

# Fact vs Myth: 2SLGBTQIA+

Fort McMurray Public Schools promotes a safe, caring and welcoming environment for everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. We want every student to feel a sense of belonging where they are fully included in their school community. All our schools have safe spaces and a SOGI (Sexual Orientation Gender Identity) lead to support sexual and gender diverse and questioning students, staff and families. The experiences, safety and wellbeing of our 2SLGBTQIA+ youth, staff and families are essential in creating a vibrant division environment.

MYTH	Homophobia and transphobia do not exist in our schools.	SOGI education is not needed.	Students should not have the right to identify with their chosen pronouns.	Explicit materials are being shared and promoted in classrooms and libraries.	Gender-inclusive washrooms promote a particular ideology.	Schools promote homosexuality and diverse gender identities.	Gender and sexuality alliances (GSAs) aren't needed in schools.
FACT	<p>64% of students reported hearing homophobic comments daily or weekly at school.</p> <p>30% of 2SLGBTQIA+ respondents had been the victims of cyberbullying.</p> <p>57% of trans respondents had been targets of mean rumours or lies.</p>	<p>Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) is not its own curriculum; it is one aspect of diversity that is embedded across a range of grades and subject areas.</p> <p>SOGI 1 2 3 provides ready-to-use, grade-appropriate SOGI Inclusive Resources that align with that curriculum.</p>	<p>Pronouns affirm gender identities, create safe spaces, and are empowering for 2SLGBTQIA+ students. We respect the names and pronouns of students who are not trans and gender diverse, we must provide the same respect to those who are.</p>	<p>Our school division adheres to the curriculum and programs of study for K-12 students. These guidelines ensure content is age-appropriate and conducive to a healthy learning environment.</p>	<p>Gender-inclusive washrooms create a sustainable, equitable and inclusive environment for all students and staff.</p>	<p>Our school division ensures all families feel valued, included and respected. We know that exposure to diversity helps children understand the world as it actually exists, full of people different from themselves, but doesn't change their sexual orientation or gender identity.</p>	<p>Gender and sexuality alliances (GSAs) and queer-straight alliances (QSAs) promote welcoming, caring, respectful and safe schools for 2SLGBTQIA+ students and their allies.</p>
RESOURCES	<p><b>Key Takeaways Still In Every Class In Every School</b></p>	<p><b>SOGI 123</b></p> <p><b>Fyrefly in Schools</b></p>	<p><b>Why Pronouns Matter   NEA</b></p> <p><b>The Power of Pronouns</b></p>	<p><b>Alberta's K-Gr 6 Curriculum</b></p>	<p><b>Research and Recommendations on Gender-Inclusive Washrooms and Changerooms</b></p>	<p><b>Fort McMurray Public Schools Policy</b></p>	<p><b>The Education Act: GSAs and Inclusion Groups</b></p>