

GSA Leadership Forum 2019

Meet our Staff

Jeremy Dias

Jeremy Dias was born in Edmonton, Alberta, and grew up there until moving to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, where he attended high school. As a youth, he was motivated by social and political inequality to take action, volunteering with numerous organizations and charities. In high school he started and lead a number of clubs including Stop Racism and Ontario Students Against Impaired Driving. He also founded and coordinated the Sault Ste. Marie first regional LGBTQ youth group.

After coming out in high school, Jeremy faced extreme cases of discrimination by students & school officials. At 17, he began a legal case against his school and school board, and at 21 won Canada's second largest human rights settlement. Jeremy used the money to found the Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity, the international Day of Pink and the Jeremy Dias Scholarship.



Cameron Aitken

Cameron Aitken is a staunch queer activist, ever since 2010, when he founded the first high school GSA in Sault Ste Marie, ON. He is an alumnus member of MSAC 2012 and received the Principals leadership award, upon graduating from high school. Cameron completed his BaH in Communications and Sociology with distinction, from Carleton University in 2016. He was lucky enough to receive funding to study abroad and then completed a Master of Arts in Gender Studies at CEU in Budapest, Hungary. His research focused on MSM cruising in the Ottawa Valley and his research interests include Queer theory and Queer Canadian history.

After returning to Canada, Cameron was job searching for 8 months and primarily looking for work in the NGO sector. Eventually, Cameron re-joined the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity as their Office Manager, and has been in this posting for almost a year. He is also the vice president of the board for the Lambda Canada Scholarship Foundation, a member of the Ottawa Youth Engagement Committee, and a beginner harpist at the Anglican Church of St John the Evangelist.

Cameron is also a triplet, a musical theatre enthusiast, and you will most likely find them humming or belting out a tune.

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Adri Bravo

Adri Bravo (she/her pronouns) is the Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Prevention Coordinator at the Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity. She travels across Canada raising visibility of LGBTQ2S+ IPV and provides service providers with tools and training to increase capacity and better support the rainbow community.

Adri received her Bachelor of Arts in History from Kent State University before working for the U.S. government as a civil rights investigator. When she isn't advocating for social justice, Adri enjoys running, improving her French, and traveling with her partner.



Amanda Myerson

Amanda Myerson (she/her pronouns) is the National & GSA Leadership Forum Coordinator at the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity. She plans day long forums in each province and territory which culminates in a national leadership forum which brings youth from coast to coast together to learn about how to be an advocate for themselves and others LGBTQ2+ youth in their schools and communities.

Amanda was born and raised in Montreal, Canada. She received her Bachelor of Social Work from McGill University and her Bachelor of Education at the University of Ottawa. Amanda has had 16 years of experience as a camper, staff, supervisor and program director at various sleepaway camps. After university, Amanda spent 2 years teaching and travelling abroad in Europe, New Zealand, Australia, and South-East Asia before returning home and relocating to Ottawa, Ontario to work at the CCGSD. She bridges her educational and professional experiences to provide a transformational experience to 75-youth at the centre's the week-long GSA Leadership Forum.

She is passionate about social justice, community building and providing the tools to others to build projects that strengthen their own communities. Amanda listens to far too many podcasts and is constantly trying to find a new TV show to marathon with a strong-female lead (bonus points for queer characters).

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the GSA Forum this year!

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Daniella Noël

Hi folks. My name is Daniella and I am the current Education Coordinator at the CCGSD. For as long as I can remember I have been interested in Sexual Health, Reproductive Rights and Education. After receiving my Bachelor's in Sociology and minor in Psychology at Bishop's University I moved to the beautiful City of Ottawa. After moving, I continued to follow my passion by volunteering and working at Sexual Health organizations and Abortion services in the Ottawa Area.



