



April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018

CHOOSE TO

CELEBRATE

DIVERSITY BY

CHALLENGING

BULLYING

# It's Time to Talk About:

This Year's Theme

Bullying Homophobia Transphobia

## Bullying

Bullying is a form of abuse at the hands of peers. It is targeted and repeated. It involves power, aggression, intimidation, and shame. It preys on vulnerability and exposes everyone involved to social and mental health problems and a lifetime pattern of abuse which can lead a child to contemplate suicide.

## Transphobia

Transphobia is more accurately called cissexism. It is the notion that those who are cisgender (their gender identity matches with the gender they were assigned at birth) are better than those who are transgender. Recognizing and using people's chosen pronouns and gender identity is one way we can work to eliminate transphobia.

## Homophobia

Homophobia is more accurately called heterosexism. It is treating people differently because they are not heterosexual – such as being gay, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual or anything other than the heterosexual norm. Phrases like “That’s so gay!” or assuming someone’s sexuality are both heterosexist incidences we see on a daily basis.

FIGHT  
BULLYING  
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DayOfPink.org #dayofpink @CCGSD\_CCDGS

## History of the Day of Pink



The International Day of Pink was started in Nova Scotia when 2 straight high school students saw a gay student wearing a pink shirt being bullied. The 2 students intervened, but wanted to do more to prevent homophobic and transphobic bullying. They decided to purchase pink shirts, and a few days later got everyone at school to arrive wearing pink, standing in solidarity. The result was that an entire school took a stand and began working together to prevent homophobic and transphobic bullying.

The campaign has continued to grow: it is now an international campaign that thrives in schools, workplaces and communities. The Day of Pink and the conversations, awareness, and acceptance that stems from it are making a real difference in the lives of queer and trans youth. So let's wear pink, spark some conversations, and inspire acceptance.

## The Theme in Action

### DoP Dialogues

This year, we are excited to launch a new initiative. Starting with 10 cities across the country we are helping mayors sit down with youth from their communities to have frank discussions about bullying, discrimination, and how to stop it.

Our hope is to expand this initiative to have official Day of Pink dialogues in every city and with all levels of government and administration!

### Start your own conversation!

Want to talk about your community? Contact your principal, vice-principal, school trustee, councillor, mayor, provincial representative, or Member of Parliament and ask them to sit down and talk with you and other interested youth! You can find a downloadable guide at the link below that can help you and them plan a successful and productive conversation! And don't forget to send us an email telling us all about it. Include pictures too!

<http://dayofpink.org/dialogues>

## What Does Wearing a Pink Shirt Mean?

Wearing a pink shirt is more than just a one day thing. It's a commitment to allyship that spans the rest of the year. Wearing a pink shirt April 13<sup>th</sup> is an important first step – it shows that you stand together with those who have been bullied, especially with those who have been bullied for their sexual orientation or gender identity.

The word ally is not a noun but instead a verb. To ally yourself with someone is to be listening and learning about how to care and support different people. It is important to work year round to stand up not just for others, but *with them*.

It is only with this year round commitment that we can make real progress towards eliminating bullying and discrimination in all communities.

So, this year, on April 11<sup>th</sup> – It's Time to Talk – but let this be the first of many conversations.

## The Day of Pink & Beyond

The CCGSD is proud to offer programming, conferences, and opportunities year round. To get involved, or to attend any of these opportunities, please visit the CCGSD website at:

<http://ccgsd-ccdgs.org>

- National Forums
- Youth Forum & Conversation on STBBIs
- Allyship in Action
- GSA Forum
- 20+ **Regional Conferences** across Canada – in every geographical region!
- Free **Workshops** in school and businesses

## Everyday is the Day of Pink: Take the Pledge!

Make a commitment to work to stop bullying and discrimination every day!

Go to: <http://dayofpink.org/pledge>

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THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR  
**GENDER+SEXUAL  
DIVERSITY**

