



**THE IMPORTANCE OF PRIDE:  
VISIBILITY AND SYMBOLISM IN  
MINTO AND ALL  
PUBLIC SPACES- NATIONALLY!**

**An Educator and Parental Perspective**

2148

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# **BUT LGBTQ+ OPRESSION AND HATE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN ONTARIO CONTINUES TO RISE AND IT IS AFFECTING LGBTQ+ CHILDREN'S MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH IN A BIG WAY**

- **THE OPP Reported an increase in** hate crimes targeting people based on their sexual orientation increasing from by 12% between 2021 and 2022 (the highest ever, and it has only increased since.)
- Anti-2SLGBTQI+ hate is rising so much in Canada that CSIS – Canada's top intelligence agency released a warning that this rising hate poses a threat of extreme violence against 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.
- 11% of LGBT Youthline's (Ontario's queer/trans support line) clients were from rural Southwestern Ontario in 2022/23

# WHY DO WE EDUCATE KIDS ABOUT PRIDE IN SCHOOLS?

*"One national survey of 3,700 students across Canada found that 74% of LGBTQ students report having been verbally harassed about their gender expression."  
(PlanCanada, 2024)*



**1 in 5 Canadian LGBTQ students experience bullying every day:**



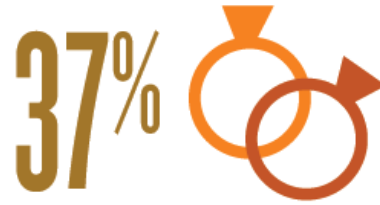
feel unsafe at school



are verbally bullied



hear transphobic comments every day



harassed about the orientation of their parents

**Prolonged exclusion and discrimination can lead to:**

Missing school and/or work

Poverty



Chronic mental illness



Homelessness

Stress



Suicide



Addictions

Physical and/or sexual violence

**"NEGATIVE TREATMENT BY OTHERS, SUCH AS BULLYING, IS A STRONG AND CONSISTENT RISK FACTOR FOR YOUTH SUICIDE, AND LGBTQ YOUTH EXPERIENCE BULLYING AT SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER RATES THAN THEIR STRAIGHT AND CISGENDER PEERS."**

**(CANADIAN OBSERVATORY ON HOMELESSNESS, 2021)**

# STATISTICS

## BULLYING AND SUICIDE AMONG LGBTQ YOUTH

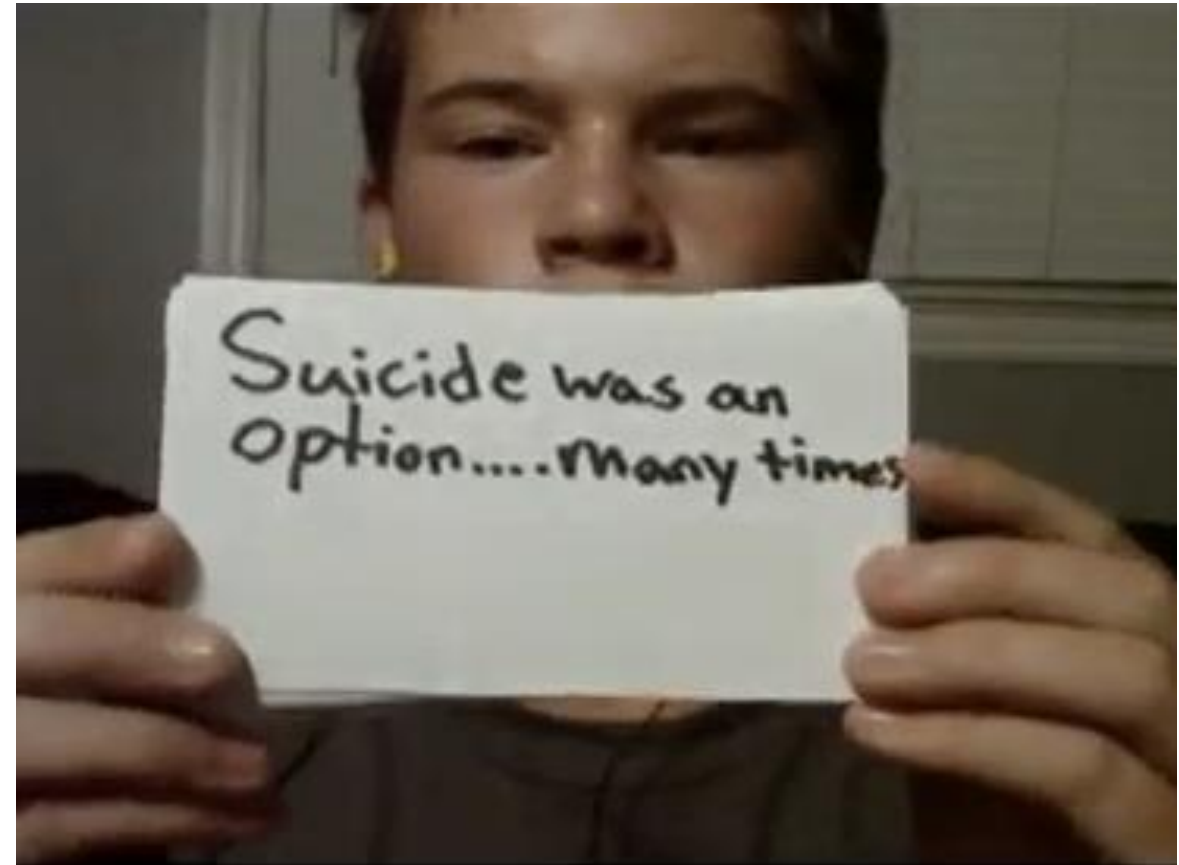
- "77% of 2SLGBTQ+ youth had been the target of bullying in 2018.

