



## Welcome to our November 2020 Newsletter!

### *DECEMBER 1ST IS GIVING TUESDAY!*

As a supporter and newsletter subscriber, you know very well that the CCGSD works to reach as many youth this year as possible, given the COVID-19 pandemic and our adaption of digital learning. We're pleased to say we've been successful, but not without your help. This Giving Tuesday, consider taking your support a step further; monthly and one-time donations are vital to reaching more folks with our workshops and resources.



### *DEBBIE'S EXECUTIVE BLOG #2: OH, THE JOYS OF FUNDRAISING!*

This month, our Executive Director, Debbie Owusu-Akyeeah, is providing you with an update on the CCGSD's finances and fundraising. She is extremely excited to share her recent work and thoughts with our community just in time for Giving Tuesday.

On fundraising, Debbie says,

"In creating a community-centric fundraising strategy, we also improve our engagement with our most important stakeholder: **the communities we serve**... Our work cannot be done through a top-down approach. We need to lead the conversation nationally based on what our community wants and not the other way around...

**With this approach to fundraising, we show up for each other. It should always be this way and luckily it is not too late for us to start."**

This Giving Tuesday, we hope you'll consider taking the extra step in helping grow our community-focussed advocacy work.

Check out Debbie's full blog post with all her organizational updates [here!](#)

## Help Us Grow Our National 2SLGBTQ Advocacy Initiatives

### ***TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE: A NOTE FROM OUR EDUCATION COORDINATOR***

Transgender Day of Remembrance was November 20th. Our beloved Education Coordinator, Eliot Newton, shared their tips about Self Care for Trans folks, as well as tips for Allyship and Action for non-trans folks.

#### **To Trans folks, Eliot says:**

"If you are a trans person and Trans Day of Remembrance is overwhelming for you, it's okay to turn your phone off for a little bit. It's okay to take a walk. It's okay if you can't

attend ceremony. Every day you live is ceremony. It's okay if you can't be the support person today. It's okay to ask those around you to shore you up, today of all days. It's okay to rest, to show yourself grace and love--and not just because you need this rest to get back to the fight tomorrow, but because you simply deserve it. You deserve to feel loved, safe, and hopeful."

#### **To Allies, Eliot says:**

"**Put your pronouns in your bio.** This normalizes pronouns and takes the pressure off trans folks. Share your pronouns any time you give your name. Don't assume other people's pronouns. Practice using singular 'they'.

**Hit the books.** It's never been easier to hear from queer and trans folks. It's an *awesome* time to expand your knowledge.

**Practice your lines.** Practice what you'd say when your pal gets misgendered. Imagine what you'd say to step in at work, at school, maybe even in a public space. This will help you be ready when your moment comes.

**Find a grassroots connection.** What are the local resources for trans folks in your area? Find them. What are your skills? Offer them. Ask what they need and what you can do, but think outside the box on what you can donate. Can you give money? How about your time? Get creative. If you want to be an ally, it's time to do the work.

**Diversify your feed.** One of the most effective things I've done in working on my own allyship is making a sincere effort to hear those voices I wouldn't necessarily be tuned into.

NOVEMBER 20TH, 2020

**TRANSGENDER  
DAY OF  
REMEMBRANCE**

LE CENTRE CANADIEN DE LA  
DIVERSITÉ DES GENRES  
DE LA SEXUALITÉ



THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR  
GENDER-SEXUAL  
DIVERSITY

Twitter Instagram Facebook | @ccgsd.ccdgs  
[ccgsd-ccdgs.org/resources/](https://ccgsd-ccdgs.org/resources/)

And it doesn't have to just be activists! Do the legwork to find someone queer and trans who likes the things you do. If you're only learning about trans people's suffering, you're missing out on SO much of our culture and joy.

**All for one, one for all.** Micah Bezant said "No Pride for some of us without liberation for all of us." Remember that trans liberation is tied to Black liberation, to decolonization, to universal accessibility. We all need to do our best to be intersectional in our allyship. Part of Trans Day of Remembrance is looking down at the shoulders we stand on and remembering that we are the future ancestors.

*After TDOR, I challenge you: Trans or not, how do you want to be remembered?"*

[Check out Eliot's full blog post here!](#)

## ***AN UPDATE FROM TEAM EDUCATION***

It has been a *super* busy couple of months for Team Education! Pivoting to online workshops wasn't so much a learning *curve* as it was a learning *sheer cliff*, but I think we're really getting there. We've tried a few different ways forward, but Ahmed (Ontario Forums Coordinator!) and I have settled on PearDeck, a Google extension that lets students participate live and anonymously in presentations. It's SO user friendly and it's a great way to keep students engaged when we're all feeling the screen fatigue. Basic PearDeck is free for teachers--you may want to check it out as a tool for your learning as we continue to figure out COVID-era education!

At the start of the school year, we piloted some care packages for teachers in our local school board and sent out buttons with little paper airplanes on them, and some love notes to tell teachers we care. The feedback from this was super heartwarming, and we're looking at ways to carry this energy forward! In the meantime, if you think your school could use a boost, send me an email at [eliot@cgsd-ccdgs.org](mailto:eliot@cgsd-ccdgs.org).

