

FAMILY DIVERSITY and CFLGBT STRATEGIES TO END HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA



Québec 

RECOGNIZING **DIVERSITY**
RESPECTING **DIFFERENCES**
PROMOTING **OPENNESS AND INCLUSION**

A STUDY IN QUÉBEC SCHOOLS REVEALS THAT:

63%



of students heard comments like “That’s so gay”
each day at school

39%



of students have been **victims** of at least
one episode of homophobia or transphobia

69%



of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT)
students have been **victims of homophobia
and transphobia**

35%



of heterosexual students have been **victims of
homophobia and transphobia** simply because
they didn’t conform to **gender stereotypes**



Recent research clearly indicates that **homophobia and gender-based harassment are major motives behind bullying in schools.** Homophobia and transphobia are harmful for all students. Negative attitudes toward visible minority or physically disabled youth are no longer tolerated in classrooms or schoolyards. However, manifestations of homophobia and transphobia still pass unnoticed by adults in authority.

Youth subjected to homophobia and gender-based harassment are more likely to experience loneliness, anxiety, emotional problems and low self-esteem, as well as difficulty integrating with their peers. They are more inclined to skip classes, may get lower grades, and can even lack the confidence necessary to meet their academic potential. As they get older, youth can develop high-risk behaviours such as alcohol and drug abuse, and unsafe sexual practices. Some may even contemplate suicide.

* Chamberland, L. *et al.* (2011). L'impact de l'homophobie et de la violence homophobe sur la persévérance et la réussite scolaires. *Fonds de recherche sur la société et la culture* [en ligne] www.fqrcs.gouv.qc.ca/upload/editeur/RF-LineChamberland.pdf

HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA HURT ALL YOUTH

including:

- 1 Youth who identify as LGBT or who are questioning their sexual identity;
- 2 Youth from families with LGBT parents;
- 3 Youth with other LGBT family members or friends;
- 4 Youth with interests that don't conform to gender stereotypes;
- 5 Youth who restrict their actions and their words because they are afraid of becoming the target of homophobia.

When adults tolerate homophobia and transphobia, it sends a message to children that mocking and harassing students who are different is justified. Within Québec's socio-cultural diversity, schools have the mandate to teach children to respect all differences.

The topic of LGBT families is an excellent springboard for discussions about discrimination, differences, acceptance and respect.

THE “FAMILY DIVERSITY AND STRATEGIES TO END HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA” WORKSHOP INCLUDES:

- **Information** about LGBT families, sexual orientation, gender identity, homophobia and transphobia in schools;
- **Tools to fight discrimination** and protect youth from its devastating effects;
- **Methods to promote positive integration** of LGBT youth and LGBT families;
- **Intervention techniques** to deal with homophobia and transphobia in school settings;
- **Strategies, best practices and resources** to promote respect for diversity.

THIS WORKSHOP TARGETS PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS:

- **In preschool settings, elementary schools or high schools:**
teachers, day-care staff, support staff, administration, school principals, non-teaching professionals (guidance counsellors, nurses, etc.), members of parents’ committees, etc.
- **In community organizations, youth centres or coalitions:**
social workers or other youth workers, directors or board members, volunteers, etc.
- **In CEGEPs or universities:**
professors or students in education, counselling, social work, nursing, psychology, or psychoeducation, etc.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The “**Family Diversity and Strategies to End Homophobia and Transphobia**” workshop can be either a 3-hour or a full-day session and is given in the participants’ workplace, anywhere in Québec. **Experienced animators** use teaching methods that are both **dynamic and interactive**. At the end of the session, participants receive practical tools including classroom activities, posters, examples of best practices, resource lists, etc.

These workshops are **offered free of charge**, thanks to grants from the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur, the Ministère de la Famille, the Ministère de la Justice and the Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale. For remote regions, the reimbursement of travel expenses may be requested.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER
FOR A WORKSHOP, PLEASE CONTACT:**

The LGBT Family Coalition

514 878-7600 ● info@famillesLGBT.org

www.famillesLGBT.org

