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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CAMP AURORA

Camp Aurora will be hosted virtually in Summer 2020

Dear friends and supporters of Rainbow Resource Centre,

Rainbow Resource Centre has been closely monitoring updates on COVID-19 and have made the challenging decision to shift Camp Aurora to a virtual platform to protect the health and wellbeing of campers, volunteers, and staff.

At Rainbow Resource Centre, we have experienced great success in fostering social connectedness through online platforms by partnering with other community organizations and volunteers. We will continue this path as we start to plan Virtual Camp Aurora, and view this as an opportunity to engage with youth in new and creative ways. Programming will focus on keeping youth safely engaged in a fun, positive space to learn new skills, create projects, and celebrate their identities. We hope to maintain Camp traditions such as the talent show and the dance, as these have always been the highlights for our campers.

Camp Aurora staff are dedicated to making this year's Virtual Camp Aurora as accessible and engaging as possible. We understand that the changes for Camp in 2020 will pose challenges for some youth across Manitoba; namely those without access to technology or adequate internet connection, and those who may not have the safety within their homes to tune into 2LSGBTQ+ Camp programming. We hope to be able find ways to still build connection with these youth.

Although the structure of camp is different, Camp Aurora continues its commitment in providing a positive space for 2SLGBTQ+ and allied youth to explore identity, make meaningful connections, and feel a sense of belonging.

Camp Aurora staff will be hosting an online focus group where youth ages 13-21 can provide their input on what they would like to see from a Virtual Camp Aurora. Youth who are interested in joining the focus group can email Mateo at MateoL@rainbowresourcecentre.org. The focus group is tentatively scheduled for May 8, 2020.



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To our friends and community partners; if you are interested in supporting Virtual Camp Aurora through a workshop or have an online programming idea you would like to facilitate, please email Mateo at MateoL@rainbowresourcecentre.org.

You can expect information on how to help youth connect with camp to be forthcoming. We encourage community to check in on the Camp Aurora website (www.campaurora.ca) and our Instagram page ([@campauroramb](https://www.instagram.com/campauroramb)) for ongoing updates regarding Camp.