

ETFO celebrates Pride Month, strongly denounces anti-2SLGBTQ+ hate and violence

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TORONTO, ON - To mark the beginning of Pride Month, the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) stands in solidarity with the 2SLGBTQ+ community and reaffirms its unwavering commitment to fostering safe, inclusive, and supportive environments for its members, students, and individuals in the community who identify as 2SLGBTQ+.

Instances of transphobic and homophobic hate and violence are disturbingly common across the province. ETFO calls on all levels of government to work together with allies to ensure a future where everyone can live authentically and free from discrimination.

As a union committed to social justice, equity, and inclusion, ETFO advocates for the rights and dignity of 2SLGBTQ+ individuals, both within schools and beyond. The Federation recognizes the profound impact that safe and inclusive learning and working environments can have on student and staff well-being and success. Every person deserves to feel valued, respected, and supported for who they are, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression. The Federation is proud to engage in this work within community throughout the year and to support all ETFO locals in doing the same.

ETFO reminds all of its members and the public that the commitment to advocating for trans rights and fighting homophobia needs to be year-round and include everyone. ETFO engages in this work through participation in Pride events across Ontario.

While we recognize Pride Month as an opportunity for everyone to celebrate with those who identify as 2SLGBTQ+ and to come together to support the ongoing fight against homophobia, biphobia and transphobia, this work can't just be limited to a month and to some of us. The broad range of intersectional oppression experienced by members of the queer community does not conform to limits and neither can our advocacy.

Throughout the year, ETFO provides learning materials, resources, professional development/training, and strategies to help its members create welcoming, safe, and inclusive classrooms for all learners. Resources are available at etfo.ca/socialjusticeunion/2slgbtq.

[ETFO](#) represents approximately 83,000 members, including public elementary teachers, occasional teachers, designated early childhood educators, education support personnel, and professional support personnel. Visit BuildingBetterSchools.ca.

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