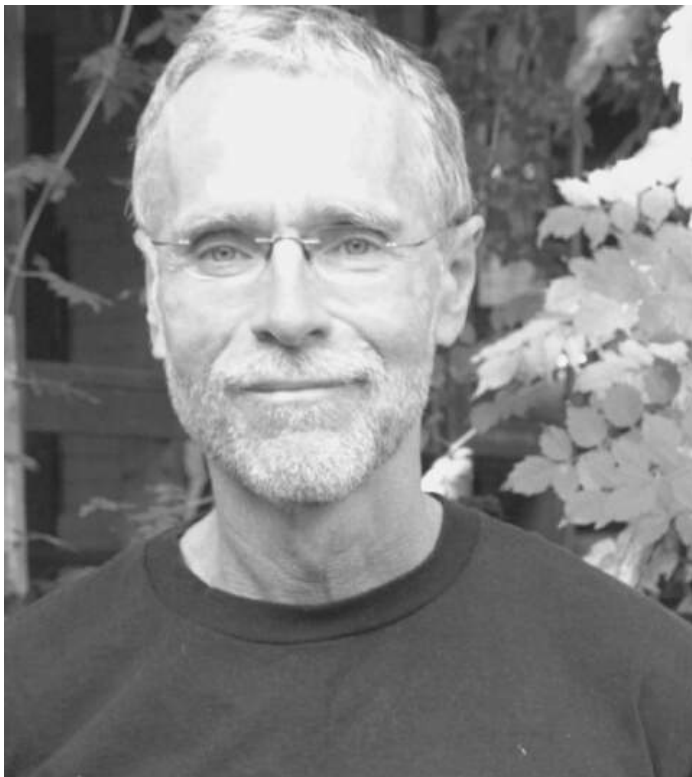
Tim came out at Toronto Pride in August 1974 and soon joined the collective of The Body Politic (TBP), Canada’s national gay liberation magazine. When police raided Toronto bay baths and arrested hundreds of men in February 1981 he was part of The Right to Privacy Committee, helping organize the massive demonstrations and community response. By the mid 80s his work as the international news editor for TBP put him in touch with Simon Nkoli, the leading gay anti-apartheid activist in South Africa, and he helped organize the Simon Nkoli Anti-Apartheid Committee, building support for anti-apartheid activism in queer communities in Canada.

He also worked at the Toronto Board of Education for 20 years doing anti-racism and anti-homophobia work among students and teachers.

Tim has been living with HIV since the early 80s and was a founding member of AIDS ACTION NOW! which fought against government indifference to the epidemic, and demanded research and access to treatments for People Living with AIDS/HIV. He continued his social justice work with Queers Against Israeli Apartheid in Toronto, and later with the No Pride In Policing Coalition, supporting Black Lives Matter’s demand for an end to uniformed police participation in Toronto’s Pride parade

### *Keep learning:*

- Tim McCaskell has authored countless articles and books on queer and trans politics. Which of his books is your favourite?
- Things have changed so much since Tim was a child, and he still advocates for change. Why is important for folks to support activism as it changes?





# Lenore MacAdam

## LEADER IN DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Lenore MacAdam is the Head of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at Corus Entertainment. In this role, Lenore leads the design, development and execution of the company's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion strategy. Previously, Lenore was the National Inclusion Leader at Deloitte Canada, reporting to the Chief Inclusion Officer, where she also served as the National Chair of the LGBTQ Employee Resource Group, and the Accessibility Employee Resource Group. She has previously worked in management consulting, focusing primarily on organizational development and process efficiency. She has worked in employee engagement, performance management, innovation, culture, and policy development.

She is a frequent panelist and speaker at events related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. As a volunteer, Lenore has served as the Chair of the Board of three organizations – Pride Toronto, Pride at Work Canada, and Community One Foundation. She has also served as a Board Member at Springtide Resources, Canadian Business SenseAbility, and the Nexus Group at the Rotman School of Management.

She was also a member of the Employer's Partnership Table within the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario, which was formed to advise the government on innovative ways to connect persons with disabilities to the job market.

In May 2015, Lenore started a series of networking breakfasts for women in the LGBTQ2S communities. Over the next two years, the breakfasts grew to a national program, taking place in ten cities across Canada. The breakfast series was sponsored by Pride at Work Canada and Deloitte Canada.

Lenore received the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion's Award of Success in the "Community Contributor of the Year" category in 2018, and the Deloitte Lynda Bowles Spirit Award in 2019. Lenore has a BAH in Communications from Queen's University and an MBA from the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto

### *Keep learning:*

- Learn more about Lenore here: [linkedin.com/in/lmacadam](https://www.linkedin.com/in/lmacadam)
- Lenore has served as the Chair of 3 of Canada's largest 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations. Why is volunteering in the community important?







