

**Ontario Educators' Conference Friday April 28th 2017/Conférence des éducateurs de l'Ontario  
vendredi le 28 avril 2017**

<b>8:00-8:30</b>	<b>Registration + Coffee &amp; Snacks</b>			
		<b>Indigenous Welcome</b>	<b>Wanda Whitebird</b>	
		<b>CCGSD &amp; OISE Welcome</b>	<b>Jeremy Dias</b>	
		<b>CCGSD &amp; OISE Welcome</b>	<b>Eliot</b>	
<b>8:30-9:00</b>		<b>CCGSD &amp; OISE Welcome</b>	<b>Arlo Kempf</b>	
<b>9:10-9:20</b>		<b>Minister of Education Welcome</b>	<b>P. A. Anderson</b>	
	<b>Union Presidents</b>	<b>OECTA</b>	<b>Ann Hawkins</b>	
	<b>Keynote</b>			
<b>9:20-9:35</b>	<b>Presentation 1</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Lee Airton</b>	
	<b>Keynote</b>	<b>LGBTQ Families Speak Out</b>		
<b>9:35-9:50</b>	<b>Presentation 2</b>	<b>About School</b>	<b>Tara Goldstein</b>	<b>Auditorium</b>
<b>9:50-10:00</b>	<b>Break before session 1/Pause avant la première session</b>			
	<b>Elementary/High School</b>	<b>How to Create More Inclusive Lesson Plans for Trans Students</b>	<b>j wallace</b>	<b>5-160</b>
	<b>High School</b>	<b>Trans History: From the Archives to the Classroom</b>	<b>Jade Pichette</b>	<b>Library</b>
	<b>High School</b>	<b>Working with LGBTQ Family Narratives in Teacher Education</b>	<b>Austen Koecher</b>	<b>5-150</b>
	<b>General</b>	<b>Safe Spaces and 2 Spirited Community</b>	<b>Aaron Boweman</b> <b>Wanda Whitebird</b>	<b>5-240</b>
	<b>General</b>	<b>Beyond GSAs: Inspiring a New Generation of Young LGBTQ Activists</b>	<b>Cheri Dinovo</b>	<b>Auditorium</b>
	<b>General</b>	<b>Balancing Rights and Responsibilities: Understanding Religious Accommodations in the Context of the "Sex Ed" Debate</b>	<b>Ken Jeffers</b>	<b>5-260</b>
	<b>General</b>	<b>Approaching Queer Male Relationships: Understanding Queer Masculinities, Shame, and Gay Dating Apps</b>	<b>Adam Davis</b>	<b>5-250</b>
<b>10:00-11:1</b>	<b>General</b>	<b>Incorporative Active Listening in Schools</b>	<b>Anthony Lambordi</b>	<b>5-280</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Français</b>	<b>aller de l'avant ensemble</b>	<b>Sebastien LaCroix</b>	<b>5-230</b>

11:15-12:1

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Lunch and Info Fair

Session 2/Deuxième session

	Elementary/High School	Consent in the Curriculum: Where do our LGBTQ students fit?	Shannon Salisbury	2-212
	Elementary/High School	Understanding Trauma-Informed Approaches to Teaching About Sexual Consent in Schools	Jessica Elaine Wright	Library
	Elementary/High School	Why mathematics and social justice must count	David Stocker	5-150
	Administrators	Transforming Policy into Practice: Creating a Framework for Effective Bullying Prevention and Interventions Strategies	Ken Jeffers	5-260
	Catholic	Catholic Means All-Encompassing	Murray Watson	5-240
	General	Decolonizing the Gender Binary: Racism and the Non-Binary Identity	Lukayo Estrella	5-230
	General	Leading the Way: Working with LGBTQ Athletes and Coaches	Jennifer Birch Jones	5-250
	General	HIV/AIDS: Teaching Through Loss	Armen Shahnazarian	5-160
12:15-13:30	Français, elementary	Équité et inclusion pour les étudiantes LGBTQ+s dans des communautaires rurales	Carole Dufort	5-280

13:30-13:4

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Break before Session 3/Pause avant la troisième session

	Elementary	Talking About Diverse Families in the Classroom	S. Bear Bergman	5-150
	Elementary/High School	Love and queerness in classroom community	benjamin lee hicks	5-160
			David Stocker	
			Student	
			Student	
13:45-15:00	High School	All Gender Washrooms & All Gender Cabins: Making Them Happen!	Student	2-212

High School	<i>Voices into Action: Teaching Resource for Bullying, Racism, and Discrimination in Secondary Schools</i>	Nicole Miller Jade Pichette (Moderator) Bridget Liang	5-240
General	Transmisogyny: the complicated intersections of cissexism and sexism		Library
General	Creating safer spaces in the moment – responding to student disclosures and addressing homophobic and transphobic comments from students, fellow teachers and administrators.	Julia Riddell	5-250
General	Effective education policy and strategies to ensure accommodation and inclusion of diverse gender identities and expressions in Ontario Schools.	Ken Jeffers	5-260
General	A Caribbean Lesbian's Journey in Canada	Tasheka Lavann	5-280
Français	Le changement social par les pratiques en éducation	Vanessa Asselin-Mailloux	5-230