Since October, I've met with over 300 students (almost 350, as of writing!) and it's been a blast. One of the things I'm most excited about is that I've gotten a lot more requests than usual for programming *other* than our Gender & Sexuality 101! G&S101 is a classic, but one of my long-standing goals for the program has been to diversify our presentations to include 2SLGBTQ+ topics in a *variety* of teachable subjects. In particular, this past month has seen a lot of requests for *Intersecting Identities*, with students as young as 12 learning about oppression, privilege, and how we can leverage our power to take care of others. It is *so* encouraging to be having these conversations and see the cultural consciousness moving past 101 in some spaces! Friendly reminder that our most popular workshops can be found at [link] and, if there's a topic you *don't* see, but you're curious about what we can do, please send me an email!

May the coming winter bring you cozy blankets, warm drinks, and marathons of your favourite media.

Warmly,

Eliot (they/them), Education Coordinator

As usual, you can book a FREE digital conference for your school. Digital conferences run for 180-225 minutes of learning. Reach out to [community@ccgsd-ccdgs.org](mailto:community@ccgsd-ccdgs.org) if you'd like to book a day-long event.

Don't want a full-day event? We offer hour-long workshop sessions digitally across Ontario. Please reach out to [eliot@ccgsd-ccdgs.org](mailto:eliot@ccgsd-ccdgs.org) to book a single workshop for your classroom.

Athletics-based learning environments may enjoy a workshop on Sports Inclusion. Contact [sports@ccgsd-ccdgs.org](mailto:sports@ccgsd-ccdgs.org) to book a virtual Sports workshop.

### ***QUEER HISTORY POP-UP - DECEMBER 11TH!***

Help to eliminate barriers of ignorance by visiting us on **December 11th at the St. Laurent Shopping Centre for our Queer History Pop-Up**. There we will have a resource table where we'll be giving away free booklets and colouring books on 2SLGBTQ+ history. **Be informed about a community that has so much history that is often overlooked.**

QTBIPOC were and continue to be the backbone of 2SLGBTQ+ activism and community. The learning of their past and present is vital to our understanding of 2SLGBTQ+ history. Meet with our very own 2SLGBTQ+ historian, Emma Awe, who can contextualize your questions and provide valuable insight into the history of the queer community. Learn more about past and present organizations that have fought, and are still fighting against homophobia, transphobia and discrimination within the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

Also, watch out for our showings of history short films provided by [The Village Legacy Project](#) that illustrates the discriminations our community has felt over time. We'll also be debuting our very own short film for our Commemorate Canada program!

### ***DISABILITY AND LGBTQ+ INCLUSION STUDY***

A research team from Wilfrid Laurier University is conducting a study on subtle forms of discrimination and affirmations experienced by LGBTQ+ people with disabilities, also known as microaggressions and microaffirmations, respectively.

The research team invites you to participate in a personal interview where you will have the opportunity to share examples of:

- Subtle, possibly unintentional comments or behaviours that discriminate against you because you are LGBTQ+ and/or have a disability
- Small, but positive remarks or actions that affirm you as a LGBTQ+ person with a disability

Questions will relate to your experiences of microaggressions and microaffirmations in a variety of contexts in your life, such as family, work, school and friends. Your participation will help understand better the microaggressions and microaffirmations experiences of LGBTQ+ people with disabilities and how they impact them. The results will provide useful information on how society may better support the wellbeing of LGBTQ+ people with disabilities.

To participate, you must:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Identify as LGBTQ+ (e.g., lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, pansexual, two-spirit, gender-fluid, nonbinary, and/or any other sexual or gender diverse identity)
- Identify as a person with a disability or as disabled (including but not limited to, mobility, physical, sensory, developmental, intellectual, mental health-related, episodic disabilities and/or any other disability)
- Be able to provide informed consent
- Be able to understand written English
- Be able to speak in English or sign in American Sign Language
- Reside in Ontario

Your involvement will consist of participating in a 60 to 90-minute interview. The interview can take place online or over the phone. Accommodations are available (i.e., alternate formats, ASL interpretation, real-time captioning) as needed. A total of 20 participants are expected to take part in the study.

To thank you for your participation, you will receive a \$25 e-gift card of your choice from Tim Hortons, Starbucks or Amazon. Your name and any personal information you share will be kept confidential.

If you have any questions, please contact the principal researcher: Kathleen McKee at [kamckee@wlu.ca](mailto:kamckee@wlu.ca).

If you would like to participate, please [fill out this form](#) provide your contact information. The principal researcher will contact you as soon as possible.

The study is conducted in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity (CCGSD) who will assist in sharing the results to the public and use the results to inform their work. However, the CCGSD do not have access to the data.

The study, "What's Left Unseen What's Left Unseen: Microaggressions and Microaffirmations among LGBTQ+ people with Disabilities, conducted by Kathleen McKee (MA Student, Wilfrid Laurier University) and Dr. Simon Coulombe (Assistant Professor at Université Laval/Adjunct Status at Wilfrid Laurier University), Dr. Michael Woodford (Assistant Professor at Wilfrid Laurier University) has been approved by Wilfrid Laurier University's Research Ethics Board (REB #6615).

***We hope that everyone is staying safe, healthy, and responsible during these times of uncertainty.***

