



HOW TO CREATE MORE INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS FOR YOUTH



There are so many ways that educators can create environments that are welcoming and inclusive to all youth regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or family constellation. This section provides resources for background knowledge, suggested actions to take, and tips and tools to create positive change. There is a highlighted section about “Posters to Promote Inclusion”.



ALBERTA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

This website has been designed to assist educators in their legal, professional and ethical responsibilities to protect all students and to maintain a safe, caring and inclusive learning environment. It provides teachers with information, contacts and resources that can assist them in creating safe, caring and inclusive learning environments for LGBTQ students, staff and same-gender parented families. Amongst the many resources to be found on the site are suggested books and videos according to students' age and advice for counsellors dealing with LGBTQ youth.

www.teachers.ab.ca *(search for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity on the site's search engine)*

BULLYING CANADA

BullyingCanada is a national anti-bullying organization. It was created in 2006 in order to provide support, information and resources on the topic of bullying.

www.bullyingcanada.ca

CHALLENGING SILENCE, CHALLENGING CENSORSHIP

This book, available from the Canadian Teachers' Federation, is designed as a professional and practical resource to help educational leaders and policy-makers within K12 teaching (teachers, administrators, counsellors and teacher librarians), together with public librarians and other community stakeholders, to learn more about how they can take action to challenge and positively change the educational conditions and social climate for LGBT youth and for children from same-gender parented families.

www.ctf-fce.ca (*View publications catalogue*)

DEALING WITH NAME CALLING: AN ON-LINE BOOKLET TO HELP EDUCATORS RESPOND TO HOMOPHOBIC NAME-CALLING THAT OCCURS AT SCHOOL.

Reducing homophobic name-calling *is* important. Consider the value of one more student not feeling victimized, of one more student who stays in school, or of one youth suicide averted. You may not see the direct results of your efforts, but you can take satisfaction in knowing that you are making life worthwhile for many youth who do not have the language or the strength to ask you for this help.

<http://pridenet.ca/resources>

GAY, LESBIAN & STRAIGHT EDUCATION NETWORK (GLSEN)

The Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network strives to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. GLSEN has created a number of superb educators' tools to be used in school settings. Other fantastic tools include the "Think Before You Speak Campaign," the "Safe Space Kit" and "Changing the Game: The GLSEN Sports Project." The site contains resources to use with students at all levels.

www.glsen.org

<http://glsen.org/educate/resources> (*educator tools*)

<http://sports.glsen.org> (*sports*)

www.thinkb4youspeak.com (*think before you speak*)

<http://safespace.glsen.org> (*safe space*)

GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCES: A HANDBOOK FOR STUDENTS, EDUCATORS AND PARENTS.

A Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) provides a safe place for students to discuss issues, meet others, and get support from those who care. This handbook, by Ian K. MacGillivray, explains exactly how to begin this important type of high school club that helps build positive relationships and promotes knowledge and tolerance. This guide tells students what it takes to start a GSA at their school, teachers how best to work with GSAs, and helps principals and superintendents to understand the applicable laws. Parents who read this book can discover for themselves just how positive an influence the GSA may be in their child's life.

Harrington Park Press, 2007

Can be ordered from: www.amazon.ca

GAY-STRAIGHT STUDENT ALLIANCE HANDBOOK

This handbook available from the Canadian Teachers' Federation is designed to aid educators who are interested in creating gay-straight alliances in their high schools. It includes a wealth of practical considerations and information and is designed to assist teachers, school administrators and counsellors in understanding the educational, health and safety needs of those students who are or are perceived as being LGBT.

www.ctf-fce.ca *(View publications catalogue)*

GENDER, BULLYING AND HARASSMENT: STRATEGIES TO END SEXISM AND HOMOPHOBIA IN SCHOOLS (2009)

While there have been countless studies of bullying and harassment in schools, none have examined the key gender issues related to these behaviours. In this book, Elizabeth Meyer does just that and offers readers tangible and flexible suggestions to help them positively transform the culture of their school and reduce the incidences of gendered harassment. The text features sections that speak specifically to administrators, teachers, counsellors, student leaders, and community and family members. This timely book offers an annotated list of educational resources on homophobia, sexual harassment, and bullying, as well as a detailed checklist of steps to aid educators reduce gendered harassment in their schools.

