

Elementary Information and Resources for Preventing Homophobia and Gender Stereotypes

Legal Cases Which Shaped Anti-homophobia Education in BC

- 1) Chamberlain vs. Surrey School Board (LGBT kids books in schools)
“Tolerance is always age-appropriate, children cannot learn unless they are exposed to views that differ from those they are taught at home. Public Schools must be inclusive and secular, and when religious rights are in opposition, schools should err on the side of inclusion.”
- 2) Jubran vs. North Vancouver School Board (Straight teen sues over homophobic harassment)
“School boards must respond effectively to allegations of harassment or bullying based on either “perceived” or “real” characteristics and must provide students with an educational environment that does not expose them to discriminatory harassment.”
- 3) Kempling vs. BC College of Teachers (Teacher opinions found to be discriminatory)
Kempling’s homophobic letters to the editor of a local paper were discriminatory, unbecoming for his profession, and damaged the integrity of the public school system. He was suspended for 1 month.
- 4) Corren vs Ministry of Education (Teacher sues ministry over lack of LGBT content in schools)
Creation of a new Social Justice 12 course, a K-12 social justice resource guide for teachers (*Making Space*), examine IRPs to reflect diversity and clarifies the “Alternative Delivery Policy.”

Websites

Pride Education Network of BC
www.pridenet.ca - Lesson plans, resources, research, myths,

Safe at School - www.safeatschool.ca - Canadian bullying, inclusion and diversity resources

GLSEN - Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (U.S.A.) www.glsen.org - Research, stats, GSAs, lesson plans, resources.

Local Organizations/Workshops

Gab Youthservices - (604)684-5307 ext 108
www.qmunity.ca - “Pridespeak” interactive workshops for Gr 5-7 on homophobia and gender.

OPT: Options For Sexual Health - (604) 731-4252
<http://www.optionsforsexualhealth.org>
Workshops for classes K-7

Berend McKenzie - performer of Tassels
berend_m@hotmail.com

Video Shorts

It Gets Better - Youtube channel featuring positive messages to LGBT youth. Canadian voices too!

www.youtube.com

Gays in the Military - One min ad about a highly decorated soldier who is kicked out for being gay.

www.commercialcloset.org/common/adlibrary/adlibrarydetails.cfm?QID=33&clientID=11064

Gay Marriage Equality - What if you had to ask 260 million people for the right to get married?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aPdWWhXAJiY&feature=related>

Prop 8 - California Bans Gay Marriage -Moving short with LGBT couples, “Please Don’t Divorce Us.”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuxHOyOQsoY>

LGBT Canadian Marriage Ad - Exclusion from marriage is discrimination.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Z0ZSlmjTHQ&feature=related>

Top Lesson Plans and Print Materials

Dealing with Name Calling - Pride in Education Booklet

Challenging Homophobia Binder - Pride in Education Resource binder in most schools (Rainbow pages)

Frequently Misunderstood Terminology

Gender identity – A person’s internal sense or feeling of being male, female, or a blend, which may not be the same as their birth gender.

Heterosexism – The assumption that everyone is heterosexual, that this sexual orientation is superior and the only natural orientation. Heterosexism is much more pervasive and subtle in our society than homophobia.

Homophobia/Transphobia – Ignorance, fear and mistrust of people who are LGBT, which is directly related to the silence and invisibility which has historically hidden them.

Intersex – A person who is born with a physical anatomy that does not seem to conform to distinctly male or female gender. In some cases it is not discovered until puberty.

Queer – Historically a negative term for homosexuality. More recently, many sexual minority people have reclaimed the word and use it instead of LGBT as a positive way to include all sexual minority people.

Transgender/Gender Variant – A person whose gender identity, appearance, expression and/or anatomy does not fit with conventional ideas of male or female.

Two Spirited – used by some Aboriginal people to identify themselves rather than LGBT. They traditionally held special status based on their unique abilities to understand both male and female perspectives.