**Ontario Educators' Conference - Schedule & Workshop Descriptions**  
**Conférence des éducatrices de l'Ontario - Horaire et descriptions**

## Morning Session

**Time/Temps:** 8:30-9:00

**Title/Titre:** Indigenous Welcome

**Description:** Be welcomed to the traditional territory of the Missisauga by a First Nation member from that land.

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Wanda Whitebird

**Bio:** Wanda Whitebird is a Mi'kmaq woman, bear clan, from a little place in Nova Scotia called Paktnkek-Niktuek First Nation. Wanda began her working career as a penitentiary liaison worker at Dorchester, Spring Hill, and West Moorland correctional facilities on the East Coast of Canada. In 1986

she moved to Ontario to continue her work in the prison system, working with Indigenous inmates. Wanda has also worked for Nishnawbe Health in Toronto Ontario for 13 years, and currently works as a women's outreach support worker for the Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy (OAHAS). In this role, Wanda spends her time outreaching, and bringing information to our lost community members on the streets of Toronto while embracing the philosophy of harm reduction (the ethic of non-interference). Traditionally, Wanda has been conducting the annual valentine's day strawberry ceremony in honour of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Toronto Ontario for 12 years. Wanda is a ceremonial elder, a pipe carrier and sweat conductor; currently conducting sweats for women and youth at Niijkiwendidaa Anishnabekwewag Services Circle in the Peterborough area, and youth correctional facilities in Toronto.

**Time/Temps:** 9:00-9:10

**Title/Titre:** Keynote: Minister of education

**Presenter/Présentateur:** P. A. Granville Anderson

**Bio:** First elected to the Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board (PVNCCDSB) as trustee in 2003, MPP Anderson was later appointed chairman of the board. In his time as trustee, MPP Anderson played an integral role in ensuring the board worked within its financial means to meet students' needs and support student success. Recently, MPP Anderson was named the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education. In this role MPP Anderson engages with partners on Ontario's Well-Being Strategy for Education, works to improve support for children with special education needs, and works to close the achievement gap and improve graduation rates for underrepresented groups of students.

MPP Anderson was born in Jamaica and moved to Canada when he was 13. He has a diploma in Business Administration from Seneca College and a certificate in Mediation from the University of Windsor. He has two grown children whom he says inspire him to work harder every day in his role as MPP.

**Time/Temps:** 9:10-9:30

**Title/Titre:** Keynote: *Title to be Added*

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Lee Airton

**Bio:** Dr. Lee Airton received their PhD in 2014 from the Graduate Program in Language, Culture and Teaching at York University. Lee's research uses neo-materialism and relational ethical theories to re-think what teacher practice looks like in relation to gender and sexual diversity. Over the past ten years, they have held many research positions on projects in education and across the social sciences, most recently on the first study of Canadian teachers' experiences with gender-creative and transgender students.

Lee's scholarly work has been published in Sex Education, Curriculum Inquiry and Teachers College Record, and for five years they have hosted a popular blog on gender-neutral pronoun usage and user support at theyismypronoun.com. Lee has also held executive positions in various scholarly associations, including the Canadian Association for Teacher Education, and the Queer Studies Special Interest Group of the American Educational Research Association. In the MT Program, Lee teaches courses related to research methods, reflexive practice and anti-discriminatory education.

**Time/Temps:** 9:30-9:50

**Title/Titre:** Keynote: LGBTQ Families Speak Out About School

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Tara Goldstein

**Bio:** Tara Goldstein is a professor, critical ethnographer and playwright in the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning at the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education, University of Toronto, where she is pursuing a teaching and research program on the experiences of LGBTQ families in school. Tara received her PhD degree from the Department of Curriculum at the University of Toronto in 1991 and graduated from the MFA Playwriting Program at Spalding University, Louisville, Kentucky, in November 2006.

## Session 1 Workshops / Ateliers de la première session

**Time/Temps:** 10:00-11:15 am

**Title/Titre:** How to Create More Inclusive Lesson Plans for Trans Students

**Description:** Let's plan for the full inclusion of trans and enby\* students. Let's plan ways to build gender diversity and celebrations of gender diversity into our everyday, so this is embedded into our work, and not a special topic saved for a special day. We will explore successful strategies for planning inclusive lesson plans, look at some inclusive lesson plans, discuss tools that are out there, and think together about how to prepare all students for success in exploring and celebrating gender diversity. \* enby is a short form for "non binary" (NB = enby) and one way of talking about identities that are outside of the binary of ale/masculine/men/boys and female/feminine/women/girls. Other people may use other words, and that's great too. We'll share together.

*(Description copied from 2016 Conference Description).*

**Presenter/Présentateur:** j wallace skelton

**Bio:** j wallace skelton is a queer, trans, an educator, and deeply committed to helping schools and members of school communities celebrate sexual and gender diversity. j is currently on leave from the Toronto District School Board's Gender Based Violence Prevention office, returning in May of 2016. J's

new book for middle school students, *Transphobia, Deal with it and Become a Gender Transcender* came out this spring.