(Canadian Health Survey of Children and Youth from 2019)

- "(LGBTQ) students are more than four times as likely to attempt suicide compared to their straight and cisgender peers."

(Johns et al., 2019; Johns et al., 2020)

- Police reported 263 [hate crimes targeting sexual orientation](#) in 2019, up 41% from a year earlier and the highest number of hate crimes targeting sexual orientation since 2009.(StatsCan, 2021).



Adrienne Rich, an American poet and essayist, famously described the significance of inclusion and diversity in society by saying,

**“When those who have the power to name and to socially construct reality choose not to see you or hear you... when someone with the authority of a teacher, say, describes the world and you are not in it, there is a moment of psychic disequilibrium, as if you looked into a mirror and saw nothing.”**



# MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

**In Canada, we believe that every Child – no matter their age, race, economic status, or gender identity – should receive the same education in order to ensure their physical and mental health.**

**That is why the Ministry of education created the following pedagogy...**

2014

# How Does Learning Happen?

Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years

*A resource about learning through relationships for those who work with young children and their families*





# THE 4 FOUNDATIONS OF LEARNING AND HOW IT APPLIES TO PRIDE



## Belonging:

*“Every child has a sense of belonging and contributes to their world. Every child should feel like they belong with other children, with adults, and with the world around them.”*

(Ontario Ministry of Education, 2014)

# THE 4 FOUNDATIONS OF LEARNING CONTINUED...



**Well Being:**

***“Every child is developing a sense of self, health, and well-being. (Ontario Ministry of Education, 2014)***

# THE 4 FOUNDATIONS CONTINUED...

- **Engagement:** *"The child is active and engaged and explores the world with mind, body, and senses. Through this type of inquiry, they develop skills such as problem solving, creative thinking, and innovating, which are essential for learning and success."* (Ontario Ministry of Education, 2014)



Credit: Alex Milan Tracy/ Sipa USA via AP

# THE 4 FOUNDATIONS OF LEARNING CONTINUED...

**ACCEPTANCE  
SAVES LIVES**

Discrimination and prejudice can contribute  
to suicide risk in the LGBTQ community



American  
Foundation  
for Suicide  
Prevention

Expression: *“Every child is a capable communicator who expresses themselves in many ways. This means fostering communication and expression in all forms.”*

*(Ontario Ministry of Education,  
2014)*

# SO, WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

We can promote resilience through:

- **Community support**
- Peer networks
- Protective factors like family acceptance
- Inclusive schools. (Therapy Den, 2024)

we stand;



***together-  
Minto!***

# DONATE/GET INVOLVED



# LGBTQ+ SUPPORT LINE



[Call 226-669-3760](tel:226-669-3760)

Trained volunteers and staff provide free and confidential emotional support and referrals to community resources; operators use active listening and provide an inclusive space to those who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community, or to those who may be questioning their identity or sexuality.

**Hours of Operation:** 8am-10pm, 7 days a week\*

*\*dependent on volunteer availability*

# LGBTQ+ ONLINE YOUTH SPECIFIC RESOURCES

## [OUTline Online Chat](#)

Hop online to chat with a trained LGBTQ2IA+ volunteer on your computer, laptop, or smartphone. This service is confidential and anonymous, great if you want to chat, ask questions, and/or inquire about resources. Or email [outline@uoguelph.ca](mailto:outline@uoguelph.ca)



# MORE TELEPHONE RESOURCES FOR IMMEDIATE YOUTH SUPPORT

## Help Call Lines

Contact these phone lines for immediate assistance:

### 9-8-8 Suicide Crisis Hotline

If you're thinking about suicide, or you're worried about someone else, Talk Suicide Canada wants to help. Call toll-free, any time - lines are open 24/7/365.

[9-8-8 Suicide Crisis Hotline](#)

T: 988

Text: 988

### Here 24/7

Here 24/7 is a free support line operating 24/7 for access to supports for addictions, mental health and crisis services in Guelph, Wellington and Waterloo.

[www.Here247.ca](http://www.Here247.ca)

T: 1.844.437.3247

### Kids Help Phone

Kids Help Phone can connect you to a counsellor trained to support youth.

[Get Support - Kids Help Phone](#)

T: 1.800.668.6868

**IN MEMORY OF JAMIE AND TO REMIND US ALL TO DO BETTER FOR ALL 2SLGBTQIA+ YOUTH WHO ARE BULLIED IN MINTO AND NATIONALLY FOR BEING EXACTLY WHO THEY WERE BORN AS.**



Jamie Hubley is one of the most famous LGBTQ+ suicide victims in Canada.

"Jamie, son of Ottawa city Coun. Allan Hubley, was 15 years old when he died by suicide after suffering from depression and having been bullied for being a figure skater and for being gay."(Heffernan, 2020)

**SUPPORTIVE AND WELCOMING  
COMMUNITIES ARE ASSOCIATED WITH  
LOWER LEVELS OF SUICIDALITY IN  
SEXUAL MINORITY YOUNG PEOPLE.**

**If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have  
chosen the side of the oppressor.**

**Desmond Tutu 1931-**