

Supporting LGBT2SQ Children and Youth

About this Survey

We are developing an information guide and training to help caregivers and staff in the child welfare system meet the needs of LGBT2SQ children and youth.

When we say LGBT2SQ we are talking about people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, 2-spirited, queer and those who may be questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity.

You can help us as we develop the guide by answering this questionnaire. The questionnaire asks about:

- how to support LGBT2SQ children and youth in care; and
- information that everyone should have so that they can support LGBT2SQ children and youth in the child welfare system.

Your answers are totally private. You do not have to give your name or show your answers to anyone in your children's aid society (CAS) or home.

Only answer those questions you want to. If you don't want to answer a question, you can skip it.

Thank you for answering this questionnaire.

Supporting LGBT2SQ Children and Youth

About You (Only answer if you want to)

1. If you wish, please tell us:

Where you live:

- In a foster home
- In kin care (i.e., with a member of your extended family or community)
- In a group home
- In a formal customary care home
- With my birth or adoptive parents or guardian
- With my partner, girlfriend, boyfriend
- With another family member
- No permanent housing (e.g., shelter, couch surfing)
- On my own
- With friends
- Other (please specify if you wish)

Your age:

- 13 or under
- Between 14-16
- Between 17-18
- Between 19-21
- 22 or over

How you identify (e.g., gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, 2-Spirited, heterosexual, gender-queer, other):

If you wish, please tell us the name of your town or city:

2. Do you live on a reserve?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

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3. There are many things that CASs, group homes and others can do to support LGBT2SQ children and youth. Have you noticed any of the following at a children's aid society, group home, foster or formal customary care home?

Welcoming and Safe Spaces

	Yes	No
LGBT2SQ signs, flags, posters and information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A calendar of LGBT2SQ events in your community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Events such as Pride parties or parades, Queer Prom, movie nights showing movies with LGBT2SQ stories	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
All-gender washrooms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use of language that includes LGBT2SQ people (e.g., not assuming that someone is in an opposite-sex relationship)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

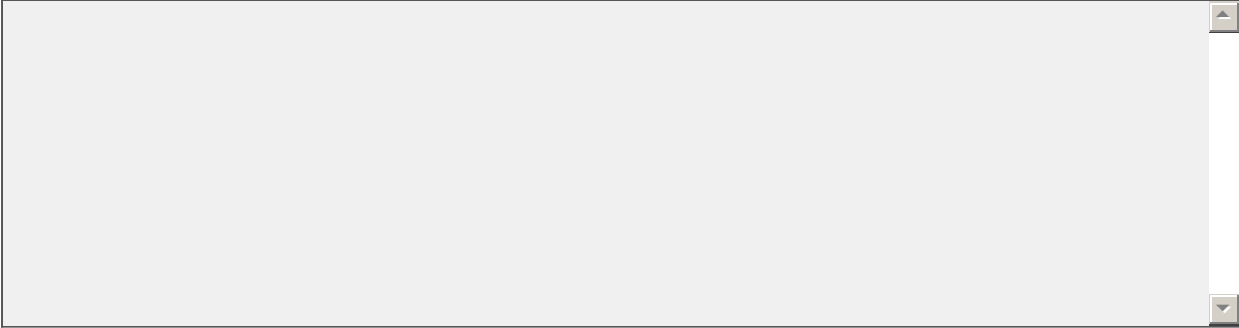
Services

	Yes	No
Activities and services for LGBT2SQ children/youth (e.g., recreational and social activities, support groups)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Making referrals to LGBT2SQ services (e.g., counselling, health services, hotlines, recreational and social programs)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Calling people by the name or pronoun they want (e.g., he, she, they)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Making sure that LGBT2SQ children and youth are placed in LGBT2SQ-positive group, foster, kin or formal customary care homes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Staff helping parents, foster parents and caregivers understand and support their LGBT2SQ children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Staff and/or caregivers not making assumptions about someone's sexual identity or gender orientation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

