

Pride in Education Conference: Addressing Homophobia in BC Schools

Friday, October 24th, 2008 – 8:30am to 3:00pm

Tupper Secondary School - 419 East 24th Avenue, Vancouver, BC

Audience: Youth, Elementary and Secondary Educators, Youth-workers, and Parents from across BC

Staff, parents and youth from around the province will engage in dialogue on creating school communities that are safe and welcoming for all students regardless of their sexual orientation/gender identity or that of their parents. With over 20 different workshops, you'll find exciting opportunities to explore diverse topics from spirituality to media awareness, gender identity to cyber-safety, including a number of sessions presented by and for youth.

Gab Youth Services is also hosting a Youth Dance on the night of the conference. Travel and accommodation arrangements are the responsibility of individuals.

Registration **MUST** be done on-line at www.vsb.bc.ca/vsbprograms/prod then click on District Wide Pro-D Day. Please also fax the Workshop Preferences sheet to Manjula at 604-713-5244. For popular choices, preference will be given by date this was received.

COST: Free for VSB employees and all youth / \$30 for other adults

INFO: Steve Mulligan, VSB Anti-homophobia and Diversity Consultant, 604-713-5180, pride@vsb.bc.ca

WORKSHOP CHOICES: (Y) Denotes a Youth focus

SESSION A – 9:35 – 10:45

A1 - Are Sexism and Homophobia Linked? – Gab Youth Services

Why is it OK to be a "Tomboy", but not a "Nancyboy"? Why is it OK to dress your little girl in blue, but not your little boy in pink? Come to explore the intersection between homophobia and sexism by looking at the femmephobia that exists within both queer and heterosexual communities.

A2 - The Effective Activist: Working Together Towards Understanding – PeerNetBC (Y)

Does activism scare you? No need to worry; chances are you've been an activist much of your life without knowing it! Activism is simply the act of bringing social and/or political change. This workshop will examine how people can work together to bring change, where all are leaders, not just a select few.

A3 - Language and Culture: Discussing Sexuality and Homophobia with ESL Students – ASIA

This workshop will be facilitated by ASIA, who are well respected for their expertise in addressing sexuality issues with ESL students, and members of the East and Southeast Asian communities of the Lower Mainland.

A4 - Not Yet Equal: The Health of Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth in BC – Colleen Poon, McCreary Centre

Come take a closer look at the health of LGB youth, their life experiences, and risk behaviours based on the results of The McCreary Centre Society's Adolescent Health. Our exploration and discussion of LGB youth health will include trends that have occurred since our first survey in 1992 as well as health disparities between LGB youth and their heterosexual peers.

A5 - The Role of Supportive Adults – Lina Darwich UBC

The challenges that LGBQ youth face at school is well documented. However, there is a dearth of research on the protective factors that promote their resiliency. This workshop will highlight the findings of a recent research study conducted in a BC school district on the role of supportive adults in school and discuss the implications for research, practice, and policy in schools.

A6 - Sexual Self Esteem – YouthCO AIDS Society (Y)

Partners, peers, media, family, culture and social systems all influence our values and can impact how we feel about ourselves and our sexuality. Our confidence in turn affects our decision-making and our sexual health. This highly interactive workshop promotes self-awareness, critical reflection, and a safe space to share differing values or perspectives. Discussion about healthy relationships concludes with skill-building skits on how to communicate boundaries and negotiate abstinence or safer sex.

A7 - Speak OUT for Change: Teacher Advocacy – James Chamberlain

This workshop for educators will focus on concrete strategies to help empower LGBTQ youth in schools. We'll discuss how to work strategically and politically to create policy change, start GSA clubs, use LGBTQ friendly resources, shift attitudes and make schools welcoming and accepting of queer youth and staff.

SESSION B – 11:10 – 12:20

B1 - GSA 101: From Start-Up to Tune-Up – Vancouver GSA Students

Students and staff from Vancouver high schools will discuss how to start, support and maintain a strong Gay-Straight Alliance. Examples of projects and activities supporting anti-homophobia education and community building will be highlighted.

B2 - The Mixed Package: Ethnicity and Sexuality – Romi Chandra, PeerNetBC

We all have multiple identities, yet we are constantly represented by LGBTQ images that look nothing like us. Through games and discussion, this Mixed Package workshop will explore the 'outsider' identities, in particular when racial identities collide with sexuality. Workshop open to all identities.

B3 - Pridespeaks: Classroom-based Youth-led Discussions about Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity – Gab Youth Services

This workshop will provide an overview of what a Pridespeak is and how it works in a classroom. We will demonstrate how Gab Youth Services can provide accurate, non-judgmental information about sexual orientation and gender identity in a fun, interactive way. The workshops can help either elementary or secondary *students* learn that everyone needs to be respected regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, class, age, level of ability or physical characteristics.