(Bio copied from 2016 Conference).

**Time/Temps:** 10:00-11:15 am

**Title/Titre: Trans History: From the Archives to the Classroom**

**Description:** The process of remembering is a powerful one. Too often do we lose the stories of who came before, and that is very true when it comes to Canadian trans histories. This presentation will give context to the history of transgender, transsexual, and non-binary trans movements in Canada. We will also discuss how to access these histories and bring them to future generations.

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Jade Pichette

**Bio:** Jade is an anti-oppressive educator, who has worked as an advocate in LGBTQ+ communities for over ten years. They have worked with over 50 different organizations across Ontario to develop queer and trans inclusive policies. Jade currently works as the Volunteer & Community Outreach Coordinator at the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives. They have an interest trans and bi erasure in LGBTQ+ communities, LGBTQ+ Interfaith work, and continuing to challenge their own position of white-privilege.

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**Time/Temps:** 10:00-11:15 am

**Title/Titre: Working with LGBTQ Family Narratives in Teacher Education**

**Description:** In this workshop, participants will be exposed to a selection of LGBTQ families' narratives about their experiences with schools, and will hear about some of the ways that these narratives have been integrated into a teacher education classroom. Participants will also have the opportunity to reflect on their own schooling experiences and to consider some of the ways that they can integrate the learnings from these narratives into their own practice.

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Austen Koecher

**Bio:** Austen Koecher is a PhD student in the department of Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning at OISE/UT. Austen researches the school experiences of LGBTQ students and families and the integration

of these narratives into teacher education. Austen's past research has included a life history analysis of the ways that student experiences of homophobia in schools intersect with contact with mental health systems, with a focus on the impacts of GSAs (gay-straight alliances) on student experience.

**Time/Temps:** 10:00-11:15 am

**Title/Titre: Safe Spaces and 2-Spirit Community**

**Description:** Aaron Bowerman, Regional Outreach & Support Service Worker with the Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy (Oahas) will be presenting at this years Ontario Educators Conference on Two-Spirit People. Aaron will be speaking on the history of colonization and how that impacted Two-spirit people. He will share his personal experiences and understanding of being Two-spirit. Aaron will also be giving a snap-shot of some programs and services that exist for Two-spirit youth and convey challenges youth have identified to him in the course of his work. This sharing is intended to assist educators in engaging with Two-spirit youth and to help better understand the challenges and support their resolution.

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Aaron Bowerman

**Bio:** Aaron Bowerman is a two spirit male currently living and working in the city of Toronto as the Regional Outreach and support service worker for the Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy (OAHAS). Aaron Grew up on the Sheguiandah First Nation reserve on Manitoulin Island and is the eldest of 6 siblings. Aaron recently graduated from the Tourism Management – Travel Service Industries program at Humber College. Mr. Bowerman has been an active volunteer throughout his adolescence Over-sees and in his own communities, through, Canada World youth, 2-spirits of the first nation, Canadian Roots Exchange and other various non-profit organizations. Over the years, Aaron has experienced several careers that saw him employed as: a store clerk, bartender, bingo caller, member of a board, travel quality care agent, aboriginal resource centre employee, restaurant expeditor, and youth worker. Aaron gets his inspiration from his community of Sheguiandah First Nation and the youth that reside there and believes the only limits we have are the ones we set for ourselves.

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Wanda Whitebird

**Bio:** Wanda Whitebird is a Mi'kmaq woman, bear clan, from a little place in Nova Scotia called Paktnkek-Niktuek First Nation. Wanda began her working career as a penitentiary liaison worker at Dorchester, Spring Hill, and West Moorland correctional facilities on the East Coast of Canada. In 1986 she moved to Ontario to continue her work in the prison system, working with Indigenous inmates. Wanda has also worked for Nishnawbe Health in Toronto Ontario for 13 years, and currently works as a women's outreach support worker for the Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy (OAHAS). In this role, Wanda spends her time outreaching, and bringing information to our lost community members on the streets of Toronto while embracing the philosophy of harm reduction (the ethic of non-interference). Traditionally, Wanda has been conducting the annual valentine's day strawberry ceremony in honour of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Toronto Ontario for 12 years. Wanda is a ceremonial elder, a pipe carrier

and sweat conductor; currently conducting sweats for women and youth at Niijkiwendidaa Anishnabekwewag Services Circle in the Peterborough area, and youth correctional facilities in Toronto.

**Time/Temps:** 10:00-11:15 am

**Title/Titre: Beyond GSAs: Inspiring a New Generation of Young LGBTQ Activists**

**Description:** What needs to be done still to fight for LGBTQ rights? How and what did we accomplish? How to deal with the backlash? What's happening with our GSAs? Bring your experiences, hope, dreams, fears, and let's organize for a revolution - cause we need one.