Selected Elementary Resources to Help Prevent Homophobia and Gender Stereotypes

Picture Books (all ages): * (in all VSB elementary school libraries)

10000 Dresses. Ewart, Marcus (2008) Boy who feels like a girl dreams and creates amazing dresses

- * All Families Are Special. Simon, Norma (2003) Family diversity book looks at celebrations, etc
- * And Tango Makes Three. Richardson, Justin (2005) True story of male penguins who hatch abandoned egg
- Belinda's Bouquet. Willhoite, Michael (1991) Body image issues handled beautifully by two moms
- Daddy, Papa and Me. Newman, Leslea and Carol Thompson (2009) Board book about two dad family
- The Different Dragon. Bryan, Jennifer (2006) Boy with two moms teaches dragon it's OK to be different
- The Duke Who Outlawed Jellybeans and Other Stories. Valentine, Johnny (2004) Stories which challenge gender rules
- * Families. Kuklin, Susan (2006) Non-fiction text and photos of all kinds of families
- * The Family Book. Parr, Todd (2003) All types of family diversity in colourful, humorous style
- Felicia's Favourite Story. Newman, Leslea (2002) Intercultural adoption story of girl with two moms
- A Fire Engine for Ruthie. Newman, Leslea (2004) Ruthie shows Nana that girls like fire engines too
- King and King. de Haan, Linda (2002) Princes fall in love and have a royal wedding
- King and King and Family. de Haan, Linda (2004) The new kings adopt an orphan girl
- Louanne Pig and Making the Team. Carlson, Nancy (1985) Boy and girl friends discover their gender atypical talents
- Molly's Family. Garden, Nancy (2004) Kindergarten girl is anxious at bringing two moms to school
- Mom and Mum are Getting Married. Settingrington, Ken (2004) Lesbian wedding with kids involved
- Mommy, Mama and Me. Newman, L and Thompson, C (2009) Board book about two mom family
- The Only Boy in Ballet Class. Denise Gruska (2007) Ballet boy uses moves to win football game and respect
- Pinky and Rex and the Bully. Howe, James (1996) After teasing, Pinky learns to accept and assert his individuality
- * Rough Tough Charley. Kay, Verla (2007) Historical poetic story of tough, yet kind cowboy who was really a woman
- * The Sissy Duckling. Fierstein, Harvey (2002) Teased duck proves his strength and bravery
- Uncle Bobby's Wedding. Brannen, Sarah (2008) Girl worries about losing favourite Uncle, then gets another
- * Who's in a Family? Skutch, Robert (1998) Family diversity book including all types
- William's Doll. Zolotow, Charlotte (1972) Heart-warming story of a boy who is teased for wanting a doll

Books for Intermediate and Beyond:

Absolutely, Positively Not. LaRochelle, David (2005) [Humorous coming out story] Gr 6-9

Box Girl. Withrow, Sarah (2001) [Novel - Friendship, gay dads] Gr 6-8

The Case of the Stolen Scarab. Garden, Nancy (2002) [Novel - Mystery] Gr 4-6

A Clear Spring. Wilson, Barbara (2002) [Novel - Ecology/mystery adventure with lesbian moms] Gr 4-7

From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun. Woodson, Jacqueline (1995) [Boy deals with mum coming out] Gr 7-10

- * The Harvey Milk Story. Krakow, Kari (2001) [Picture book - True story - homophobia] Gr 4-7

Holly's Secret. Garden, Nancy (2000) [Novel - Examines friendship and integrity, lesbian moms] Gr 4-7

The House You Pass on the Way. (1997) [Novel - Girl's coming of age story, interracial family] Gr 6-9

Lucy's Family Tree. Halvorsen-Schreck, Karen (2001) [Picture book - School assignment] Gr 4-7

Luna. Peters, Julie (2006) [Novel-Teen girl balances her needs with those of her transgender brother] Gr 7-12

