



Post-Conference Report

## **Cape Breton LGBTQ2S+ Forum**

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### **Introduction**

**In the morning of November 3, 2017, students and teachers alike gathered at Cape Breton University in Sydney, Nova Scotia in order to address issues of bullying, homophobia, and transphobia in their schools. The day started off with a keynote from Jeremy Dias from the CCGSD to inspire and validate the 200 students.**

**After this, the students broke off into groups to attend workshops run by many guest speakers and organizations. These included Jeff Matheson, Mitch Hill, Kate Krug, and many others who talked about such topics as queer history, mental health, and allyship.**

**The students left feeling informed, excited, and ready to make a change in their schools and lives. Students and teachers felt inspired to learn more and talk about the discrimination felt by gender queer students in our school. The climate in classrooms changed and schools moved toward making some important changes in attitudes.”**

## Schedule

**9:00-10:00am** Registration

**10:00-10:30am** Opening & Plenary Session

**10:30-11:25am** Workshop Session 1

**11:30-12:25pm** Workshop Session 2

**12:30-1:30pm** Lunch

**1:30-2:25pm** Workshop Session 3

**2:30-3:30pm** Keynote

**3:30pm** Closing and Free Time

## Presenters

**Jeremy Dias;** <http://ccgsd-ccdgs.org> : Performed afternoon keynote and three workshops on creating safer spaces for victims of intimate partner violence

**Jeff Matheson; \*info to be added :**Ran two workshops on the practice of protesting peacefully

**Leigha Gouthro; \*info to be added:** Ran two workshops on mental health and addressing the stigmas surrounding it

**Madonna Doucette; \*info to be added:** Ran two workshops on allyship

**Veronica Merryfield; \*info to be added:** Ran one workshop on the education of trans realities and trans allyship. Confronting general knowledge and stigma

**Kate Krug; \*info to be added:** Ran two workshops about the history of queer folk in Cape Breton



**Charles McDougall and Luna LeFort; \*info to be added:** Ran two workshops titled: LGBTQ2S+ en Francais! and La diversite sexuelle et la pluralite des genres dans la Francophonie et en Acadie

**Mitch Hill; \*info to be added:** Ran two workshops on coming out to parents, friends, and teachers

**Heather Ruderham; \*info to be added:** Ran one workshop on mental health from an indigenous perspective



## Quotes of the Day

*"I felt so inspired after today."*

*"I want everyone to know that we are here for them, and that we can all work together as one."*

*"Thank you for hosting this!"*

*"We need more people like this."*



*"Why can't this happen every week?"*

*"I made so many new friends. I'm overwhelmed."*