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Cheri DiNovo

**Bio:** First elected in 2006, Cheri has been an incredibly effective MPP for Ontario for a decade, having passed more Private Member's Bills than any other MPP in Ontario's record. She has tirelessly tabled and passed bills to better the lives of cyclists, first responders and marginalized communities, and has passed more pro-LGBTQ legislation than anyone in Canadian history. Cheri was just voted NOW Magazine's Best MPP, her third time winning this title. // She is the winner of several major awards – the Lambda Literary Award in Washington, D.C. for spirituality and religion for her book Queering Evangelism, the Award of Merit by the government of Ukraine for her work on Canada's first tri-party bill recognizing the Holodomor as genocide and the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2015 Inspire Awards for her lifelong work as an activist for equal rights. Cheri has also received the Bicycling Leadership Award from the Share the Road Cycling Coalition, the Community Hero Award from Jer's Vision, the Rainbow Health Advocate Award from Rainbow Health Ontario, the History Maker Award from Brockville Pride and the PFLAG Ally Award, presented by Rosie O'Donnell.

**Time/Temps:** 10:00-11:15 am

**Title/Titre: Balancing Rights and Responsibilities: Understanding Religious Accommodations in the Context of the "Sex Ed" Debate**

**Description:** The public debate and discourse regarding the updated human growth and development strands of HPE curriculum has been loud and controversial. The media has reinforced the very narrow stereotype that it is a stand off between religion and 'sex education' and much of the understanding of individual rights and professional responsibilities has been lost in this over simplification. On Dec 10, 2015 the Ontario Human Rights Commission updated its decades old policy on Creed making many new clarifications, and changes regarding faith and accommodations. It is therefore important for educators to clearly understand the legislation requirements that flow both from the Education Act regarding what must be taught and the Ontario Human Rights Code regarding why, when and how we are obligated to make religious accommodations. This workshop will offer participants an overview of these issues and explain the process of formal religious accommodations as they would apply to this curriculum.

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Ken Jeffers

**Bio:** Ken Jeffers is a teacher and child and youth worker and has been an employee of the Toronto District School Board for the past 16 years. He began his career within the TDSB as a Equity Program

Advisor, designing and delivering programs for staff and youth, playing an advocate role for students experiencing discrimination and helping to draft and implement the TDSB's Equity and Human Right's policies as early as 1999. Since 2009 Ken has worked as Coordinator of the Board's Gender-Based Violence Prevention Office, implementing a system prevention strategy for all 600 schools, 250K students and 30K employees across the district.

**Time/Temps:** 10:00-11:15 am

**Title/Titre: Approaching Queer Male Relationships: Understanding Queer Masculinities, Shame, and Gay Dating Apps**

**Description:** Within gay and queer male communities, conceptions of masculinities infiltrate the lives and relations of men who manoeuvre through the trials and tribulations of sex, intimacy, and dating. With young gay men coming out into a 'gay scene' littered with gendered and racial discrimination (Bergling, 2001; Kendall & Martino, 2006; Sánchez & Vilain, 2012), it is necessary to discuss the effects of toxic masculinities, misogyny, and internalized homophobia on the dating and sexual lives of gay and queer men. This workshop will engage with the theory of 'gay shame' (Downs, 2012) to discuss how shame often develops within the lives of queer men and how whiteness and toxic masculinity can multiply within gay and queer male spaces. Referencing coming out, this workshop will provide all educators with a background on the landscape of gay and queer male dating, including hook-up applications, such as Grindr and Scruff, as well the dating and sexual norms of gay communities and culture. This workshop will employ the theories of 'gay shame', internalized homophobia, and toxic masculinity through a feminist lens, as well as homonormativity in gay and queer male dating, to provide all attendees with a comprehensive background on the complexities of gay and queer male intimacies. Further discussions will occur on the various forms of relationships common within queer and male dating beyond monogamy, as well as how gay masculinities (Hardi, 2000) and shame can propagate gendered dynamics and discrimination in gay and queer male sexualities and dating (Miller & Behm-Morawitz, 2016). Through theory and praxis, as well as an interactive pedagogical approach to learning, this workshop will ensure that attendees garner a sense of the nuances of gay and queer male dating, sexualities, and cultures.

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Adam Davies

**Bio:** Adam Davies is a Ph.D. student in Curriculum Studies & Teacher Development, Sexual Diversity Studies & Women & Gender Studies at the University of Toronto. Adam holds his Master of Arts in Education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto, as well as his Honours Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Wilfrid Laurier University, and specializes in issues of equity for queer and trans youth and communities, including affect, masculinities, and embodiment for gay and queer men. Adam is an Ontario Certified Teacher.

**Time/Temps:** 10:00-11:15 am

**Title/Titre: Incorporating Active Listening in Schools**

**Description:** I will go through what active listening entails and why it is important for teachers and administrators to use this techniques in an effort to encourage teachers and administrators to be empathetic.