Can be ordered from: www.tcpress.com

GENDER AND SEXUAL DIVERSITY IN SCHOOLS (2010)

Issues related to gender and sexual diversity in schools can generate a lot of controversy, and many educators and youth advocates are under-prepared to address these topics in their school communities. This book, by Elizabeth Meyers offers an easy-to-read introduction to the subject, providing readers with definitions and research evidence, as well as the historical context for understanding the roots of bias in schools related to sex, gender, and sexuality.

Can be ordered from: www.springer.com

HETEROSEXISM ENQUIRER

The Heterosexism Enquirer is Canada's first online heterosexism resource. It is an electronic magazine dedicated to challenging heterosexism in society's institutions, individuals, families and communities. The Enquirer challenges heterosexism by increasing awareness of the existence and impact of heterosexism, through curriculum and educational materials, and through promotion and evaluation of strategies to challenge heterosexism. The site has excellent questionnaires to sensitize youth and adults about heterosexism.

www.mun.ca/the

HOW TO RESPECT AND SUPPORT GLBT STUDENTS AND FAMILIES IN OUR SCHOOLS

These resources, put together by the BC Teachers' Federation, propose strategies to respect and support GLBT students and families in our schools.

<http://bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=17990>

IT'S ELEMENTARY —TALKING ABOUT GAY ISSUES IN SCHOOL

The first film of its kind to address anti-gay prejudice by providing adults with practical lessons on how to talk with kids about gay people. The film shows that children are eager and able to wrestle with stereotypes and absorb new facts about what it means to be gay or lesbian. The film shows what happens when kids in kindergarten through eighth grade discuss lesbian- and gay-related topics in age-appropriate ways. Shot in six public and private schools, *It's Elementary* models excellent teaching about family diversity, name-calling, stereotypes, community building and more. The sequel, *It's Still Elementary* examines the incredible impact of *It's Elementary* over the last decade, and follows up with teachers and students featured in the first film to see how lessons about LGBT people changed their lives.

<http://groundspark.org>

LESSONS LEARNED

This collection of stories, articles and research studies, available from the Canadian Teachers' Federation, continues the work of Seeing the Rainbow by providing further insights into the bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender realities of teachers and students in classrooms, schools and society.

www.ctf-fce.ca *(View publications catalogue)*

LOG INTO THE POSITIVE

The Quebec government has launched a website that presents a variety of initiatives and resources (videos, contests, examples of good practices, etc.) to end bullying. This website is intended for young people but also for parents and educators.

www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/en/log-in-to-the-positive

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: GENDER IDENTITY IN SCHOOLS (PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA)

This document is intended to address the most commonly asked questions regarding the gender identity of youth in school settings. The goal of this resource is to assist educators, curriculum and program planners, school administrators, policy-makers and health professionals in the creation of supportive and healthy school environments for youth struggling with issues of gender identity.

www.catie.ca/en/resources/questions-and-answers-gender-identity-schools

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH

This booklet, available on-line, is dedicated to parents and family members who are dealing with their child's coming out process, or preparing for the process. (In English, Japanese and Korean)

<http://pridenet.ca/families-resources>

🍁 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: SEXUAL ORIENTATION IN SCHOOLS (PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA)

This document is intended for educators and professionals working with youth in schools. It aims to help them develop an increased understanding of the notion of sexual orientation, and to enable them to provide effective support to students who are grappling with questions about their sexual orientation.

www.sieccan.org/pdf/phac_orientation_qa-eng.pdf

🍁 SAFE@SCHOOL

The Safe@School website offers teachers and the educational community a repertoire of relevant resources to create and sustain a respectful, safe, and healthy environment for students in both elementary and high schools. Two sets of resources and Professional Learning Modules are available on the website: “Bullying Prevention” and “Equity and Inclusive Education (focus on homophobia, racism and sexism).”

