

# Supporting LGBT2SQ Children and Youth: Residential Care Providers

## About this Survey

The Ministry of Children and Youth Services is developing a resource guide to help caregivers and staff in the child welfare system meet the needs of LGBT2SQ children and youth. The guide responds to recommendations of the Youth Leaving Care Working Group's report, "*Blueprint for Fundamental Change to Ontario's Child Welfare System*". You can find the Blueprint at: <http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/childrensaid/childrensandsocieties/reports/youthlea>

We are using the term LGBT2SQ to refer to children and youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, 2-spirited or queer, children and youth who may be questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity.

To help inform the project, the ministry is working with an advisory committee comprised of youth, and representatives from Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal CASs, group homes and foster parents. We are also conducting this survey to help us better understand the kinds of LGBT2SQ-positive services, training and policy initiatives currently in place across the province and to seek suggestions about the information you would find useful in a resource guide. We would appreciate your contributions to this survey.

This questionnaire is voluntary. Your answers are confidential and we are not asking for the name of your organization.

**Thank you for completing this questionnaire.**

## Support for LGBT2SQ Children and Youth

### 1. Does your agency currently provide training to staff to help them better understand and serve LGBT2SQ children and youth?

- Yes
- No
- No, but we are planning to
- No, but we have in the past

**If your agency currently provides training or is planning to provide training, please describe:**

### 2. Has your agency provided information (e.g., resource materials, articles) to staff to help them better understand and serve LGBT2SQ children and youth?:

- Yes
- No

**If yes, please describe:**

## 3. Please describe what your agency does to provide positive experiences for LGBT2SQ children and youth (select all that apply in each of the following sections):

### Welcoming and Safe Spaces

- Make physical settings welcoming for LGBT2SQ children and youth (e.g., by displaying LGBT2SQ-positive signage, flags, posters and information throughout the agency)
- Establish a Positive Space campaign
- Use LGBT2SQ-inclusive language (e.g., not assuming that someone is in an opposite-sex relationship)
- Maintain and publicize a calendar of LGBT2SQ events/activities in your community
- Celebrate LGBT2SQ-positive events (e.g., organize Queer Prom, have a Day of Pink event, host Pride celebrations/events, participate in a Pride Parade)
- Designate all-gender washrooms
- Other (please identify)

### Services

- Provide activities and services specifically designed for LGBT2SQ youth (e.g., support groups, recreational and social activities)
- Refer LGBT2SQ children and youth to LGBT2SQ-positive community activities and services (e.g., health services, hotlines, recreational and social programs)
- Refer children and youth to LGBT2SQ-positive cultural, ethnic, faith, Ability organizations
- Establish partnerships with LGBT2SQ-serving organizations in the community
- Provide information on community contacts to staff and LGBT2SQ children and youth (e.g., LGBT2SQ health services, hotlines, recreational and social programs)
- Support youth's self-expression (e.g., through their choice of clothing, hairstyle)
- Accept a child/youth's decision about their preferred name and pronoun (i.e., he, she, they)
- Other (please identify)

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## Policies, Procedures and Training

- Require LGBT2SQ training for staff
- Require LGBT2SQ training for volunteers
- Hire staff and volunteers that reflect community diversity, including LGBT2SQ staff and volunteers
- Develop organizational anti-oppression policies that include LGBT2SQ issues
- Include a range of choices on agency forms for gender identity (e.g., male, female, trans, 2-spirited, other) and sexual orientation (e.g., gay, lesbian, bisexual, heterosexual, other)
- Include questions about a child/youth's preferred names or pronouns (i.e., he, she, they) on agency forms
- Require the use of LGBT2SQ-inclusive language in all services and materials (e.g., referring to "everyone" vs. referring to "men and women" or "boys and girls")
- Other (please identify)

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**4. Please identify 3 new things that you think your agency could do to create an affirming and inclusive climate for LGBT2SQ children and youth (you can choose from the list above or add something else):**

#1

#2

#3

**5. How does your agency provide access to appropriate services for LGBT2SQ youth who may experience multiple forms of exclusion and discrimination (e.g., a lesbian with a disability, a trans person of colour)?**

## Information and Training To Better Support LGBT2SQ Children and Youth

### 6. Please identify up to 5 things you would MOST like to see covered in a resource guide on serving LGBT2SQ children and youth:

- I prefer not to answer
- List of terms, definitions and acronyms that are relevant to serving LGBT2SQ children and youth
- Fact sheets on LGBT2SQ histories, cultures, significant dates and events
- Unique risks and challenges that LGBT2SQ children and youth in care may face
- Myths and frequently asked questions (FAQs) about serving LGBT2SQ children and youth
- Listing of legislation and policy that relate to serving LGBT2SQ children and youth
- Tips on physical environments that can help LGBT2SQ children and youth feel welcome
- Creating spaces that are safe and affirming for trans children and youth
- Tips on LGBT2SQ-inclusive language when talking to children, youth and families
- Information on how to celebrate LGBT2SQ events, cultures and history
- Resources on how to talk with children and youth about gender identity and sexual orientation
- Information on how to talk about relationships with LGBT2SQ children and youth
- Tips on respecting the privacy of LGBT2SQ children and youth (e.g., allowing a youth to decide when to “come out” and to whom)
- Tips on how to talk about LGBT2SQ safer sex and sexuality
- Information on how to avoid unintentionally disclosing the identity or orientation of a child or youth
- List of LGBT2SQ programs, organizations and networks of relevance to child welfare
- Fact sheets on specialized health considerations and health services for trans children and youth
- Samples of LGBT2SQ-positive policies
- Listing of relevant training resources, websites, books, etc.

### Other - List any other topics/information you would like to see covered in a guide:

**7. Any other comments or suggestions?**



**Thank you for your answers.**