## GSD / Transgender Supports in Schools

## School Health Coordinators’ Committee Discussions

### Source: Kyla Christiansen (SK) November 01 2013

**Question :**  
  
I am creating an **Understanding Gender and Sexual Diversity** document that will assist school division central office personnel, administrators, educators, and communities in developing a deeper understanding of gender and sexual diversity (GSD) and our responsibilities for ensuring all GSD students have the same opportunities for safety and success in schools. It is designed to assist in understanding the unique educational, health, and safety needs of students who are GSD. The goal of this resource is to focus on creating safe and accepting learning environments for sexual minorities within a Comprehensive School Community Health Approach (CSCH).   
  
Can you please share with me what supports your ministry(ies) provide for school divisions (e.g., document links, professional learning, training, information on how to start a GSA ...). Thank you! I have to have my document completed by the end of this month so any direction you can provide in the near future would be greatly appreciated! Thanks.  
  
Kyla

### Responses

**(1)** **Alberta:**

In Alberta, the PRISM toolkit was developed by the Alberta Teachers Association in collaboration with Alberta Education and is an authorized teaching resources. The PRISM toolkit was created to help teachers promote safe and supportive classroom discussions about sexual minorities and gender variance. PRISM is an acronym for “Professionals Respecting and supporting Individual Sexual Minorities.  
  
The resource is located at:  
<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/For>%20Members/Professional%20Development/Diversity%20and%20Human%20Rights/Resources/Pages/PRISM-Toolkit.aspx

**(2)Manitoba:**

In Manitoba, we are currently adapting Egale Canada's MyGSA document (as NL has done). The document will be both printed and posted online in both English and French (probably by January 2014). Training sessions are being offered to school divisions in December to assist them in developing newly required Respect for Human Diversity policies and will include LGBTQ awareness training. Over the next couple of years we plan to offer training to support schools in using the new resource and accommodating students who want to form GSAs.  
We are also working on a document that will support schools in accommodating for religious diversity.

**(3)Nova Scotia:**

In Nova Scotia from the Dept of Education and Early Childhood development:  
  
As far as supports go in curriculum, we have some if your colleagues are interested. PHAC has two (free) resources on Q & A Gender Identity in Schools and Q & A Sexual Orientation In Schools which have supportive key messages for administrators and teachers. We distributed copies to elementary school principals as part of a sexual health school collection of resources.   
We should soon be publishing Guidelines for Supporting Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students. It was a priority of the last government – at least the Minister – it appears to moving forward. It is intended as a guide for teachers.  
  
This web site was also recommended <http://mygsa.ca/>

**(4)Yukon:**

We here in Yukon developed a policy last year as well as had the EGALE folks come in and train us.  
<http://www.education.gov.yk.ca/pdf/sogi_policy_updated_dec_14>(1).pdf

**(5)British Columbia:**

BC has developed a number of resources, some of which address diversity issues (including gender issues) more broadly, while others are designed specifically to address LGBTQ issues:

* **Ministry resources:**
  + *Diversity in BC Schools: A Framework* (Ministry of Education diversity policy) <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/diversity/diversity_framework.pdf>
  + *Safe Caring and Orderly Schools: A Guide* (Ministry of Education safe school policy) <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sco/guide/scoguide.pdf>
  + *BC Performance Standards – Social Responsibility* (Ministry of Education)<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/perf_stands/social_resp.htm>
  + *Keeping Kids Safe (from bullying harassment and intimidation) A Guide for Parents* (Ministry of Education)<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sco/resourcedocs/keeping_kids_safe/keeping_kids_safe.pdf>
  + [*Your Role in Helping Children and Youth Develop Healthy Relationship Skills*](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sco/relationship.pdf)*,* developed for teachers (Ministry of Education) <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sco/relationship.pdf>
  + *Making Space: Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice Throughout the K-12 Curriculum* (Ministry of Education) (links to provincially prescribed curricula) <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/program_delivery/ss.htm>
* **BC Teachers’ Federation and Pride Education Network Resources**

The BC Teachers Federation has created an LGBTQ Action Group that offers a number of resources for teachers, including lesson plans, workshops, videos, brochures, posters, etc. More information is available at <http://www.bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=6106.>

Pride Education Network resources include:

* + *Challenging Homophobia – A teacher’s resource book* [*http://pridenet.ca/wp-content/uploads/challenging-homophobia.pdf*](http://pridenet.ca/wp-content/uploads/challenging-homophobia.pdf)
  + *Dealing with Name-Calling 2010*  <http://pridenet.ca/wp-content/uploads/dealing-with-name-calling.pdf>
  + *Myths About Anti-homophobia Education*  <http://pridenet.ca/wp-content/uploads/myths-about-anti-homophobia.pdf>
  + *Myths About Anti-homophobia Education* (Chinese) <http://pridenet.ca/wp-content/uploads/myths-about-anti-homophobia-c.pdf>
  + *Objections to Anti-Homophobia Education* <http://pridenet.ca/wp-content/uploads/h-h-objections.pdf>
  + *The Gender Spectrum*  <http://pridenet.ca/wp-content/uploads/the-gender-spectrum.pdf>
* **School District Developed Resources**
  + *Questions and Answers For Parents and Family Members of Gay and Lesbian Youth –*This booklet was developed by School District 39 (Vancouver) and made available provincially via the BC Ministry of Education website to help parents and family members with their child’s coming out process, or preparing for the process. (available in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Filipino, French, Korean, Punjabi, and Chinese Traditional).

 

## Follow-up Email 2014

### From Sharon Young and Helen Pitman (NS) December 11 2014:

**Guidelines for Supporting Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students**

https://studentservices.ednet.ns.ca/sites/default/files/Guidelines%20for%20Supporting%20Transgender%20Students\_0.pdf

## Follow-up Discussion SHCC Teleconference March 10 2015

### From Paul Paquin (MB) March 10 2015:

FYI, here is the wording of Manitoba’s high school sport policy for supporting transgender athletes. I have also included recent vital statistics legislation to support transgender persons.

Paul

* MHSAA TRANSGENDER POLICY

*Any transgender student athlete may participate fully and safely in sex-separated sports activities in accordance with his or her gender identity.*

* Also in Manitoba, Bill 56, *The Vital Statistics Amendment Act* received royal assent on June 12, 2014. Effective February 1, 2015, transsexual surgery is no longer a mandatory requirement for a change of sex designation on a birth registration. <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/40-3/pdf/b056.pdf>

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