



## **SCHOOL DISTRICT CELEBRATES PRIDE MONTH**

June 1, 2022

Kelowna, BC – Central Okanagan Public Schools is pleased to celebrate Pride Month in June. Many students, staff, families, and community members identify as members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, and the District is committed to schools and sites where every person is safe, seen, valued, and included.

This is consistent with the British Columbia Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms that protect marginalized groups from discrimination and harassment. Central Okanagan Public Schools policy commits to a *"safe, positive, and inclusive learning and working environment for all students and employees, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity."*

Here are some of main actions the District takes to include everyone:

- Ensures each school has a School SOGI Lead, under the guidance of the District SOGI Lead. This group works to meet the needs of the 2SLGBTQ+ community and educate the whole school community.
- Supports student-led Diversity Groups at each middle and secondary school. These clubs provide safe spaces for students, staff, and allies to gather in a supportive environment and discuss issues they may face and topics that matter to them.
- Works to make sure that all print and electronic demographic information accurately reflects students' names and pronouns.
- Enforces strict anti-bullying policies that include escalating consequences and education for those who need guidance.

During Pride Month, schools will create displays, run events, and educate the community about the importance of Pride, diversity, equity, and inclusion. Central Okanagan Public Schools also has a booth at the Kelowna Pride Festival on Saturday, June 11th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in City Park, and welcomes families and community members to visit and learn together.

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For comments, please contact:

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