

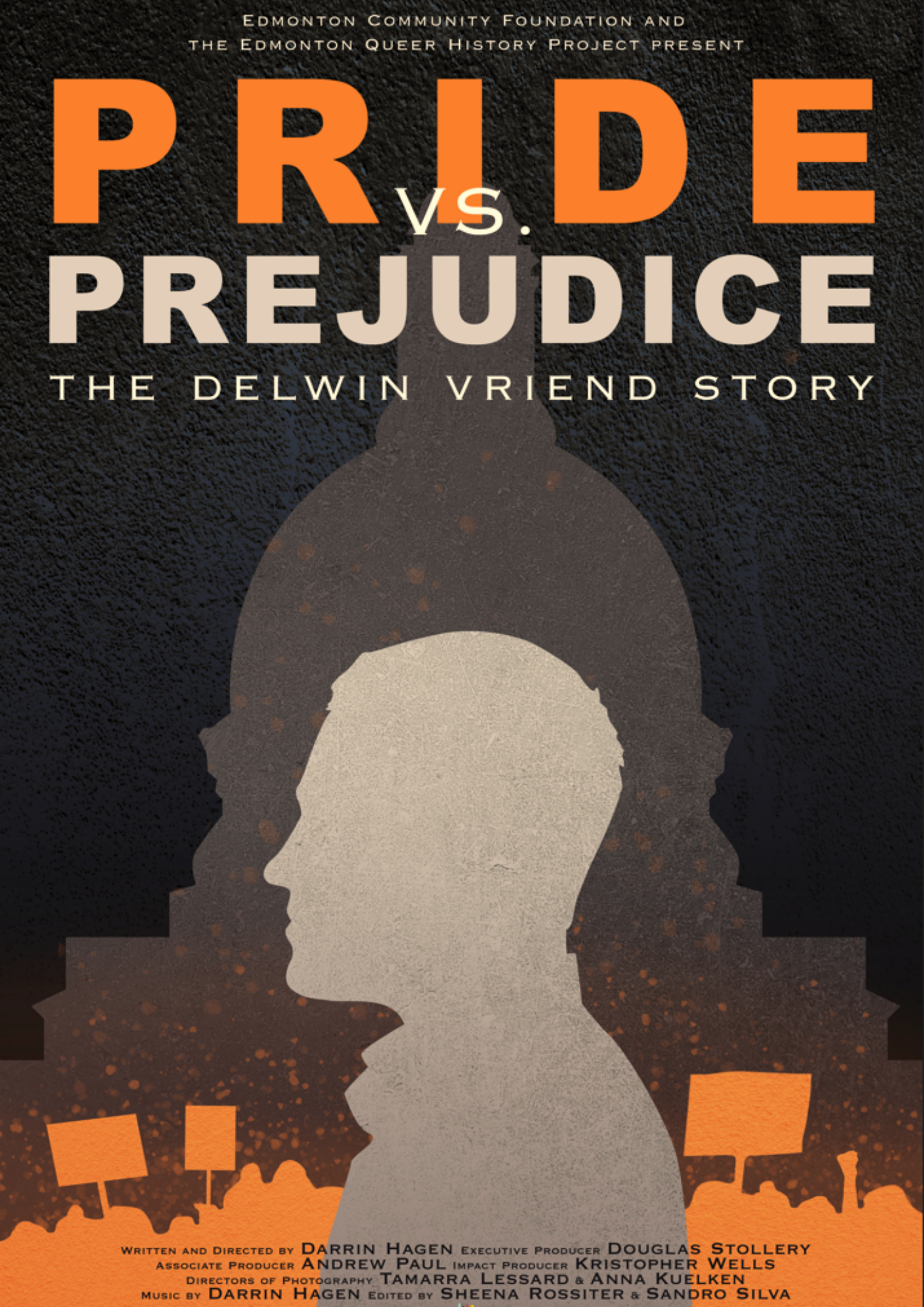
EDMONTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND  
THE EDMONTON QUEER HISTORY PROJECT PRESENT

# PRIDE

VS.