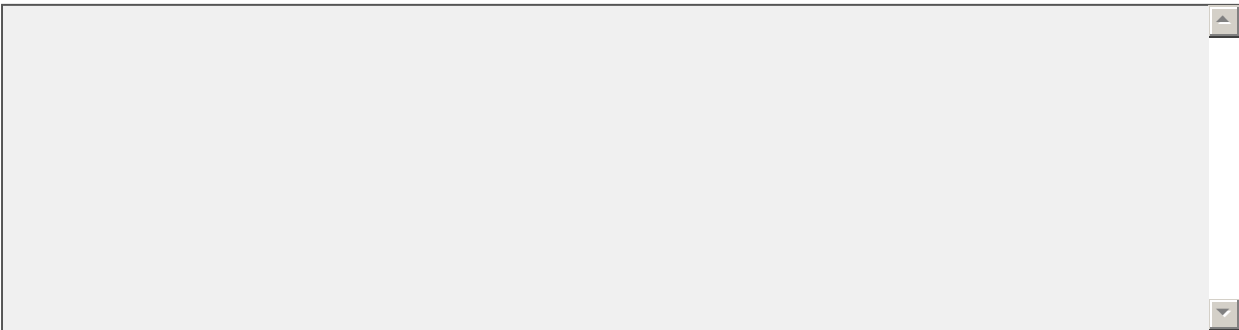
Other (please identify)

Supporting LGBT2SQ Children and Youth (cont'd)

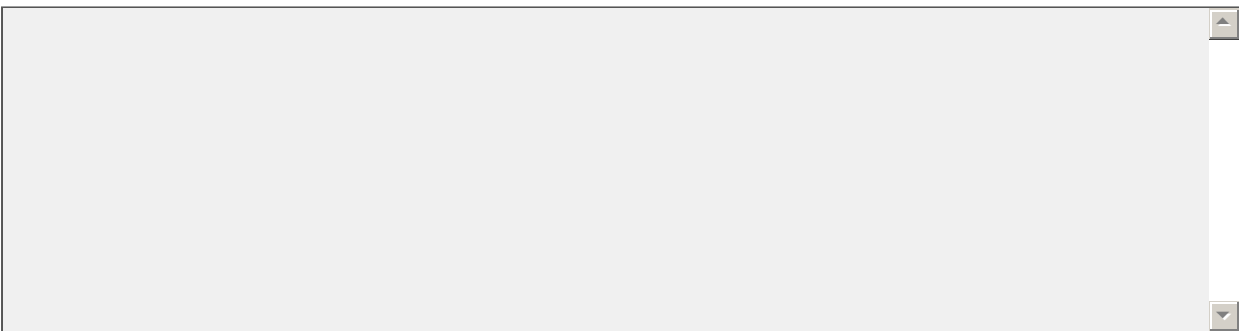
Comments?

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4. What kinds of experiences with the child welfare system can make LGBT2SQ children and youth feel unsafe or excluded (e.g., before they come into care, when they are coming into care, while in care and when transitioning out of care)?

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5. Are there situations that can be harder for trans children and youth?

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6. Based on your knowledge, please rate how well each of the following considers the needs of LGBT2SQ children and youth. (Select one for each row)

	Very Well	Somewhat	Not at All	I Don't Know
Assessment and Action Record (AAR)/OnLAC	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plans of Care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Youth Plan required under Continued Care and Support for Youth (CCSY), formerly called Extended Care and Maintenance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please identify)

7. Comments or suggestions for improvement?

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Supporting LGBT2SQ Children and Youth (cont'd)

8. In your experience, what are the 5 MOST IMPORTANT things that CASs and caregivers can do so that LGBT2SQ children and youth feel safe and supported? (PICK UP TO 5 from the following list or add others):

