



Douglas Wilson (1950–1992) was a Canadian activist for gay rights, graduate student, publisher and writer born in Saskatchewan. In 1975, he gained prominence in a fight for gay rights with the University of Saskatchewan. The university's dean of the College of Education refused to allow Wilson into the school system to supervise practice teachers because of his public involvement with the gay liberation movement and he was an “avowed homosexual”. Wilson was vice-president of the Gay Community Centre Saskatoon and was advocating for a gay academic union at the university. Local gay activists, professors and students protested Wilson’s treatment. The case received significant coverage and the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission tried to investigate. Ultimately, the University filed for an injunction against the investigation as sexual orientation was not a specified category in the provincial human rights code at that time. The University was successful and there was no investigation, although public opinion favoured Wilson.



Wilson spent most of his life fighting for human rights issues, and he was an activist for AIDS organizations. In 1977, he founded *Stubblejumper Press*, a small publishing house dedicated to literary works by gay and lesbian Canadians. The company's first title was Wilson's own poetry collection *The Myth of the Boy*. He served as executive director of the Saskatchewan Association on Human Rights from 1978 to 1983. In 1983, Wilson moved to Toronto to work for the Toronto Board of Education as an advisor to the Race Relations and Equal Opportunity Office. In 1984, he became one of the founding publishers of *Rites: for lesbian and gay liberation*.



Wilson was the first openly gay candidate to be nominated by a major political party to stand for Parliament, as a candidate of the New Democratic Party in the Toronto riding of Rosedale in the 1988 election. During the campaign, he was diagnosed with AIDS. He spent the rest of his life as an AIDS activist, helping to found AIDS Action Now! and founding chairperson of the Canadian Network of Organizations for People Living With AIDS. Wilson published his partner Peter McGehee's novels, *Boys Like Us* (1991) and *Sweetheart* (1992). One month before his death, he completed McGehee's notes of his third novel, *Labour of Love* (1993). Wilson died on September 24, 1992 at the age of 42.

In 1995 the University of Saskatchewan's gay organization (Gays and Lesbians at the U of S, GLUS) established the Doug Wilson Award, given annually to honour those individuals who have shown leadership and courage in advancing the rights of gays & lesbians at the University of Saskatchewan. The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) has presented the award since 2001, after GLUS folded following the establishment of the USSU-run Pride Centre.

Stubblejumper, a film about Doug Wilson, was screened in venues across Saskatchewan in March 2009. It was directed by Saskatchewan filmmaker David Geiss.

In honour of his role as a significant builder of LGBT culture and history in Canada, a portrait of Wilson by artist Alfred Ng is held in The ArQuives: Canada's LGBTQ2+ Archives' National Portrait Collection.

The EDI Committee recognizes Douglas Wilson's efforts that was monumental to the LGBTQ2S+ movement.