



February 2019

The month of February is our time to Spotlight the many wonderful LGBTQ2S+ resources created by the BCTF Committee for Action on Social Justice (CASJ) and our Alliance partners. Inside this issue you will find resources, workshops, activities and opportunities for members. As always, please refer to the BCTF website for these and many more resources to help you in your classroom.

We also had a late January mailout to every staff room and local office in the province. In that package were the following resources:

- **Day of Pink** Poster
- Updated **Racism in Canada Timeline**
- **Sexual Harassment in the Workplace** brochure
- Updated **Gender Spectrum Booklet** from Pride Education Network
- Updated **GSA Handbook** for Secondary from Pride Education Network
- **2019 CampOUT** information poster (also see Alliance partners section of SEEDS for timely dates)

This edition of *Seeds of Social Justice* provides resources to support teachers and students in contributing to a more inclusive society for LGBTQ2S+ people.



February	
18–24:	BC Heritage Week
20:	United Nations Social Justice Day
24–March 2:	Freedom to Read Week
27:	Pink Shirt Day
<b>Black History Month</b>	

- [BC Heritage Week](#)
- [United Nations World Day of Social Justice](#)
- [Freedom to Read Week](#)
- [Black History Month](#)

February 27 is the **Pink Shirt Day**. Encourage students and staff in your school to wear pink on this day to make a statement against homophobic and transphobic bullying and to celebrate diversity. The [elementary](#), [secondary](#), and [French](#) Day of Pink posters feature lesson plans and resources to help develop inclusive and respectful attitudes around diversity in sexual orientation and gender expression. Visit the LGBTQ2S+ action group's [Day of Pink webpage](#) for more resources and activities.



## Resources LGBTQ2S+



[The Pride Education Network](#) (PEN) is a group of educators and advocates, regardless of sexual orientation/expression, who value the importance of a safe, respectful and inclusive learning environment for all. The PEN website has many [resources](#) for teachers and parents. *The Gender Spectrum: What educators need to know* [booklet](#) has recently been updated and is a wonderful resources providing strategies, lesson plans, and more. You can view the this resource by clicking on the links provided or by checking your staff room for a hard copy.

Find this and other LGBTQ2S+ resources on the BCTF [LGBTQ2S+ posters, bookmarks, booklets and brochures](#) web page. To request hard copies of posters and booklets, email [socialjustice@bctf.ca](mailto:socialjustice@bctf.ca). Please include the name and quantity of each item, as well as a mailing address.

## Workshops LGBTQ2S+



This [workshop](#) focuses on how to be an ally for LGBTQ2S+ students and support LGBTQ2S+ youth within schools. There will be an opportunity to develop strategies to use as an ally and activities on how to integrate LGBTQ2S+ issues into the curriculum in an age-appropriate manner from K-12. This workshop is highly recommended for teachers wanting to create a school-wide action plan to reduce or prevent homophobia/transphobia from occurring and to create an LGBTQ2S+-positive school climate for all students.

The BCTF has many workshops on LGBTQ2S+ issues that are free to book for teachers. You will find them listed below.

[Creating a Gender-Inclusive School Culture](#)

[Promoting Healthy Youth Relationships: Educating Against Gender-Based Violence](#)

## [Sexual Health Education: It's Fun!](#)

To request these or other social justice workshops for a school-based, local or regional professional development day, or School Union Representative Training (SURT) day, please click on the "Book this Workshop" link below the workshop description on the [BCTF Social Justice Workshops page](#).



The BCTF [Equity and Inclusion](#) web pages can be found in the Social Justice area of the BCTF website. A section on each page is devoted to LGBTQ2S+ issues. Visit the [Raising Awareness](#) page for short videos and articles that help develop an understanding of barriers to inclusion of LGBTQ people and ways to overcome them. The [Tools](#) page offers resources to support inclusion. For an in-depth understanding of these issues, visit the [Delving Deeper](#) page.



## Opportunities for Members



### [BCTF Issue Session on Racism](#)

The BCTF is looking for members who identify as racialized who are interested in attending a two-day session on **February 21 and 22** to discuss:

- the impacts of racism in the workplace in all areas of the province.
- possible new strategies to present to the employer and/or government to address concerns about racism in the workplace.
- ways of informing members about making use of current avenues to address concerns about racism in the workplace.
- advice for the Executive Committee and provincial bargaining team for the upcoming round of bargaining, in the context of objectives approved by the Bargaining Conference.

The session will be led by Natasha Tony, an experienced facilitator and leader in issues of equity and inclusion. Up to 15 members will be selected to participate.

**Deadline to [apply](#): Wednesday, February 6, 2019, 4:30 p.m.**



The [TeachBC](#) website contains lesson plans for students from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Lessons addressing all areas of the curriculum can be found on this site and downloaded for free.

### **My Name was January**

January Marie Lapuz was a transgender woman of colour who was murdered in September 2012 in New Westminster, British Columbia. She was an advocate for trans rights and was known as the "bright light" among Vancouver's LGBTQ community. This documentary feature film is a celebration of January's life, among other trans women of colour.

This film is about remembering the impact that January had on the lives of everyone she encountered.



We invite you to take a few minutes to explore these and other LGBTQ2S+ lesson plans on the [TeachBC](#) website, and to post some of the social justice lessons you are using in your classroom.



### What is CampOUT!?

CampOUT! is a social justice summer camp for [queer](#), [trans](#), [Two-Spirit](#), [questioning](#), and [allied](#) youth ages 14-21 from across BC and the Yukon. The camp is held on Gambier Island, unceded Coast Salish territories. In affiliation with the University of British Columbia, the camp provides opportunities to develop leadership skills, build self-esteem, foster hope and resilience, and connect with resources to support health and well-being (physical, mental, social, sexual, educational, and spiritual).

Participants return to their home communities with new skills, resources, and friendships. CampOUT! provides a supportive space for LGBTQ2S+ youth to celebrate and be celebrated for who they are.

Attention Allies, GSA Sponsors, SJ 12 Teachers and counsellors: Please help get the word out to students who think might enjoy going to camp this July. Note the application deadlines!!

**This year will be the 10th Annual CampOUT! and will take place on Gambier Island from July 4-7, 2019!**

- Application Dates for CampOUT!
- Feb 1 - Mar 1: [Cabin Leaders](#)**
- Feb 1 - Mar 15: [Volunteers](#)**
- Feb 15 - Mar 30: [Campers](#)**



Funds are still available for [Ed May Social Responsibility Grants](#) and for [Local Social Justice Grants](#). Applications will be considered and funds awarded on a first come, first served basis, until April 11, 2019.

It is also time to start thinking about whether your zone of locals is interested in a Regional Social Justice Conference Grant for the 2019/2020 school year.

For application forms, and to learn about additional BCTF Social Justice grants and awards, visit the [Grants and Funds page](#) on the BCTF Social Justice web pages.

Todd Patrick  
 Assistant Director of Social Justice  
 BC Teachers' Federation  
 100-550 West 6th Avenue  
 Vancouver, BC V5Z 4P2  
 604-871-1850  
[tpatrick@bctf.ca](mailto:tpatrick@bctf.ca)

