

June 1, 2020

Office of the President

1050 KANEFF TOWER  
4700 KEELE ST.  
TORONTO ON  
CANADA M3J 1P3  
T 416 736 5200  
[www.yorku.ca/president](http://www.yorku.ca/president)

**A Message from President Lenton on Pride Month 2020**

Today we mark the beginning of Pride Month, a time to celebrate 2SLGBTQIA communities and honor their continued struggle for equality. While we may not have the vibrant in-person celebrations that usually take place on our campuses, throughout the city and across the world this June, we still have the opportunity to recognize Pride Month and to affirm our dedication to creating a more diverse and inclusive society.

As individuals and institutions, we must not only acknowledge the historical and contemporary challenges of 2SLGBTQIA people, but we must engage in our collective responsibility to be allies for equity. For York University, the heart of that responsibility lies in our dedication to education and scholarship that takes up these issues to better the world for all.

Last fall, we celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of York's Sexuality Studies Program, which is one of the few programs of its kind in Canada. Housed in the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, this interdisciplinary program is intersectional in its approach and explores existing and emerging connections between sexuality, ability, age, class, race and other identities. The Sexuality Studies Program is just one example among many of our commitment to promoting equity and inclusivity through teaching and research.

York is deeply grateful for the contributions 2SLGBTQIA students, staff and faculty make to our community and to our growth as an institution of higher learning. The University is committed to ensuring all community members feel safe and welcome, and we are grateful for the work [our campus clubs, organizations and services](#) do to support that commitment.

For more information about Pride Month initiatives at the University, please follow the #YUPride hashtag on social media.

I wish you all a very safe, healthy and happy Pride Month.

Sincerely,



Rhonda L. Lenton,  
President & Vice Chancellor