# PREJUDICE

THE DELWIN VRIEND STORY



WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY **DARRIN HAGEN** EXECUTIVE PRODUCER **DOUGLAS STOLLERY**  
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER **ANDREW PAUL** IMPACT PRODUCER **KRISTOPHER WELLS**  
DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY **TAMARRA LESSARD & ANNA KUELKEN**  
MUSIC BY **DARRIN HAGEN** EDITED BY **SHEENA ROSSITER & SANDRO SILVA**

# PRIDE vs. PREJUDICE

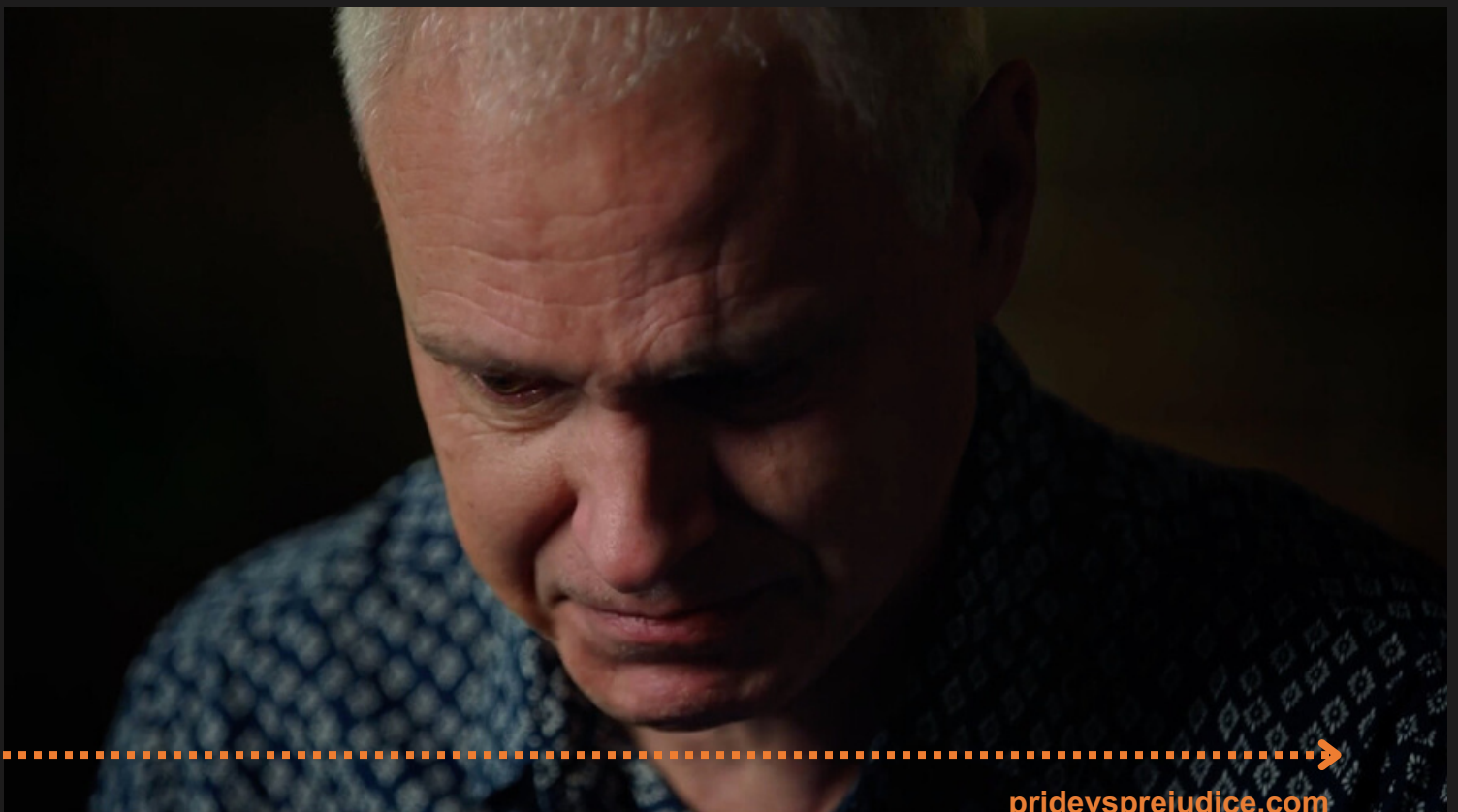
THE DELWIN VRIEND STORY

## LOG LINE

Delwin Vriend never wanted to be a human rights activist, but in challenging his firing for being gay, he set in motion a chain of events that impacted the lives of LGBTQ+ people — not just in Alberta, not just in Canada, but around the globe.

## SYNOPSIS

Pride vs. Prejudice delves into the riveting narrative of the Vriend v. Alberta case, where Delwin Vriend, an unlikely hero, courageously battles against discrimination from a government determined to deny his human rights. Uncover the twists and turns that unfold as Vriend's pursuit of justice challenges societal biases, culminating in a ground-breaking Canadian Supreme Court ruling in 1998 that confronts prejudice and sets a transformative precedent for LGBTQ+ rights that is cited around the world.