# Michael Cherny

## BEACON OF DIVERSITY

When Michael Cherny came out as trans, he became a beacon of diversity on buttoned-down Bay Street.

Michael is a diverse and agile leader in every sense of the word, having served clients in the consumer, financial services, and mining industries delivering assurance, advisory, and consulting services, and is currently the Senior Lead for the Future of Trust at Deloitte Canada.

A proud and active member of the 2SLGBTQ+ community and a Director on the Board of The 519 as well as on the Advisory Committee for LGBTQ+ engagement with CPA Ontario, he previously served as Treasurer on the Board of Pride Toronto and a Director on the Board of Start Proud as well.

Michael is a member of CPA Ontario's Council and Women College Hospital Foundation's Development Committee.

A community builder at heart, he has been recognized as a Catalyst Canada Honours Champion, CPA Ontario Emerging Leader and Notable Life LGBTQ+ Leader of the Year and is a thought leader in the diversity, equity and inclusion space.

### *Keep learning:*

- Michael has been featured in a number of media interviews, including Pivot Magazine. Read the article, and share why you believe Michael's story is so important?
- Trans activists in all workspaces. What can you do to support trans and non-binary folk in your school, community and workplace?





# Andrew Gurza

## DISABILITY AWARENESS CONSULTANT

Andrew Gurza is a Disability Awareness Consultant.

He brings with him a unique combination of lived experience as a disabled man with Cerebral Palsy, as well as a professional expertise from building a brand aimed at bringing those experiences to the public conscience. He received his MA of Legal Studies from Carleton University looking at the law and disability.

His written work has been featured in Huffington Post, The Advocate, and Everyday Feminism, among others. He has been invited to speak on topics such as traveling while disabled, being disabled in the healthcare system, disability in the arts and disability employment.

Andrew is the lead behind Disability After Dark. Disability After Dark is a brand aimed at talking about sexuality and disability. There is so much fear, discomfort misinformation around sex and disability out there today. Disability After Dark and Andrew Gurza want to shine a big bright light on how sexuality and disability feels for real - uncensored. Through podcasts, blogs and presentations DisabilityAfterDark offers a unique glimpse into sex and disability that shines a light on the intersectionality of sex and disability, the fun found in sex and disability, and the vulnerability of sex and disability that we very rarely talk about.

### *Keep learning:*

- Learn more at: [andrewgurza.com](http://andrewgurza.com)
- Andrew talks about how folks with disabilities are underrepresented in 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. What can you do to help create inclusive spaces for everyone in the community?
- Why is important to talk about diverse experiences in 2SLGBTQIA+ communities?





# Shelly Skinner

## CHANGE MAKER

Shelly Skinner (She/Her) is an activist, educator, change-maker, and community builder. With her lived experience of homelessness, racism, domestic and sexual violence, and black queer homophobia and discrimination, she carries a story of inspirational perseverance, resiliency, and dedication to the betterment of her community. In recent years, she has established herself as a sought-after leader whose influence resonates in the communities of Barrie, Ontario, and the Greater Simcoe County Region and beyond.

In 2020, amid a global pandemic, Shelly founded UPlift Black (<http://upliftblack.org>) the first social service agency dedicated to increasing the visibility and socio-economic development of the black community in Simcoe/Muskoka. To combat homophobia among the black community and to challenge misogynoir, UPlift Black is anchored in 2SLGBTQ+ inclusivity, with hopes of leading the change in what it means to be a diverse and inclusive social agency.

Overall, Shelly brings passion, leadership and drive to everything she does, and she is an inspiration to people of various backgrounds to become the leaders their communities sorely need.

### *Keep learning:*

- Learn more about UPlift Black: [upliftblack.org](http://upliftblack.org)
- Why is important to elevate voices that work to support queer and trans black folk in our community?
- What work have you done, or do you plan to do, to learn about and challenge racism in the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities?





# Larry Rousseau

## WORKERS RIGHTS

**Workers rights are Human Rights!**

Larry is currently the Executive Vice President of the Canadian Labour Congress, Canada's largest labour body representing over 3 million unionized workers.

Larry has a long history of trade union and political activism, particularly on issues like labour relations, health and safety, human rights, and equity. His involvement in the 2SLGBTQI, anti-racism and peace movements has been an integral part of his engagement and commitment to social justice.

Coming out in 1999 at the age of 42, Larry's true journey on the road of activism started by blowing his closet door off its hinges.