- I prefer not to answer
- Make spaces welcoming (e.g., put up pride flags, "positive space" stickers, and information on LGBT2SQ activities and services)
- Have forms that include multiple genders and sexual orientations
- Ask children and youth about their preferred names or pronouns (i.e., he, she, they)
- Use LGBT2SQ-inclusive language in all services and materials
- Learn about and celebrate LGBT2SQ cultures, events and histories (e.g., organize Queer Prom, have a Day of Pink event, have Pride celebrations, participate in a Trans March)
- Don't make assumptions about someone's sexual identity or gender orientation
- Let children/youth decide how they want to dress, style their hair, etc.
- Have activities and groups especially for LGBT2SQ youth
- Have all-gender washrooms
- Match children and youth to group, foster or formal customary care homes that will be LGBT2SQ-positive
- Give information to parents, foster parents and formal customary care providers on how they can support LGBT2SQ children and youth
- Make sure that staff, foster parents, formal customary care providers and LGBT2SQ children and youth know about LGBT2SQ services and activities
- Require staff, volunteers, foster parents and formal customary care providers to take training on how to serve LGBT2SQ children and youth
- Hire LGBT2SQ staff and volunteers
- Other (please identify)

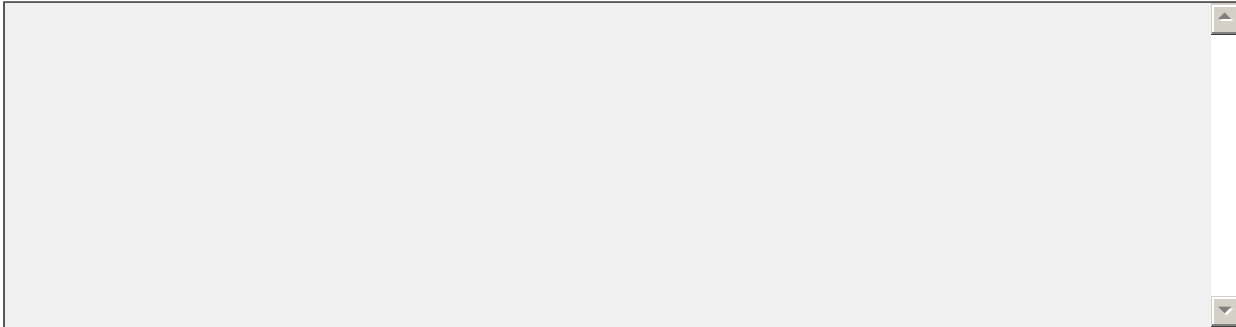
Training To Better Support LGBT2SQ Children and Youth

9. 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
- LGBT2SQ histories, cultures, significant dates and events
- Unique challenges that LGBT2SQ children and youth in care may face
- Myths and frequently asked questions (FAQs) about serving LGBT2SQ children and youth
- Legislation about the rights of LGBT2SQ children and youth
- How to create spaces that are safe and affirming for LGBT2SQ children and youth
- Using language that is inclusive of LGBT2SQ children and youth
- How to celebrate LGBT2SQ events, cultures and history
- How to talk with children and youth about gender identity and sexual orientation
- How to talk about relationships with LGBT2SQ children and youth
- How to match children and youth to LGBT2SQ-positive group, foster or formal customary care homes
- Information on LGBT2SQ programs and organizations relevant to children and youth in the child welfare system
- Respecting the privacy of LGBT2SQ children and youth (e.g., allowing a youth to decide when to “come out” and to whom) and how to avoid “outing” a child or youth
- Fact sheets on special health considerations for trans children and youth
- Listing of relevant training resources, websites, books, etc.

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

10. Any other comments or suggestions?



If you are looking for someone to talk to or need support, here are some free services you can call:

Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans Youth Line:

Toll-free peer support phone line for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and transsexual, 2-Spirited, queer and questioning young people. Also provides online support through an online forum and email response

Sunday to Friday 4:00 pm to 9:30pm. Closed Saturdays and holidays

Toll-Free: **1-800-268-9688**

Text Messaging: 647-694-4275 E-mail: askus@youthline.ca

Kids Help Phone:

Free, confidential, anonymous, telephone and online counselling service for those age 20 and under.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Toll-Free: **1-800-668-6868**

www.kidshelpphone.ca