www.safeatschool.ca

SAFE SCHOOLS COALITION

The Safe Schools Coalition is organization in support of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth, that is working to help schools - at home and all over the world - become safe places where every family can belong, where every educator can teach, and where every child can learn, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. With a variety of tools for educators, parents and students the coalition meet the needs of sexual minority youth and children with LGBT parents.

www.safeschoolscoalition.org

🍁 SEEING THE RAINBOW

This engaging document, available from the Canadian Teachers' Federation, presents to Canadian educators some of the social and political contexts in which bisexual, gay, lesbian, transgender and two-spirited issues in education have been, are being, and need to be addressed.

www.ctf-fce.ca *(View publications catalogue)*

STONEWALL

Stonewall is an advocacy organisation for LGBT rights in Britain. One of its principle mandates is to create resources for schools to prevent and tackle homophobic bullying. Many online guides are available for free on this site, including: Homophobia: Safe to Learn-Embedding anti-bullying work in schools; Challenging Homophobic Language; Supporting Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Young People; Including different families; Working with faith communities.

www.stonewall.org.uk

YOU CAN PLAY PROJECT

Gay athletes, straight allies: teaming up for respect. *You Can Play* is dedicated to ensuring equality, respect and safety for all athletes, without regard to sexual orientation. Several videos are available online that show sport stakeholders take a stand against homophobia.

www.youcanplayproject.org

WHAT YOU CAN DO: IDEAS AND RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS WORKING TO END HOMOPHOBIA IN SCHOOLS

This brochure developed by the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network–GLSEN–provides suggestions and starting points to work toward ending homophobia in your school

www.qrd.org/qrd/www/orgs/glstn/what.you.can.do

POSTERS TO PROMOTE INCLUSION

BACKBONE ZONE

The Backbone Zone is a campaign that speaks directly to student to give them tools to confront gender-bullying, sexual harassment, and sexist and homophobic language when they see and hear it. A poster collection is available to purchase.

www.mecasa.org/backbone/

BLACK FAMILY & FRIENDS

Black Family & Friends (BFF) provides support, education, & resources to Black LGBTQ youth, their families, friends, classmates, coworkers, service providers & allies through the *Love, Acceptance & Support campaign*. This campaign includes six posters of healthy relationships between Black LGBTQ youth and their parents, service providers, extended family members, and spiritual leaders.

<http://blackfamiliesandfriends.ca>

FONDATION EMERGENCE POSTERS

The *Fondation Emergence* is a Quebec-based organisation dedicated to the equality and well-being of LGBT people. Each year the foundation launches poster campaigns and gives away free posters. Although most of their material is uniquely in French, the visuals speak for themselves.

www.homophobie.org/default.aspx?scheme=1469

LGBT FAMILY COALITION: FAMILY DIVERSITY POSTER

The beautiful illustrations of Marie-Claude Favreau highlight the theme, “Family Diversity: It’s all about Love”. This one meter long poster is an excellent way to show family pride at home, at work or at school. What types of families are shown? Homoparental, multicultural, multi-generational, divorced and blended, single-parent, adoptive, and heteroparental.

To obtain this poster, please contact info@familleshomoparentales.org

PFLAG “THAT’S SO GAY IS SO YESTERDAY” POSTER

 With the sub-title “Words can hurt. Choose them wisely,” this poster is great for raising awareness about homophobic name-calling.

www.pflagcanada.ca/en/store-2e.php

POSTER ON DIVERSITY

The Coalition d’aide aux lesbiennes, gais et bisexuels-les de l’Abitibi-Témiscamingue created a poster on diversity and the fight against homophobia, in collaboration with an aboriginal organization.

www.coalitionat.qc.ca/documents/medias/realisations/affichediversiteang3.pdf



Coalition des familles
homoparentales
LGBT Family Coalition

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