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Anthony Lombardi

**Bio:** I have a B,Ed, in Education and taught high school English and Spanish for 9 years in both the private and public sector. I am now a Vice Principal in a high school in Montreal. For the last 5 years or so, I have been volunteering fo Gai Écoute. For the past 3 years, I have been in charge of overseeing the quality assurance and development of our English services. I am also a member of the Board of Directors.

**Time/Temps:** 10:00-11:15 am

**Title/Titre:** Aller de l'avant ensemble

**Description:** *Description forthcoming.*

**Presenter/Présentateur:** [Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud](#)

**Bio:** *Bio*

## Session 2 Workshops / Ateliers de la deuxième session

**Time/Temps:** 12:15pm-13:30pm

**Title/Titre:** *Consent in the Curriculum: Where do our LGBTQ students fit?*

**Description:** This interactive workshop will engage educators, administrators, and other stakeholders in a conversation covering challenges, opportunities, frustrations, and strategies for implementing consent-based learning. Now that sexual consent is explicitly included in Ontario's Health and Physical Education curriculum, how can we ensure we address not principles of sexual consent AND aspects specific to students who identify as bisexual, lesbian, gay, two-spirit, queer, asexual, intersex, and/or transgender?

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Shannon Salisbury

**Bio:** An educator and former social worker, Shannon Salisbury has spent several years working around issues of sexual and reproductive health and sexual violence. She is currently a classroom teacher and is pursuing her PhD at OISE, studying how teachers reinforce and resist against rape culture in schools, and the ways in which they incorporate consent into their teaching practice. She is also parenting two teenagers.

**Time/Temps:** 12:15pm-13:30pm

**Title/Titre:** *Understanding Trauma-Informed Approaches to Teaching About Sexual Consent in Schools*

**Description:** This workshop will discuss some of the ways that educators can implement the 2015-revised Sexual Health Curriculum with tools to use a trauma-informed approach to teaching about consent.

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Jessica Elaine Wright

**Bio:** Jessica Elaine Wright is a PhD Candidate at the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, in the Department of Social Justice Education. Wright is also an educator and has taught various grades as well as seminars and workshops on wellness, empowerment, sexual health and consent. Their doctoral research is informed by the voices of youth who are survivors of trauma and that have experienced the revised Ontario Human Development and Sexual Health Curriculum. Wright is an interdisciplinary scholar and activist and uses a lens informed by the intersections of critical race, critical disability, queer, and feminist studies.

**Time/Temps:** 12:15pm-13:30pm

**Title/Titre:** Why Mathematics and Social Justice Must Count

**Description:** Mathematics has historically been taught in a twilight-zone void, divorced from any meaningful connection to the real world. Sure, math problems use marbles and pizzas, dice and donuts to suggest that we are talking about real things. But, in essence, students are being robbed of the opportunity to engage politically in their worlds: there's no reason why we can't explore poverty, racism, homophobia, the environment, war, immigration, sexism and a host of other issues using the language of mathematics. This workshop explores both the philosophical reasoning for linking math and justice, with a focus on lessons that bring LGBTQ+ content into the mathematics classroom.

**Presenter/Présentateur:** David Stocker

**Bio:** David Stocker has been a teacher for 18 years at City View Alternative School in the Toronto District School Board. The school's focus is on social justice integration across the curriculum as well as student activism. David is also the author of Maththatmatters and recently, Maththatmatters 2, teacher resources that link math and social justice. He lives in Toronto with his partner, Rogue, and his three children.

**Time/Temps:** 12:15pm-13:30pm

**Title/Titre:** Transforming Policy into Practice: Creating a Framework for Effective Bullying Prevention and Interventions Strategies

**Description:** If most bullying programs offer easy fixes and band-aids that don't really work or are not sustainable, how can we move towards a better education? The prevalence and negative effects of bullying have been studied for over 30 years. However, our understanding of how to effectively prevent cultures of bullying is still in its infancy, despite the wealth of research on the subject.

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Ken Jeffers

**Bio:** Ken Jeffers is a teacher and child and youth worker and has been an employee of the Toronto District School Board for the past 16 years. He began his career within the TDSB as a Equity Program Advisor, designing and delivering programs for staff and youth, playing an advocate role for students

experiencing discrimination and helping to draft and implement the TDSB's Equity and Human Right's polices as early as 1999. Since 2009 Ken has worked as Coordinator of the Board's Gender-Based Violence Prevention Office, implementing a system prevention strategy for all 600 schools, 250K students and 30K employees across the district.

**Time/Temps:** 12:15pm-13:30pm

**Title/Titre:** Catholic Means All-Embracing: Fostering a Supportive Environment for LGBTQ+ Catholics in Separate Schools Today

**Description:** LGBTQ+ students in Catholic schools frequently find themselves in an uncomfortable tension—wanting to proudly affirm their identity, but often butting heads with official Catholic teachings and their painful implications. How can LGBTQ+ students and their allies find their legitimate place in separate schools, and how can they advance the larger conversation about the intersection of sexual identity and religious faith today? This workshop will explore some of the unique challenges and possibilities of the Catholic—LGBTQ+ discussion, will invite sharing around best practices, and will look strategically at how to engage that conversation in ways that are life-giving, productive and faith-enhancing.

