

Keynote Speeches:

What 2SLGBTQ students, past and present, can teach us about gaps in our school environment- Rahim Thawer, Affective Consulting & Psychotherapy Services.

What would make academic settings accessible and emotionally safe for 2SLGBTQ students to be able to participate fully? For many, the answers include inviting guest speakers, rainbow stickers in office windows, and a slightly altered english course reading list. However, this is only the starting point and it's based on an educator's assessment of needs. Drawing on his lived experience as a queer South Asian Muslim who grew up in Etobicoke, to his work as a psychotherapist and facilitator, Rahim Thawer will explore how the experiences of 2SLGBTQ students, past and present, can teach us about the urgent discussions and subsequent cultural shifts that are needed in our classrooms and hallways to actualize our mandates for creating positive space.

Stories We Tell Ourselves- Cael Wilson, Hastings & Prince Edward District School Board

The stories we tell ourselves influence the way we move in the world. In this technological world where we are prone to capture 20 second snapshot stories it's easy to lose our authenticity in story. This keynote will explore the nature of storytelling, the roles we inherit and often become, the limitations of language, and how our stories about ourselves are often the most important way to finding our true selves.

Workshop Descriptions:

Gender is Like an Ocean: Exploring Adolescents' and Teachers' Collaborative Inquiry into All-Gender Identity and Inclusion- Ty Walkland

In 2016, students from Delta Senior Alternative School and teacher candidates in the Master's of Teaching (MT) program at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto (OISE) read the book Beautiful Music for Ugly Children (2012) by Kirstin Cronn-Mills. In intergenerational groups, the students and teachers worked together to design curriculum and create arts-based projects in response to social issues raised by the book, and co-researched that process. More information can be found at www.addressinginjustices.com.

Bye Bye Binary: Envisioning Gender-Transformative Spaces for 2SLGBTQ+ Communities - Ellis Furman

This workshop provides social-ecological approach to understanding how cisnormativity (the idea that all people identify with the sex they were assigned at birth) create significant barriers for 2SLGBTQ+ communities. We will work collaboratively to envision strategies to transform individual, interpersonal, institutional, and social barriers in order to improve health and well-being in our communities.

Ontario's Long Road to Equity in Education - Tim McCaskell

Left to their own devices, education systems tend to reproduce existing social inequalities. In Ontario, education has been a site where different groups have struggled to combat inequality and promote equity in the context of a broader society that is becoming ever more unequal. What does it take to make an education system serve the goals of equity? What has been achieved in this province, and what are the prospects for the future?

Queer HERstory- Daniella Noël

Queer HERstory takes intersectional look at the sometimes forgotten queer women of our community. The presentation is an exploration of the many femme identified individuals in the past (Ancient times) all the way to present (2010s) and their impact on the ways in which we perceive femininity and queerness. Queer HERstory looks to highlight the femmes who had the courage to be themselves and refused to be overshadowed by a patriarchal and heteronormative world.

Trans 101- GET REAL

The purpose of this workshop is to develop a deeper understanding of what being transgender means, how gender affects our day to day interactions, and how we can dispel gender stereotypes. Run by GET REAL facilitators with trans lived-experiences, they will discuss gender stereotypes and construction, and education on creating safer spaces for all genders.

Choose Your Voice: Voices Into Action- Nicole Miller

How can we respond appropriately to issues of racism, homophobia and discrimination? This interactive workshop provides you with two award-winning resources free online to use in your schools and communities. A wealth of cross-curricular content is explored in: Choose Your Voice for grades 9-12, (4 units) and Voices Into Action for grades 9-12 (6 units, 33 chapters) . There are 38 original videos that will be shown, with a focus on homophobia and gender issues. There will also be a demonstration of the valuable teaching tools for educators - lesson plans, rubrics, curriculum kits, handouts, and more.

Intentionally Imbedding Equity in the Classroom- Robert Durocher

This teacher workshop is positioned in that equity is something that is intentionally embedded into content and pedagogy, not something done onto people. It will bring the intersectionality of gender, sexuality, race, religion and notions of ability into conversation. We will also look at frameworks to embed equity, inclusion and anti-oppression into the classroom.

Exploring Asexual & Aromantic Spectrum Diversity, and Relationships "Outside the Box" - ACE Toronto

This interactive workshop explores the diversity of asexual “ace” spectrum and aromantic spectrum identities, experiences and relationships, as well as some of the issues that ace and/or arospec people face. (Note the large proportion of people in ace communities who are trans and/or non-binary in terms of gender and also who are bi.) We will talk about romantic attraction, the aromantic spectrum and different ways of doing relationships including some that are outside of society's standard relationship boxes. What makes some relationships more important than other relationships to you personally and how does that line up with what society says is supposed to be important? We will work through some of the social ideals and pressures about identities and relationships that affect everyone and we connect these to larger, multidimensional and intersecting systems of power and marginalisation. We talk about how these social structures and expectations matter on the personal level when it comes to things like consent and boundaries, especially because consent isn't just about sex. And we offer some new language to help people frame and navigate their identities and relationships. (This workshop is for anyone-- whether you're ace and/or arospec, questioning and/or just interested in learning.)

Mindfulness & Building Resilience in LGBTQIA2S+ Students -Cael Wilson

Drawing on key aspects of mindfulness, this workshop will explore why and how mindfulness can be used to teach resilience. We'll cover the basics of mindfulness, why is important to teach it explicitly, and how mindfulness can help students manage and / or cope with their realities.

Developing Resiliency in LGBTQ Youth- David Soomarie & Garfield Durant, BlackCAP

The objectives of this workshop will be to provide participants (educators) with an understanding of the religious/cultural, institutional, social impacts of being LGBTQ, to help participants identify strengths in LGBTQI students, and brainstorm strategies for using strengths to combat cultural, institutional and social impacts of being LGBTQ (starting a club, writing letters, running a support group etc). It will also provide a tool that helps LGBTQ youth identify levels (religious/cultural, Institutional, community/family) of discrimination, strengths they identify and develop strategies for combating them.

More descriptions to be added shortly.