- * The Misfits. Howe, James (2001) [Novel-Great book on name-calling, youth integrity and empowerment] Gr 6-8

Parrotfish. Wittlinger, Ellen (2007) [Novel - Teen bravely deals with gender identity, humorous] Gr 7-10

Stitches. Huser, Glen (2003) [Novel - Misfits, bullying, friendship, empowerment] "GG Literary Award" Gr 7-10

Totally Joe. Howe, James (2005) [Novel - Questioning sexual orientation, being yourself, humorous] Gr 6-9

Video Resources:

Anyone and Everyone. Susan Schutz (2007) [Gr8-12/Staff/PAC, parents talk about their gay kids] 57min.

In Other Words. NFB (2001) [Gr 7-11, dealing with homophobia, definitions] 27 min.

It's Elementary. Debra Chasnoff (2004) [Gr 5-12/staff/PAC, talking gay issues in school] 37 min. or 78 min.

Let's Get Real. Debra Chasnoff (2003) [Gr 6-12, Teens discuss all types of bullying, name-calling, how to change] 35min.

No Name-Calling. (2004) [Gr 4-8, What it is, why do people do it, what can be done] 24 min.

One of Them. NFB (2000) [Gr 6-10, Drama, Students react to one part of diversity week, raises questions] 25 min.

Sticks and Stones. NFB (2001) [Gr 3-7, Elem kids talk name-calling, gender stereotypes, homophobia, solutions] 17 min.

Straightlaced. Debra Chasnoff (2009) [Gr 6-12, Teens discuss gender expectations and how they're impacted] 67 min.

- * That's a Family! Debra Chasnoff (2000) [Gr K-7, Excellent, all types of family diversity, kids narrate] 30 min.

More resources can be found at : www.colage.org www.glsen.org www.pridenet.ca www.alexsanchez.com

Compiled by Steve Mulligan, VSB Anti-homophobia and Diversity Mentor, pride@vsb.bc.ca 604)713-5180

Updated 2010!

Secondary Information and Resources for Discussing Homophobia and Gender Stereotypes
Steve Mulligan - Anti-homophobia and Diversity Mentor, Vancouver School Board - pride@vsb.bc.ca

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Websites

Workshops & Local Youth Support

Pride Education Network of BC www.pridenet.ca - Lesson plans, resources, research, myths, GSAs, scholarships.	Gab Youthservices - (604)684-5307 ext 108 www.qmunity.ca - "Pridespeak" workshops for classes, queer youth support, drop-in, dances.
COLAGE - Equality and Justice for Children of LGBTQ Parents and Families (U.S.A) www.colage.org - Youth leadership and activism, resources, community groups, media.	Out in Schools - (604)844-1615 www.outinschools.com - Uses film to engage small and large groups of youth in dialogue about homophobia/bullying.
Safe at School - www.safeatschool.ca - Canadian bullying, inclusion and diversity resources	Transgender Health Program (604)734-1514 www.vch.ca/transhealth - Gender Identity info, resources, support, referrals.
GLSEN - Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (U.S.A.) www.glsen.org - Research, stats, GSAs, lesson plans, resources	YouthCo AIDS Society - (604)688-1441 peered@youthco.org - HIV and Social Justice workshop. Also sexual health, forum theatre, etc.
GSA Network – Web resources for GSA clubs www.gsanetwork.org	OPT: Options For Sexual Health - (604) 731-4252 http://www.optionsforsexualhealth.org