# FILM SPECIFICATIONS

**Project Type:** Documentary

**Runtime:** 1 hour 20 minutes 15 seconds

**Completion Date:** February 5, 2024

**Production Budget:** \$71,350 USD

**Country of Origin:** Canada

**Country of Filming:** Canada

**Language:** English

**Shooting Format:** Digital

**Frame rate:** 23.98fps

**Audio:** Stereo

**Video:** 4k progressive

**Aspect Ratio:** 16:9

**Film Colour:** Colour

## Access screening copy.



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



**Like all Queer Canadians, I have personally benefitted from the human rights protections that were achieved over a quarter-century ago when Delwin Vriend stood up to the power of a government and demanded justice.**

Like all Queer Canadians, I now watch with concern as dark forces gather in an attempt to challenge those hard-won rights.

*Pride Vs. Prejudice* explores the story of one human challenging a determined and hostile government — and winning.

Featuring compelling first-hand accounts from the people who steered this complex and crucial case to the Supreme Court of Canada, this film showcases the passion, dedication, and sacrifices necessary to change the world for the better.

When we first set out to tell the story of Delwin Vriend's legal battle with the government of Alberta, we thought we were simply revisiting a pivotal milestone in the slow progress towards equality.

We didn't realize that we were making a documentary that would act as a portent for generations to come.

This is the documentary I need to see right now - to give me hope, and to remind me of how far we have come.

Darrin Hagen  
Writer/Director  
*Pride vs. Prejudice*

## THE CAST

*Pride vs. Prejudice: The Delwin Vriend Story* is told through the first-hand accounts of the people behind the historic case.



### **Delwin Vriend**

Delwin Vriend was fired from his job at a Christian college in 1992 because he was gay. This set the stage for the historic Supreme Court hearing that would force the Government of Alberta to change its human rights legislation.



### **Sheila Greckol**

Sheila Greckol was lead counsel on *Vriend v. Alberta*. She and her team would take the case all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada, affirming sexual orientation as a protected ground in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.



### **Doug Stollery**

Doug Stollery served as co-counsel for Delwin Vriend. He delivered the closing arguments at the Supreme Court of Canada hearing in 1998, playing an instrumental role in changing human rights legislation in Alberta.

### **Murray Billett**



Murray Billett is an activist who has played a significant behind the scenes role in advances for gay and trans rights on the prairies. He oversaw public and media relations for Delwin and his team.

### **Jo-Ann Kolmes**



Jo-Ann Kolmes worked tirelessly behind the scenes as part of Delwin's legal team. She was also a photographer, and documented the case's seven-year journey through Canada's legal system.

### **Julie Lloyd**



Julie Lloyd is an Alberta Provincial Court judge and is one of the first openly gay or lesbian judges in the province. Before she became a judge, she was a lawyer based in Edmonton and represented an intervenor in the Supreme Court hearing on *Vriend v. Alberta*.

### **Michael Phair**



Michael Phair was one of more than 50 men arrested during the Pisces bathhouse raid in 1981. He would become Edmonton's first openly gay city councillor. When the *Vriend* ruling came out, Michael received death threats at his office in city hall.

### **Frank Iacobucci**



Frank Iacobucci is a retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. He was one of the nine Justices that presided over *Vriend v. Alberta* and co-authored the reasoning behind the court's landmark decision.

### **Lyle Kanee**



Lyle Kanee was a partner in Sheila Greckol's firm and had worked closely with the members of *Vriend's* legal team on the main presentation. On the day of the Supreme Court hearing, he delivered a submission on behalf of the Canadian Jewish Congress, as an intervenor in the case.

### **Doug Elliot**



Doug Elliott spoke on behalf of the Canadian AIDS Society as an intervenor during the Supreme Court hearing. He was also the person who introduced Delwin to Sheila Greckol when Delwin's initial lawyer could not continue representing him.

### **Melanie Humphreys**



Dr. Melanie Humphreys is the current president of the King's University. When she accepted the position in 2013, she could see that the scars from Delwin's firing ran deep at the school, even decades after the event.



### **Joachim Segger**

Joachim Segger worked at King's College at the time that Delwin was terminated. He was the chair of the music department and remembers the tension and stress that the situation created for both students and faculty.



### **Paula Simons**

Paula Simons was a journalist working at the Edmonton Journal when the Vriend case wound its way through Canada's legal system. She would go on to be appointed to the Canadian Senate in 2018.



### **Kristopher Wells**

Dr. Kristopher Wells is an activist and educator, and the director of the MacEwan University Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity.



