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Uplifting Lives: The 10th Anniversary Pride Prom

2015 marks the 10th anniversary of KW Counselling Services' OK2BME program for LGBTQ youth and their families. OK2BME is a set of free, confidential services for kids and teens wondering about their sexuality or gender identity. They may identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender-variant, or they may just have questions. Services include: LGBTQ-positive Individual and Family Counselling, LGBTQ Social and Recreational Youth Group, Professional Consultation and Collaboration, Public Education and Training and Supporting establishment of Gay-Straight Alliances.

To celebrate this milestone, KW Counselling Services is organizing a special 10th anniversary Pride Prom for Saturday May 30, 2015.

The very first Pride Prom in KW was organized by community volunteers Michael Schmidt, Jeremy Steffler and Scott Williams in 2004. It was an all ages event. After that, OK2BME began organizing annual Pride Proms for teens in the community.

"Many LGBTQ teens never felt comfortable attending their high school proms or weren't able to attend with their same sex partners," says Scott Williams of KW Counselling Services. "The Pride Prom is a safe and welcoming event for people of all sexual orientations and gender expressions. We hope to see people from the entire rainbow of the community."

The theme for the 10th anniversary Pride Prom is "Uplifting Lives." "OK2BME has been uplifting lives in the Waterloo Region for the last ten years," said Leslie Josling, Executive Director of KW Counselling Services. "Our OK2BME services are one of the things I'm most proud of. KW Counselling Services is proud to be a supporter of diversity in Waterloo Region."

Uplifting Lives is a 19+ event that will be held at Fed Hall on the University of Waterloo campus on Saturday May 30, 2015 at 8pm. This event will kick off the Pride celebrations in the region. The regular OK2BME teen Pride Prom will be held the following week on Saturday June 6, 2015.

Early bird tickets are just \$30 and are on sale now: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/uplifting-lives-ok2bme-10th-anniversary-pride-prom-tickets-15538118932>