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Dr. Murray Watson

**Bio:** Dr. Murray Watson is a Catholic theologian, and a gay man, who has worked widely with Catholic educators and leaders over the last 20 years, around issues of inclusion, diversity and bridge-building. He lives in London, Ontario, teaching part-time at Huron University College, and part-time in Jerusalem, where he has directed adult faith-formation programmes in Biblical studies and interreligious dialogue.

**Time/Temps:** 12:15pm-13:30pm

**Title/Titre:** *Decolonizing the Gender Binary: Racism and the Non-Binary Identity*

**Description:** This workshop will explore our concepts of gender through the lens of decolonization, while also giving tips about how folks can support trans justice and trans people in their life. Each presentation can be tailored specifically for teachers, administration, for students, or specifically for gender diverse participants themselves. If the presentation is geared towards non-cisgender people, it will focus more on supports, resources, and strategies, as well as discussion and sharing. Since Lukayo Estrella does not experience transmisogyny, they prefer to co-present this workshop with someone who has, and welcomes local workshop presenters to be remunerated and part of the presentation if this is an out-of-town booking.

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Lukayo Estrella

**Bio:** Lukayo Estrella writes to educate and speaks to inspire. A Bikol and Tagalog diasporic wordslinger, they are based on unceded Algonquin territory and currently reside in the city of Ottawa. Their poetry has been shouted out on national spoken word stages and whispered into local crowded classrooms. Their words have taken up space in newspapers, magazines, and an anthology called *Out Proud: Stories of Pride, Courage, and Social Justice*. Lived experience and research ground their interactive workshops of

liberation, while faith in collective impact informs their organizing. Ultimately, Lukayo seeks to creatively support communities with their words and actions for collaborative growth.

**Time/Temps:** 12:15pm-13:30pm

**Title/Titre:** Leading the Way: Working with LGBTQ Athletes and Coaches

**Description:** This workshop will provide an overview of the efforts underway to make sport more welcoming to sexual and gender minorities, what individuals and organizations can do, and the resources available to assist them.

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Jennifer Birch Jones

**Bio:** Jennifer Birch-Jones is the Program Lead for LGBTQI2S Sport Inclusion for the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport and Physical Activity (CAAWS). She is the author of CAAWS' Leading the Way: Working with LGBT Athletes and Coaches and the co-author of Creating Inclusive Environments for Trans Participants in Canadian Sport for the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport.

**Time/Temps:** 12:15pm-13:30pm

**Title/Titre:** HIV/AIDS: Teaching Through Loss

**Description:** Participants will be taken on a journey of my planning and teaching of The Norman Heart in Civics and English class. I will be going through my pedagogical documentation of this journey, sharing students' perspectives, and addressing the constant anxiety of doing this type of work.

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Armen Shahnazarian

**Bio:** Armen Shahnazarian is a teacher with Toronto District School Board. In addition to being a classroom teacher, Armen has also held Central and Department Head positions at the TDSB. He holds a collaborative Master of Education degree in Sociology and Equity Studies in Education and Sexual Diversity Studies from the University of Toronto. Armen is passionate about student success and equity within education.

**Time/Temps:** 12:15pm-13:30pm

**Title/Titre:** Équité et inclusion

**Description:** Cet atelier sera au sujet du l'équité et l'inclusons dans le context d'un école rural, avec une emphase sur le soutien des étudiant(e)s LGBTQs qui n'ont pas accès aux services de santé facilement.

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Carole Dufort

**Bio:** Carole Dufort a été dans le domaine de l'éducation pour 28 ans. Elle a été enseignante en français, directrice d'école à l'élémentaire pendant 12 ans et agente d'éducation au Ministère. En 2013, elle a été choisie comme l'une des directrices exceptionnels du Canada par TLP Canada. Elle est partie du comité d'équité de son conseil scolaire pendant plusieurs années.

# Session 3 Workshops / Ateliers de la troisième session

**Time/Temps:** 13:45-15:00, 1:45pm - 3:00pm

**Title/Titre:** *Talking About Diverse Families in the Classroom*

**Description:** *Description not yet available.*

**Presenter/Présentateur:** S. Bear Bergman

**Bio:** *Biography not yet available.*

**Time/Temps:** 13:45-15:00, 1:45pm - 3:00pm

**Title/Titre:** *Love and queerness in classroom community*

**Description:** During this workshop, I will share aspects of what it was like for me as a genderqueer/trans teacher to transition physically at a school where – for the most part - my professional identity was trusted at the same time that my trans identity was seen. I will focus particularly on the role that my students and their families played in this experience, and explore the idea that in order for classroom spaces to be truly queered and safe(r) for all participants, we must work differently and diligently to support one another in the emotional commitment that is required to sustain ongoing learning, growth and change. This interactive workshop will consist of; - group-building activities and practical strategies for the sort of personal identity work that we can all engage in as teachers/learners. - a multi-media presentation (including video/audio) of a discussion that I had with my grade 6 class on the day that I told them about the physical aspects of my gender transition. - time set aside for small + whole group conversation about the potential impact of intentional community building on the sustainability of social justice education. In addition, I will provide participants with specific suggestions, tools and resources regarding heart-based curriculum and ways that love-as-pedagogy is applicable to the process of building queerSpace in schools