Video Shorts

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Excellent Booklists

****Annual ALA (American Library Association) Rainbow List ***

Alex Sanchez - www.alexsanchez.com

Video/DVD

TITLE	MLS / SOURCE		SYNOPSIS
100% Woman	543364 Moving Images	58 min	Documents BC mountain biker Michelle Dumaresq who was born as Michael, and her struggle for acceptance on the Canadian National Team.
7 Years	544920 Frameline	26 min	Explores the realities of life for gays and lesbians in Kenya.
Anyone and Everyone (2007)	School Library 544259 Iron Zeal Films	57 min	Documentary featuring the stories of parents whose kids have come out to them. It's very powerful because it shows families from every ethnic background, religion, socio-economic level, both rural and urban. One mother in particular speaks very eloquently and passionately about how she successfully reconciles her strict Mormon beliefs with this news about her son.
Cure For Love (2008)	Coming Soon	59 min	Cure for Love examines the Ex-gay movement which is growing in Canada and the US and seeks to cure young people whose homosexuality is at odds with their religious beliefs.
Further Off the Straight and Narrow (2006)	VSB Consultant	61 min	This DVD takes a look at sitcoms, reality shows, and cable as it explores how LGBT characters have become more complex and varied in recent years, and asks how this queer presence is shaped by the imperatives of the commercial media system.
Gay Youth (2006)	543901 New Day Films	30 min	Award-winning video and 16-page study guide show coming out stories with positive and tragic outcomes, including discussions in high schools about homophobia. It is both powerful and accessible.
In My Shoes Youth with LGBT Parents	544921 Frameline	31 min (2005)	In a time when LGBT families are debated and attacked in the media, courts and Congress, from school houses to state houses across the country, five young people who are children of LGBT parents give you a chance to walk in their shoes – to hear their own views on marriage, making change, and what it means to be a family.
In Other Words	542341 NFB	27 min (2001)	This video explores the origins of homophobic language, name-calling and words, how young people feel about them, and how to overcome the hurt and anger they cause.
Is it a Boy or a Girl?	544925 ISNA	53 min	Discovery channel documentary on the controversy surrounding the medical treatment of intersex children (born with ambiguous sex anatomy).
Just Call Me Kade (2002)	VSB Consultant/ Frameline	26 min	Kade Farlow Collins is a sixteen year old FTM (female to male transgendered person). Kade's parents maintain a supportive and nurturing relationship to Kade regarding the many challenges facing their teenage child. However, it hasn't always been easy.
Just Like Everybody Else (2006)	544214 VSB	10 min	Just Like Everybody Else is a short film exploring the issue of homophobia in adolescence. Tom has been hiding the fact that he is gay since he was a child. Now in secondary school he overcompensates by pretending: making homophobic comments and even bullying his own best friend who he suspects might be gay. Disc includes resources and discussion questions.
Laramie Inside Out (2005)	544924 New Day Films	56 min	Documentary explores the social aftermath in Laramie Wyoming following Matthew Shepard's murder.
One of Them (2000)	542530 NFB	25 min	NFB drama in which a group of high school students plans events to raise awareness about racism, sexism and homophobia. Issues are brought to the surface when homophobia surfaces within the group, and one girl questions her own orientation.
Playing Unfair: The Media Image of Female Athletes	544929 Media Education Foundation	30 min (2002)	Coverage of women's sport lags far behind men's, and focuses on female athletes' femininity and sexuality over their achievements on the court and field. While female athleticism challenges gender norms, women athletes continue to be depicted in traditional roles - as wives and mothers or sex objects.
She's A Boy I Knew (2007)	544923 Moving Images	70 min	Documentary about the male to female transition of Vancouver film maker Gwen Haworth. A comic, heartbreaking, and uplifting autobiography that focuses on a family whose bonds unexpectedly strengthen as they re-examine their preconceptions of gender and sexuality.
Straight-laced (2008)	School Library 544911 New Day Films	67 min	With a fearless look at a highly charged subject, Straightlaced unearths how popular pressures around gender and sexuality are confining teens. Their stories reflect a diversity of experiences, demonstrating how gender role expectations and homophobia are interwoven, and illustrating the different ways that these expectations connect with culture, race and class.
The Times of Harvey Milk	544896	90 min (1984)	This original academy award winning documentary brings to life the dramatic and inspiring story of gay rights advocate Harvey Milk. Detailed interviews and footage chronicle the life and times of the first openly gay elected official in the US up to his tragic murder in 1978.