



STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF TWO-SPIRIT LGBTQIA+ MEMBERS, STUDENTS & COMMUNITY

June is Pride Month, a time for vibrant celebration and an important opportunity to highlight the rich history and current realities of members of the Two-Spirit, LGBTQIA+ communities. It is, however, of vital importance that we integrate pedagogical strategies for 2SLGBTQIA+ human rights education throughout the year in our classrooms. Every single one of us holds responsibility to counter homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia in schools and communities.

PETL was privileged to mark the National Rainbow Week of Action in May, through participation, along with ETFO, in the March for Refugee Rights on May 16th, organized and hosted by The 519 community centre in partnership with Momentum Canada. PETL's promotion and participation in events like those throughout the Rainbow Week of Action are becoming even more imperative, given the current levels of hateful attacks targeted against those in 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, particularly those with intersectional identities.

Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce, has stated openly that he is willing to consider policies like those in New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, ones that would require students to obtain parental permission for pronoun or name changes, penalizing educators who do not comply with the rules. This development is a concern for all teachers, and everyone who works with students. We know that, in some cases, school is the only place that students can safely be open about their gender identity.

By attending Pride events, and by signing on to Momentum Canada's campaigns to accelerate social and gender justice for 2SLGBTQIA+ people, we can strike back against the Conservative Ford government's regressive agenda.

June will bring many opportunities to highlight and affirm 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and students in PDSB classrooms. But - it does not, and can not, mark the end of the work.

[Pride Events across Ontario](#)

[Brampton Celebrates Pride - June 2, 2024](#)

[Sign the #ActforQueerSafety Campaign](#)

[ETFO 2SLGBTQ+ Resources](#)

[Egale Resources](#)