B4 - Queer Comedy Workshop – David C. Jones

Learn to unleash creativity, unlock impulses, and think on your feet with David C. Jones in this improvisational workshop which will help you explore the lighter side of all things queer.

B5 - Queer History: Where Did It All Start? – Chris Morrissey

It is so easy living in a big city in Canada, to take for granted our current way of living. Some of us were never aware of the ups and downs others faced in their lives. To preserve and appreciate the present we must remember the past. This session will provide you with an overview and highlights of LGBT history; ancient, modern, east, and west.

B6 - Stigma and Youth Health - Share your ideas! – Stephanie Martin (Y)

Take part in a focus group with the McCreary Centre Society to discuss your ideas and solutions to make schools and communities safer for LGB youth. It doesn't matter if you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered or as an ally, we want to hear from all youth! Participants must be between the ages of 14 and 20 and information from the group will be included in a research project with the McCreary Centre Society and UBC.

B7 - Support for Parents and Families - PFLAG

This workshop, given by members of PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) will focus on understanding ways that parents and families of LGBT students are impacted by their loved ones' sexual orientation and gender identity. Workshop will feature parts of the DVD "Anyone and Everyone" which has been sent to secondary schools in Vancouver, and will be of interest to parents, teachers, and counsellors.

B8 - Two Spirits – Two Identities: Aboriginal and LGBT – Chuck Lafferty

This session by the Urban Native Youth Association will use culture and discussion to explore the intersection of native and queer identity for two-spirit/LGBT youth. How can students be supported to proudly embrace and understand both aspects of themselves?

SESSION C – 1:10 – 2:20

C1 - Care and Support for Gender-Variant Students - Lukas Walther

This workshop by the Transgender Health Program will provide detailed information, insight and resource materials to become more familiar and comfortable with gender identity and expression issues. The workshop should enable you to connect with and support these children, youth and their families in a relevant way, and be equipped to work with a multi-disciplinary team to organize further support when necessary.

C2 - Coming Out: Who, When, Why, How – Gab Youth Services (Y)

Gab Youth Services invite LGBTQ youth to look at what it means to “come out” and the different stages of coming out within their homes, schools, and communities. This workshop will be filled with interactive group activities and discussions about issues and experiences surrounding coming out, including culture, spirituality, family, and friends.

C3 - Families Valued: Addressing Homophobia and Welcoming Gay Families in our Elementary Schools – Steve Mulligan

This workshop will highlight relevant supportive Ministry documents, professional associations and IRP connections. It will also look at what is developmentally appropriate at various grade levels, the issue of religious/cultural sensitivities, what role school staff can play, and finally present a collection of teacher-friendly books, videos and resources.

C4 - Forum Theatre Workshop – YouthCO AIDS Society (1:10 – 3:00pm)

This workshop will include theatre games, the creation of still images with bodies and a scene performed using Forum Theatre. Workshop participants are then invited into the scene to try to improve or change the situation. Themes such as homophobia and transphobia will be explored.

C5 - Queers, Ads, and Brands: Representations of Queer in Media – Check Your Head (Y)

Through collage and role-plays, participants explore how advertising, television and other aspects of our media-saturated world impact their view of queer identities. Through this process, participants will learn to recognize the ways they can reclaim this representation and tell their own stories.


C6 - Spirituality and Sexual Orientation – Unitarian Lay Chaplain Danny Enright and Anglican Spiritual Director Dixie Black

How are LGBT people reconciling faith with sexuality? How are mainstream churches welcoming and supporting queer members? How can LGBT people respond to religious-based homophobia and condemnation? Can schools support queer students and families while being mindful of religious sensitivities? Come join what promises to be a fascinating and thought-provoking discussion.

C7 –Cyberspace: Youth Work Frontier – Merlyn Horton

This workshop by SOLOS will explore emerging trends in online youth culture, high risk activities online, the nature of sexual exploitation in cyberspace, online networking including mySpace and Facebook, and Internet safety tips and resources.



PLEASE SEE PAGE 4 FOR WORKSHOP CHOICES AND REGISTRATION INFO 

REGISTRATION/WORKSHOP CHOICES

Name: _____ School: _____

Email: _____ Empl # _____

Please choose one workshop from each session and FAX TO Manjula at 604-713-5244

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- A2 - The Effective Activist: Working Together Towards Understanding – Kinex/SHRA (Y)
- A3 - Language and Culture: Discussing Sexuality and Homophobia with ESL Students – ASIA
- A4 - Not Yet Equal: The Health of Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth in BC – McCreary Centre Society
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