Fully engaged, whether singing and fundraising for AIDS-HIV and other causes, upon returning to the Public Service in 2003, he found his true calling - serving those who serve the public - as an elected union leader, defending those whose rights were being disrespected in the workplace, including and especially 2SLGBTQI workers.

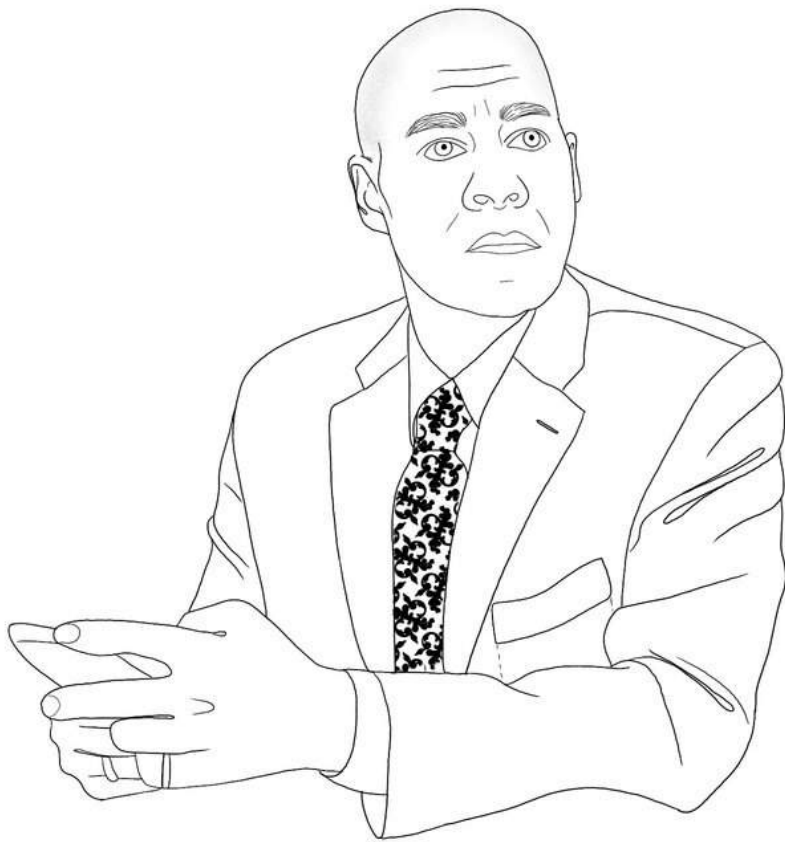
Our work will never be done, as long as hate is given space. Therefore, let us continue our long march on the moral arc of the universe, with love, hope and optimism!

### *Keep learning:*

- Larry Rousseau's Vice-President position with the Canadian Labour Congress makes him Canada's highest elected labour leader. Why is it important for unions to support 2SLGBTQIA+ communities?
- Unions have been behind a number of campaigns for 2SLGBTQIA+ rights. What campaigns have you seen?
- Why are unions important today?







# Icesis Couture

## DRAG ACTIVIST

Icesis Couture is the stage name of Steven Granados-Portelance, a Canadian drag performer. The nation's capital's first Canada's Drag Season 2 contestant Icesis Couture is an "Ottawa Girl" born and raised, with family roots in El Salvador. Icesis Couture's unique and passion filled performances are legendary within Canada's Drag community.

With a drag career spanning 14 years across Canada and the United States, her versatility is limitless, crossing boundaries and genres, marking a stage presence that is hard to ignore, or label.

The moment her heels hit the stage, the passion and effort is evident showcasing creativity and humour, and enchanting audiences across North America with a signature style of beauty, glamour and fashion.

From glamorous showstoppers to club kid cool, you never know what to expect from this multi-talented illusionist.



Icesis Couture's love for the art of Drag and the creative outlet it provides is what fuels her to keep evolving and pushing the boundaries of performance art, providing an entertainment spectacle and experience that leaves her appreciative audiences howling for more.

A leader in Canada's drag community, Icesis has raised thousands of dollars for local and national 2SLGBTQIA+ charities. Icesis believes that art has the power to transform realities and tell stories.

In 2021, Icesis Couture modelled the Amsterdam Rainbow Dress. The dress is made from the flags of countries where queer and trans identities are illegal. As rights change, flags are removed from the dress and replaced with rainbow flags.

### *Keep learning:*

- Follow Icesis on instagram @itsqueenicesis
- What have drag queens done to lead 2SLGBTQIA+ activism in our community?
- Which other drag performers are you familiar with?





