

NEWS RELEASE

November 5, 2019

Partnership Provides 2SLGBTQ+ Conference Opportunities for Students and Staff

In a continued effort to provide an inclusive learning environment for all students, the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District (NLESD) and the Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity (CCGSD) are partnering to offer a number of unique educational opportunities to students and staff this month.

2SLGBTQ+ History Conferences (Commemorate Canada Program)

This in-school presentation is focused on honouring and sharing the history of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, which inspired the fight for equality in Canada resulting in, among other milestones, the partial decriminalization of homosexuality 50 years ago. CCGSD will launch the event with a presentation on the milestones in Canadian 2SLGBTQ+ history, which will be followed by local 2SLGBTQ+ community members who will share their personal journey with attendees.

Sessions will be offered in the Avalon region on Nov. 13-14, and in the Western region on Nov. 18. They are targeted at Grades 9-12. For more information, see: <http://ccgsd-ccdgs.org/commemorate/>

FREE TO BE ME Conference Opportunities for Grades 7-12

These are one-day educational events offering workshops for junior high and high school students. Educator sessions will also be offered, providing for professional learning specific to supporting 2SLGBTQ+ students. Sessions will be offered in Central, Western, and Avalon regions, November 13-18. For more information, see: <http://ccgsd-ccdgs.org/newfoundland-forum/>

“All students have the right to a safe, inclusive, socially-just education, no matter the gender, race, economic status, sexuality, national or ethnic origin, age, ability, or other life factor,” said Tony Stack, CEO/Director of Education. “We are proud to partner with the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity and continue to expand our understanding of the many diverse and unique members of our school communities. These events help to empower our students and staff with information to help create a safe environment for all.”

Topics to be covered at these events include, but are not limited to, matters such as: 2SLGBTQ+ Terminology, Intimate Partner Violence Prevention, Transgender Inclusivity, Healthy Relationships and Consent, GSA Leadership, and other various topics that cover the intersection of identities in the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

“At the CCGSD, we understand the importance of providing knowledge, tools, and skills for youth to increase their advocacy and resiliency throughout their secondary school experiences,” said Cameron Aitken, Executive Director of the CCGSD. “Having access to workshops that facilitate conversations around gender and sexual diversity can help both students and their peers normalize a spectrum of feelings, identities and relationships.”

Registration for these events will open in the coming days. Students and staff interested in attending are able to access specific information from the school administration.

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The Newfoundland and Labrador English School District represents approximately 64,000 students, more than 8,200 employees, over 250 schools, including 5 alternate sites throughout the province.



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