



LGBTQ2S+ Equity, Safety and Inclusion

NWT schools are required to provide a safe and caring environment for the school community. There are unique challenges LGBTQ2S+ individuals face in experiencing equity, safety and inclusion. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), under its Education Renewal initiative, have developed *Guidelines for Ensuring LGBTQ2S+ Equity, Safety and Inclusion in Northwest Territories Schools*, along with resources and training, to support NWT schools to provide a welcoming and respectful place for all.

Supporting LGBTQ2S+ in NWT Schools

Research has shown that lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer/questioning and two-spirit (LGBTQ2S+) students have a higher level of mental health issues, suicide and school drop out rates.

ECE is committed to support NWT schools in creating equitable, safe and inclusive environments for all members of the school community.

This work has been guided through an extended working group of partner organizations and NGOs such as the Rainbow Coalition, NWT Pride, the Northwest Territories Teachers Association, FOXY and SMASH, along with departmental staff.

The Start: The NWT Rainbow Youth Conference

The first ever NWT Rainbow Youth Conference, held March 6-10, 2017 in Yellowknife, gathered LGBTQ2S+ and ally students from every region of the NWT to develop music, visual art, spoken word poetry and video which expressed a message of support and inclusion. The students also experienced a wide range of informational sessions and shared their ideas on what needs to happen to ensure their schools are respectful, caring and safe environments.

Developing the Guidelines

Building on what was heard from students during this conference, guidelines were developed to address issues LGBTQ2S+ individuals face in NWT schools around equity, safety and inclusion. The guidelines also outline examples of promising practices for implementation in all NWT schools.

The guidelines align with Safe Schools Legislation (2013), and their Regulations (2016), the Territorial School Code of Conduct (2016), the NWT Human Rights Act (2002/2004) and the GNWT Harassment Free and Respectful Workplace Policy (2017).

Continuing Support: Resources and Training

In order to support LGBTQ2S+ members of NWT school communities, ECE provides age-appropriate resources and staff training relevant to the NWT context. The roll out of these resources and training began in the 2018-19 school year.

For more information please contact
Director of Health, Wellness and
Student Support,
IS_Supports@gov.nt.ca



LGBTQ2S+