



## Statement – Pride Month

June 13, 2023

As we celebrate Pride month, the Ontario Principals' Council (OPC) wants to reiterate our commitment to the dignity, respect, support and human rights of all students and staff in our schools, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The continuing social marginalization faced by the 2SLGBTQQA+ communities has a significant negative impact on their well-being, mental health and daily functioning. We do not condone or tolerate any behaviour that threatens, demeans, belittles, discriminates, harasses or bullies any member of our school communities.

Pride month is an important time to recognize and affirm the identities, experiences and contributions of the 2SLGBTQQA+ community. OPC principals and vice-principals use this opportunity to enhance awareness and foster more inclusive, safe and welcoming learning environments in our schools. That includes celebrating the diversity of our students and staff, supporting activities that recognize and respect the purpose of Pride month, flying the Pride flag at schools and education centres, offering topical learning activities, fostering understanding and ensuring that diverse reading materials are available in classrooms and libraries. We also recognize and affirm our 2SLGBTQQA+ Members who lead and model with strength every day.

By acknowledging, representing and celebrating the 2SLGBTQQA+ community, schools can create environments where all students and staff feel valued, accepted and safe. This is our goal, and our responsibility.