

Going deeper and learning more about 2SLGBTQ+ identities

All stakeholders create a culture of learning so that students come first.

Let's remember what 2SLGBTQ+ stands for:

2S=Two-spirit, L=Lesbian, G=Gay, B=Bisexual
T=Transgender, Q=Queer & Questioning, += And so many more other identities too! The acronym 2SLGBTQ+ refers to gender and sexual identities and is the most commonly used, but as the plus indicates there are many other ways folks identify within the spectrum of gender and sexual identities. If you'd like to learn more check out: (ok2bme.ca)

Did you know?

- ❖ 64% of 2SLGBTQ+ students reported feeling unsafe at school
 - ❖ 74% of trans students reported being verbally harassed about their gender expression
 - ❖ 10% of 2SLGBTQ+ students reported hearing degrading comments from their teachers on a weekly basis
- (Every Class, Every School a Canadian National 2SLGBTQ Survey)*

Relevant Legislation

Bill 13: The Accepting Schools Act

Purpose:

- To encourage a positive school climate and prevent inappropriate behavior, including bullying, sexual assault, gender-based violence and incidents based on homophobia, transphobia or biphobia.

Requirements:

- Students are allowed to create Gay-Straight Alliances in their schools
- Schools must provide annual professional development programs to educate teachers on creating inclusive schools
- Boards are required to develop and implement an equity and inclusive education policy

Community Spotlight Be Free Be Me, 2SLGBTQ+ Community Conference

At the beginning of November, the Sioux Lookout Community Gay-Straight Alliance hosted their first two-day 2SLGBTQ+ Community Conference. More than 120 people gathered together to learn about supporting 2SLGBTQ+ people and building community together. The first night, participants gathered at the Friendship Centre to attend a Service Fair to learn more about agencies in the community and hear teachings from a Two-Spirit Knowledge Keeper. The second day of workshop based learning was held at Sioux North High School. The participants attended break-out sessions focusing on understanding 2SLGBTQ+ identities, accessing supportive healthcare, creating more inclusive agencies and schools and a parent support group. The day ended with the creation of a community mural (below) and a celebration of the time spent together.



Taking Action, Creating 2SLGBTQ Inclusive Schools

Join us in leading mentally healthy schools by taking action!

Schoolwide. Break the culture of fear and silence by initiating conversations on 2SLGBTQ+ topics. When hosting events assume transgender folks are attending and ensure a proper washroom is available. Always assume 2SLGBTQ+ folks are in the room; in this way it'll be easier to create positive habits such as sharing pronouns during introductions.

Classroom. Include resources, books and visuals that showcase 2SLGBTQ+ folks positively. Strive to be consistent in challenging negative language. Be a leader in amplifying the voices and needs of 2SLGBTQ+ students.

Individual. Proactively educate yourself by learning more about 2SLGBTQ+ and taking the opportunity to go to community events hosted by 2SLGBTQ+ folks when possible. Practice using gender inclusive language, such as referring to a group as “folks” or using the pronoun “they” when unaware of a person’s gender identity. Let your students take the lead when discussing their sexual and/or gender identity.

Looking for more 2SLGBTQ+ resources? You can find additional information on these sites:

[Rainbow Health Ontario](#)
[Two-Spirited People of Manitoba](#)
[Rainbow Resource Centre](#)
[Safe and Caring Schools for 2-Spirit Youth](#)
[Youthline](#)
[MyGSA.ca](#)
[Sioux Lookout Gay-Straight Alliance](#)
[Rainbow Alliance Dryden](#)
[Kenora Pride](#)

Or contact your Mental Health Co-Lead
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