As a child I was inspired by educators like Sue Johanson for her open and lighthearted approach to sex and sexuality. I have spent much of my adult life saying, "I want to be the next Sue". Over the years I have worked to incorporate laughter and learning in each workshop I present, especially when talking about difficult subjects like systematic oppression. As a queer black woman I feel that it is important to take a holistic and intersection approach to all the educational material I create and present. I feel representation and visibility is the cornerstone to creating a society that not only accepts all the people within it but also celebrates their unique individuality.



Garry Dart

Hello! My name is Garry Dart and I am the Service Provider Network Coordinator here at the CCGSD. Originally from Newfoundland, I have a BSc. Honours in Ecology and Conservation Biology from Memorial University and moved to Ottawa two years ago to finish my BA Honours in Psychology at the University of Ottawa. My goal is to become a LGBTQ+ sex and relationship therapist. I have a very diverse background and have worked at many organizations including MAX Ottawa as well as volunteering as a Co-Facilitator with PFLAG in Newfoundland for five years. You are most likely to find me dancing, meditating in nature, or drinking a good cup of tea.

I am enthused to share my experience as well as hear from the national broad base of knowledge that many organizations and individuals have to contribute in order to meet the needs of our diverse community. We all have personal experiences that shape who we are and influence our drive to change the world. It is again time to inspire, collaborate, advocate for change, increase diversity and inclusion and mend the gaps that seem to exist within our amazing communities.

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Hana O'Connor

My name is Hana O'Connor and I am currently employed at the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity as Forum Coordinator. I have a B.A. in English and Psychology from University College Cork, a post-graduate diploma in Applied Psychology from London Metropolitan University, and a M.A. in Sexuality Studies from Dublin City University.

Originally from Cork, I have been a staunch activist for the LGBTQ2IA+ community for over a decade. I worked in the hub of the Yes Equality campaign during the Irish Marriage Equality Referendum of 2015, and helped to run the flagship store in St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.

I relocated from Ireland to Canada in 2017 to pursue a career in LGBTQ2S+ activism and education. My career trajectory was borne out of my belief that queer life needs to be normalized into everyday society and culture, and heteronormativity should not be the standard that everyone must live by. Since moving to Ottawa, I have also volunteered for the annual Pride Festival and worked as part of the Operations Team for Ottawa Pride 2018.

In my spare time I love to read, practice yoga, get far too competitive at trivia nights, sing on long car rides, get annoyed when people interrupt me while singing on long car rides, and watch silent movies from the 1920's that no one has ever heard of.

Slán agus go raibh míle maith agat!

Janani Suthan

Janani Suthan is a staff member of the CCGSD and a student studying political science and gender studies; she's also asexual. She likes to talk about it, but has the undying urge to correct people when they ask her if she's "okay with dying a virgin." She has had decent success in teaching Gender and Sexuality 101 to youth and adults in the past, but felt that asexual and aromantic identities deserve their own special attention (definitely not because any certain biases). Come join to her in the asexuality workshop to de-bunking some common myths about sex and relationships, while deconstructing amatonormivity! (Don't know what that means? Come to the workshop and find out!)

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Celeste Lessard-Kargen

Hey there, and welcome to the GSA Forum!

My name is Celeste and I am the Commemorate Canada Coordinator at CCGSD, an initiative that aims to educate young Canadians about 2SLGBTQ+ resistance and advocacy throughout history. I get the amazing opportunity to work with schools across the country to bring to life the voices of queer activists who paved the way for me, and for many queer folks, to feel comfortable and proud in who we are today.

In 2013 I moved from beautiful Quadra Island, B.C., to Ottawa to pursue a bachelor's degree in Conflict Studies and Human Rights at the University of Ottawa; my experiences revolve around youth education and engagement, non-profit work, and community building.

I find joy in being outdoors, camping in the middle of nowhere, cooking delicious meals with good friends, and sunny days at the beach. You can also usually catch me watching the latest queer tv show (yay, representation!), singing along to musical cast albums, or listening to audiobooks at an alarming rate.

Looking forward to meeting you all!

