



# WE BELONG:

## Information Package



## Description of document:

This information package describes the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity's (CCGSD) history program "We Belong." The package begins with a table of contents and then introduces CCGSD's history programming and We Belong. The next sections explain the forums that will be held as part of We Belong and then provide information for youth, educators, and parents/guardians. The document then provides curriculum connections and addresses some frequently asked questions. The final page lists contact information for the program.

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## ABOUT OUR HISTORY PROGRAMMING

The Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity's Queer History program works to educate youth about 2SLGBTQ+ Canadian history through storytelling, intergenerational connection, and centering diverse voices. We offer a wide range of programming and resources that teach about legacies that matter with the intention of combatting erasure and building safe and affirming learning environments. Through this program, we directly address the gaps in curriculum that too often leave Two-Spirit, queer, and trans stories out of the narrative, while creating opportunities for learners to reflect on the impact that 2SLGBTQ+ change-makers have had over time.

# INTRODUCING "WE BELONG"

We are excited to offer our newest queer history initiative funded by the Department of Canadian Heritage: We Belong: Celebrating 2SLGBTQ+ History.

This free, bilingual program is designed for youth between the ages of 12-19, living in BC, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec who are interested in the past, present and future of 2SLGBTQ+ peoples.

We Belong centres the diverse histories of Two-Spirit, queer, and trans Black, Indigenous, and people of colour (2SQTBIPOC) communities, highlighting the intersections of race, gender, and sexuality and shared stories of oppression, reclamation, and celebration.

Program participants will take part in one full-day digital forum and a supplementary youth-led activity. The full-day digital forum includes presentations and workshops on different themes that touch on shared 2SLGBTQ+ and BIPOC histories. Participants will hear directly from individuals who have worked relentlessly to create space for themselves and their communities in the face of exclusion and erasure.

As part of the program, participants will be guided through the development and implementation of their own community engagement projects that demonstrate how they can work together toward building safer, more equitable, and more aware communities for everyone. Participants will design their projects to engage their peers and their community, whether it be creating their own 2SLGBTQ+ history resource materials, inviting a local 2SLGBTQ+ activist to speak with their class or youth group, or writing a letter to their local school district to advocate for 2SLGBTQ+ history to be included in the curriculum. Whatever the method, participants will be encouraged to use their knowledge and skills to apply the principles of diversity and inclusion to their communities and strengthen their understanding of identity, community, and belonging.



# ABOUT THE FORUMS

This fall and winter, we are hosting 10 day-long digital forums for youth in BC, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec. The forums will run during the weekday and there will be two forums in each province, with around 100 participants between the ages of 12 -19 attending each event.

Each forum will include a keynote address featuring inspirational 2SLGBTQ+ history-makers, historians, artists, and activists.

Participants will also take part in a series of workshops on the following topics:

- Indigenous & Two Spirit History
- Queer liberation from Canada to Latin America
- Art & Activism

The forums are bilingual, with the pre-recorded content delivered primarily in English audio with French and English closed captioning. There will be live french closed captioning.

Sign-language interpretation will be provided on an as-needed basis. Participants will also be asked to share any personal access needs to facilitate their participation in the forum and its accompanying activities.

# INFORMATION FOR YOUTH

Interested in participating? We're excited to welcome you!

All youth wishing to participate in the program are required to register on the program web page. Please complete and submit the youth registration form to reserve your space; the form won't take too long and your responses help us to know how best to serve you. You'll be asked to pick the date and time of the forum in your province that works best for you. If the forum is happening during the school day and you're not participating with your class, we have a permission form that you can give your teacher or school to excuse your absence.

When you sign up for the forum, you are also agreeing to take part in the community engagement activity and to answer a few short surveys that will ask about your experience participating in the program. The surveys can be completed anonymously and they're very helpful for us to know what we're doing right and what changes can be made for future programs like this.

## INFORMATION FOR EDUCATORS

Are you an educator looking to have your class or youth group participate in the program?

We invite you to either nominate one or more youth who you know would benefit from the experience, or to sign-up your class or youth group to take part.

Registration is first-come/first-served, however, we are prioritizing participation from youth who are part of historically underserved and underrepresented communities, such as youth who are racialized, Indigenous youth, youth living with a disability, 2SLGBTQ+ youth, and youth from official-language minority communities. We ask you to please consider connecting youth from these communities to the opportunity first, before registering a larger class or group.

As mentioned above, participants are required to register for the program individually, so we can easily collect their information for reporting purposes. Whether you wish to have an individual or a class participate, they can register on the program web page.

Educators are welcome to observe the forum - you can find a link to register the program webpage.

Please also note that the forum takes place during the school day and the dates and times are pre-scheduled. Two forums are happening for each participating province and youth can register for either, as the content presented is the same.

You do not need to be a public-school teacher to have youth participate in the program. We welcome anyone who works with youth within the target age and audience to help spread the word and encourage youth to join!

## CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

The program content meets provincial and territorial requirements in various subjects across the curriculum. The program most clearly supports the educational outcomes of the following courses: Social Sciences, History and Canadian History, Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Histories, Political Sciences, Human Rights and Social Justice. However, the program also includes components that can support the outcomes in the fields of Art, Language Studies, and many more.

The program aims to strengthen critical thinking skills and analysis while forming a deeper connection to ideas of identity, community, and inclusive society. Youth will examine issues that have profoundly shaped this country from various diverse perspectives and worldviews, inspiring thoughtfulness and a greater appreciation for what connects us and what sets us apart. This program will introduce youth to narratives of a part that is often overlooked that will contribute to a greater sense of belonging and an evolving comprehension of how past events impact current and future realities.

## FAQS

- Is it possible to only participate in a forum and not complete a community engagement project?

Participants are encouraged and expected to take part in both components. The community engagement project is significant as it offers an opportunity for youth to demonstrate what they have been learning, to directly engage with what is important to them, and to spread awareness about past and current 2SLGBTQ+ matters.

- Why isn't the program offered for other provinces and territories?

Our 2SLGBTQ+ history programming is national in reach and all of our previous initiatives have been open to youth from across the country. It was decided that this particular year-long project would target youth in 5 key provinces, as many educational programs choose to do. In future programming, we may choose to select other provinces and territories to target for specific projects. Our other current core history programming and many future opportunities are and will continue to be available to youth from across Northern Turtle Island.



**Don't miss out  
on this amazing opportunity!**

Visit the program webpage to learn more  
and to register, or contact the Program  
Coordinator for more information:  
[myloe@ccgsd-ccdgs.org](mailto:myloe@ccgsd-ccdgs.org)