## THE CREW

*Pride vs. Prejudice: The Delwin Vriend Story* was produced by Edmonton Community Foundation and the Edmonton Queer History Project.



### **Darrin Hagen (he/him): Writer/Director**

Darrin Hagen is an award-winning playwright, author, composer, performer, and Queer historian, and is also the artistic director of *Guys In Disguise*. He has created over 40 plays, and dozens of published essays and articles, many dealing with the history of sexual minorities in Alberta. *Pride vs. Prejudice* is Darrin's first documentary film.



### **Doug Stollery (he/him): Executive Producer**

Doug Stollery is a retired lawyer and community volunteer. He serves as President of the Stollery Charitable Foundation, one of the largest private foundations in Edmonton, and recently served as Chancellor of the University of Alberta. He is a member of the Order of Canada and holds honorary doctorate degrees from the University of Alberta and MacEwan University.



### **Andrew Paul (he/him): Associate Producer**

Andrew Paul is an award-winning writer and podcaster with 20 years of experience in journalism and non-profit communications. As a Marketing & Communications Associate at Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF), Andrew oversees the production of the Foundation's award-winning *Legacy in Action* magazine and produces ECF's national award-winning *The Well-Endowed Podcast*.



### **Kristopher Wells (he/him): Impact Producer**

Dr. Kristopher Wells was a closeted classroom teacher in Alberta during the time of the Vriend case. He went on to become a respected educator and community advocate and serves as the founding director of the Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity at MacEwan University.



### **Tamarra Lessard (she/her/they/them): Co-Director of Photography**

Tamarra Lessard is a Cinematographer living in Edmonton, AB and working from locations all around the world. She was 2021's Winner of Best Cinematographer in Alberta for her work in documentary and is proudly an Associate Member of the Canadian Society of Cinematographers. Most recently, Tamarra was the Director of Photography for CBC Network TV's latest launch titled *PUSH*, an 8 episode reality/documentary series



### **Anna Kuelken (she/her): Co-Director of Photography**

Anna, an award-winning documentary filmmaker, hails from a small bison farm in Northern Alberta, fostering a profound connection with the natural world. Influenced by her upbringing, she explores the complex relationships between humanity and the environment. Through her work, Anna aspires to foster understanding, dialogue, and empathy, crafting meaningful narratives.



### **Sheena Rossiter (she/her): Editor**

Sheena Rossiter is a filmmaker, podcaster, journalist, and the co-founder of Dona Ana Films & Multimedia. In addition to being an editor, she has produced various documentaries including the HBO-broadcast documentary *Brazil: Trans Awakening* (2016), and the Netflix docuseries *Rotten*, episode 4 *Big Bird* (2018), among others.



### **Sandro Silva (he/him): Assistant Editor**

Sandro Silva is a Brazilian-Canadian filmmaker, and the co-founder of Dona Ana Films & Multimedia. He has produced international award-winning documentaries and acted as a local producer for the Brazilian components of international productions. After moving to Canada, Sandro has written, directed, and produced various documentary shorts.



### **Jeff Khounthavong (he/him): Colourist & Sound Mixing**

Jeff Khounthavong is a Southeast Asian-Canadian Filmmaker. His work focuses around community and relationship building, whether it is long-form documentaries or short form work. He likes to mix mediums in his work; incorporating different video formats and visual mediums including Super 8, mini Dv cameras, and still images.



## CONTACT US

For more information about this project or to inquire about screening and distribution opportunities, contact Dr. Kristopher Wells

[kristopher.wells@macewan.ca](mailto:kristopher.wells@macewan.ca)

[pridevsprejudice.com](http://pridevsprejudice.com)



### **Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF)**

ECF is the fourth largest community foundation in Canada and the largest non-governmental funder of Edmonton's charitable sector. ECF works with hundreds of donors to establish endowment funds. These funds provide more than \$30 million per year to thousands of students and charities. ECF also works to amplify community voices. We are proud to partner with the Edmonton Queer History Project to present *Pride vs. Prejudice*.

[ecfoundation.org](http://ecfoundation.org)



### **Edmonton Queer History Project (EQHP)**

The EQHP is a collaborative community initiative that is dedicated to preserving the stories of the generations of queer people and pioneers who came to a remote Northern prairie town to find love, adventure, community, and each other. You are the dreamers, fighters, lovers, and activists who have made change possible. We see you. We celebrate and honour your amazing resilience, courage, determination, and pride in our city and each other.

[edmontonqueerhistoryproject.ca](http://edmontonqueerhistoryproject.ca)