



New Resources & Initiatives to Address Homophobia Member Participation Encouraged

To: District/Bargaining Unit Presidents

From: Ken Coran, President

For Action

OSSTF/FEESO representatives are asked to encourage the membership to consider participation in two significant initiatives to help address homophobia in schools.

MyGSA.ca

Egale Canada is inviting educators to provide feedback about the content and layout of the myGSA.ca/monAGA.ca website. Launched on May 17, 2010, this website provides a wealth of information for youth and educators. Egale Canada is seeking the advice of educators on how to make LGBTQ classroom resources and other valuable information easier to find. To participate in the consultation process, please access the following link:

<http://egale9.egale.ca/survey/index.php?sid=94822&newtest=Y&lang=en>

Out in Schools

The "Out in Schools" program, previously based solely in British Columbia, provides materials designed to end bullying and homophobia. This program has reached more than 30,000 students through media-based classroom presentations. The Vancouver School Board has been a long term partner in this initiative, and more recently they have been joined by the BC Teachers' Federation and the Pride in Education Network. The program has recently received funding to expand nationally. This national expansion will now allow Ontario students to participate in efforts to end bullying and homophobia.

Canadian Youth between the ages of 12-19 years are encouraged to create a public service announcement video that challenges homophobia and bullying in schools. Interested educators can find details about the video contest at:

http://www.outinschools.com/content/2012_Rise_Against_Homophobia_Youth_Video_Contest_/73

For more information about either of these initiatives, please contact Suzette Clark clarks@osstf.on.ca at the Provincial Office.

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