**Presenter/Présentateur:** benjamin lee hicks

**Bio:** benjamin lee hicks is a visual artist, elementary school teacher and graduate student. They taught JK-grade 6 classrooms in the Toronto District School Board for 8 years prior to beginning graduate work in Curriculum Studies and Teacher Development at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto in September 2015. benjamin has written and designed curriculum materials for elementary schools on topics of sustainable community building, queer/trans inclusion and arts-based activism. They are interested in how we might better support teachers to expect queerness and prepare for multi-dimensional gender identity in elementary school classrooms. benjamin's current research focuses on how faculties of education can teach pre-service teacher candidates to learn about queer identities with direct permission and support to discuss their own feelings, fears and reservations about

this topic. They are interested in slowing down the pace at which social justice education is addressed in early teacher training – making room for heart-based processing alongside social and political theory.

**Time/Temps:** 13:45-15:00, 1:45pm - 3:00pm

**Title/Titre:** All Gender Washrooms & All Gender Cabins: Making Them Happen!

**Description:** Students from City View Alternative School in Toronto's west end will talk about how student activism led to the opening of Canada's first proactively established multi-stall all gender washroom for grade 7 and 8. Students will share strategies that they used, barriers that they faced, and ultimately how their success led to all gender cabins on the year end trip.

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Students of City View Alternative School

**Time/Temps:** 13:45-15:00, 1:45pm - 3:00pm

**Title/Titre:** *Voices into Action: Teaching Resource for Bullying, Racism, and Discrimination in Secondary Schools*

**Description:** Learn about an award-winning teaching resource *Voices into Action*, free online. It provides educators with tools to broach difficult topics such as bullying, racism and intolerance, while meeting requirements for secondary school curricula. The dashboard for educators with lesson plans, customizable notes, curriculum links to many high school courses and assessments will be presented. Teach students past and present social justice issues so they can take action. VIA includes: assignments, critical thinking and 30 original video interviews with first-hand accounts and youth group discussions by Aboriginals, Black Canadians, Jews, LGBTQ, Muslims, people with disabilities, refugees and more. Showing these videos in classrooms opens the dialogue to discussion, creating a safe space to share personal experiences and then move on to examine these topics in depth. Teach students about cyber bullying so they learn how harmful it is and become responsible digital citizens. Every student deserves to feel safe and secure in school.

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Nicole Miller

**Bio:** Nicole Miller's role with FAST began as program coordinator for Ontario region in 2008, leading to National Program Manager within 2 years and as Executive Director since 2014. Fighting racism and discrimination have always been very important to her since she grew up in South Africa under the system of apartheid. At age 12, she immigrated with her family to Canada. After high school in Toronto, Nicole attended McGill University and graduated with a BA in languages. She has studied many languages, spent a semester in Italy and worked in London, U.K. At age 21, she moved to New York to study at Parsons School of Design, graduating with a BFA in Communication Design. After 12 years in New York working as an advertising and design Art Director, she relocated to Toronto with her family in 1996 to become a partner in a boutique design firm. She has also been involved in education for many years, taking an active role in the education of her children and volunteering marketing and design expertise to their schools. After a career of 25 years in the advertising/design field, she felt the need to give back to community and do something more rewarding with this expertise. She feels strongly about

giving her three sons a Canadian education and raising them as Canadians who will also fight intolerance and stand up for the rights of everyone.

**Time/Temps:** 13:45-15:00, 1:45pm - 3:00pm

**Title/Titre:** *Transmisogyny: the complicated intersections of cissexism and sexism*

**Description:** *Description not yet available.*

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Jade Pichette, Bridget Liang

**Bio:** Jade is an anti-oppressive educator, who has worked as an advocate in LGBTQ+ communities for over ten years. They have worked with over 50 different organizations across Ontario to develop queer and trans inclusive policies. Jade currently works as the Volunteer & Community Outreach Coordinator at the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives. They have an interest trans and bi erasure in LGBTQ+ communities, LGBTQ+ Interfaith work, and continuing to challenge their own position of white-privilege.

**Time/Temps:** 13:45-15:00, 1:45pm - 3:00pm

**Title/Titre:** Creating safer spaces in the moment – responding to student disclosures and addressing homophobic and transphobic comments from students, fellow teachers and administrators.

