



Workshop Series

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

This series of three workshops is intended to stimulate a critical dialogue that examines teacher, student, school and community attitudes, dispositions and beliefs about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and Queer (LGBT) identities and issues in schools. Schools, classrooms and communities should be models of diversity where all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential. All students need to be valued, welcomed and made to feel safe, regardless of their race, ethnicity, ability, class, gender, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity.

These workshops are not designed to discuss issues related to religion, sexual practice or moral values. These workshops are designed to build a safe and discrimination-free learning environment for all students. When students feel part of the classroom, school and community, they feel safe, their self-esteem is enhanced and they are better able to learn.

Workshop Descriptions

Workshop 1 – Exploring the Issues

The purpose of workshop 1 is to help teachers begin to build awareness and understand the everyday lived experiences, safety and health concerns that many LGBTQ students face in their classrooms, schools and communities. These experiences include feelings related to safety, inclusion and concerns about LGBTQ student health and wellness.

Workshop 2 – Examining Prejudice, Power and Privilege

Workshop 2 is designed to assist teachers in understanding the professional, ethical and legal responsibilities that ensure the equitable and safe treatment of LGBTQ students. This workshop will help teachers learn to break down stereotypes and challenge binary thinking that can limit a student's expressions of individuality and difference.

Workshop 3 – Taking Action to Create Safe Schools

Workshop 3 explores specific strategies and resources that teachers can use to create safe, caring and inclusive spaces for LGBTQ students. Case studies will assist teachers in thinking about some of the issues and concerns faced by LGBTQ students and teachers in their school, classroom and community contexts.

Length: Half day

Language of instruction: English

Booking a Professional Development Workshop

Preliminary Information

- These activity-based workshops provide opportunities for group interaction.
- Participants will receive a workbook that they can keep for future reference.
- Because workshops are in high demand, they should be booked at least six weeks before the date they are to be offered.
- With the exception of global education workshops (which vary in length from one and a half hours to three hours), most workshops require either a half day (three hours) or a full day (six hours).
- Workshops will be offered only when at least 15 participants (who must be members of the Association) are registered. Special consideration will be given to small schools.
- In consultation with the school, Association instructors will modify workshops to meet the needs of staff.
- The fee for each workshop is \$50, which is payable upon booking.

Making a Booking

- Contact Janey Kemp at Barnett House by phone (447-9485 in Edmonton; 1-800-232-7208 elsewhere in Alberta) or by email at jkemp@teachers.ab.ca.
- State the date on which you would like to hold the workshop, an alternative date, the preferred time of day (morning, afternoon or full day), the location, the anticipated number of participants, the type of participants (for example, beginning teachers, administrators) and any special requirements.

Following the Booking

- You will receive a letter confirming the booking and an invoice for the workshop fee.
- An Association instructor will call to discuss your specific requirements. If you have not been contacted two weeks before the workshop is scheduled, call the instructor identified in the letter of confirmation.
- Return the invoice along with your payment to Barnett House.
- Make any necessary on-site arrangements.