**Quick Responses for Talking LGBTQ-Inclusion with Parents and Community Members**

NEARLY HALF (43%) OF TRANS STUDENTS AND ONE-THIRD (32%) OF LESBIAN, GAY AND BISEXUAL STUDENTS REPORTED THAT STAFF NEVER INTERVENED IN DISCRIMINATORY COMMENTS.

Education is the key to change. – Egale Canada Human Rights Trust, 2011

**Parental Rights:**

*“This goes against our rights to teach our children our own set of family values.”*

* As teachers, we do not condone children being removed from our classes when we teach about Aboriginal people, people of colour, people with disabilities, or gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans people.
* You can teach your child your own values at home. Public schools teach everyone about respecting diversity and valuing everyone.
* Teachers and principals have a legal obligation to provide for the safety and inclusion of all students in our school.

(Note: Don’t enter into debates about meanings or merits of scriptural texts.)

**Sexuality:**

*It’s recruitment or teaching about sex!”*

* No one suddenly chooses to become lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans because they heard about the topic in school.
* Anti-homophobia and anti-transphobia education at the elementary level does not include discussion about sex or sexual practices.
* Secondary students need accurate information about relationships and safe sex. Lack of information can have significant consequences for youth.

**Age Appropriateness:**

*“My child is too young for this topic!”*

* Children are already learning homophobic and transphobic slurs starting in primary years. My job is to make school safe and oppose all name calling.
* All families deserve to be represented in the curriculum. The mandatory provincial curriculum includes diverse family structures.
* It is our job as educators to teach accurate, up-to-date information to every child, including yours.