**Description:** This workshop will be highly participatory, drawing on participants' knowledge and collective wisdom, as well as the latest research findings. Through the presentation, Julia will highlight the importance of a whole school approach to creating safer spaces that involves creating change through relationships within the school environment and working on multiple levels within the school system. Participants will have the opportunity to share their experiences with students disclosing their gender and sexual identity and/or disclosing experiences of homophobic/transphobic bullying. Together we will discuss ways to respond to student disclosures to create the most safe and therapeutic space possible within the context of the student-teacher relationship. Participants will also have the opportunity to discuss times when they have witnessed homophobic/transphobic comments being made about a student by another student, fellow teacher or administrator. Drawing upon recommendations from the latest research and participant wisdom, we will brainstorm ways to respond in each of these situations in order to help the student feel supported and create a more positive school culture for LGBTQ students. Participants will have the option to take home a number of tools created by PREVNet, including the Bullying Prevention and Intervention in the School Environment: Factsheets and Tools document.

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Julia Riddell

**Bio:** Julia Riddell is a doctoral student in Clinical Developmental Psychology at York University. She works under the supervision of Dr. Debra Pepler, one of the founders and scientific co-directors of the Promoting Relationships and Eliminating Violence Network (PREVNet). Julia's research is done in collaboration with interventions for marginalized populations, including Indigenous communities, northern Canadian youth, LGBTQ youth and youth struggling with mental health and addiction. She also does therapy with children, youth and families with a focus on helping them develop healthier relationships.

**Time/Temps:** 13:45-15:00, 1:45pm - 3:00pm

**Title/Titre:** *Effective education policy and strategies to ensure accommodation and inclusion of diverse gender identities and expressions in Ontario Schools.*

**Description:** In 2012 both the Education Act and the Ontario Human Rights code were changed to include gender identity and expression as inherent human rights and the need to ensure inclusion and acceptance in all schools for the diverse range gender identities and expressions. However, the changes to our cis-normative education systems has been very slow to come. Questions of access, barrier removal and accommodation range from: student ID data collection, use of pronouns, preferred names, OSR changes, washroom/ change rooms access, over-night trips , gender segregated classes, programs and sports teams. This workshop will help participants navigate some of the more common requests, difficult questions and basic understanding that all staff should have. And offer a best practice guideline for developing successful policy and implementation strategy .

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Ken Jeffers

**Bio:** Ken Jeffers is a teacher and child and youth worker and has been an employee of the Toronto District School Board for the past 16 years. He began his career within the TDSB as a Equity Program Advisor, designing and delivering programs for staff and youth, playing an advocate role for students experiencing discrimination and helping to draft and implement the TDSB's Equity and Human Right's polices as early as 1999. Since 2009 Ken has worked as Coordinator of the Board's Gender-Based Violence Prevention Office, implementing a system prevention strategy for all 600 schools, 250K students and 30K employees across the district.

**Time/Temps:** 13:45-15:00, 1:45pm - 3:00pm

**Title/Titre:** *A Caribbean Lesbian's Journey in Canada*

**Description:** *Description not yet available.*

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Tasheka Lavann

**Bio:** Tasheka Lavann is a LGBTQ Activist living in Toronto, Canada. She was born in the Caribbean island of Antigua where she made her mark in the media industry. Lavann worked as a Journalist and TV News Anchor for ten years at the Antigua/Barbuda Broadcasting Services where she also hosted many shows to include Good Morning Antigua/Barbuda. Lavann has also worked for the World's Leading Honeymoon Resort – Sandals Resorts as the Public Relations Manager for Sandals Grande Antigua. She is the 2007 Golden Jubilee Queen of Carnival/Miss Antigua and Barbuda and 2004 Miss Leeward Islands Teen, among several other titles in pageantry. Lavann is a graduate of the University of the West Indies Mona campus in Jamaica and holds a certificate from the Roy H Park School of Communication at Ithaca College in New York. Now a resident of Toronto, Lavann hopes to continue her advocacy work, touching more lives, while working on her modeling and singing careers. In the meantime, Lavann has found a way to marry her journalism and advocacy work as she now hosts her own YouTube Channel – Island Lez Talk (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQkVfRntKCY3uA693Q49OJA> ), dedicated to celebrating the LGBTQ community while discussing issues they continue to face.

**Time/Temps:** 13:45-15:00, 1:45pm - 3:00pm

**Title/Titre:** *Le changement social par les pratiques en éducation*

**Description:** Lors de cet atelier, le changement social par les pratiques éducatives sera abordé. La prochaine question sera répondue : comment appliquer la pratique anti-oppressive en tant qu'éducateurs-éducatrices et être un agent de changement social? Une critique des structures hétérocentriques et cisgendriques présentes dans le système éducatif sera formulée, pour ensuite proposer un nouveau modèle plus inclusif envers la diversité des genres et des sexualités romantiques et sexuelles. Des exemples concrets et accessibles seront présentés.

**Presenter/Présentateur:** Vanessa Asselin-Mailloux

**Bio:** Vanessa est une activiste francophone et féministe queer qui s'intéresse aux questions des violences sexuelles sur les campus universitaires, de la francophonie, de la communauté Lgbtq+, de l'âgisme, etc. Elle est présentement étudiante en dernière année à l'Université d'Ottawa en service social et en études féministes et de genre et elle fut stagiaire à l'hiver 2017 au Centre canadien de la diversité sexuelle et des genres.