



## **SCHOOL DISTRICT CELEBRATES PRIDE MONTH**

June 11, 2020

Although the circumstances of the pandemic mean that local Pride Month events will not take place until September, Central Okanagan Public Schools wants to remind school communities that June is still a time to celebrate the diversity of sexual orientations and gender identities in the District.

"Our school district is committed to a safe and positive learning environment for all students and staff," said Moyra Baxter, Chairperson for the Board of Education. "We always celebrate the diverse people and perspectives that help us learn, but Pride Month is a good time to remind ourselves that each individual in our community deserves to feel welcome, accepted, and safe."

Central Okanagan Public Schools [policy](#) commits the District to a *"safe, positive, and inclusive learning and working environment for all students and employees, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity."* As an educational institution, the District seeks to prevent discrimination by increasing awareness and understanding of sexual orientation and gender identity.

"As educators, we know that the best way to fight discrimination is by increasing empathy through knowledge," said Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO. "Just like adults, children often fear what they do not understand. We have a responsibility to help learners understand the lives of others so that everyone can feel safe at school and ready to learn."

Central Okanagan Public Schools gratefully acknowledges the courage and contributions of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, including student diversity clubs, alliance clubs, and community volunteers. Our schools are safer and more welcoming for all because of the staff and students who celebrate our LGBT2Q+ community in June and all year long. Happy Pride Month!

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For comments, please contact:  
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