

SOGI 123

The start of the school year can come with so many feelings: anticipation, excitement, enthusiasm! For some, back-to-school can also bring feelings of distress, worry, and fear. Concerns about meeting new people and whether they will be accepted for who they are. Unfortunately, research tells us that 62% of 2SLGBTQ+ students feel unsafe at school, compared to 11% of their cisgender heterosexual counterparts.

For years, educators and administrators have been building the knowledge, skills and resources needed to support 2SLGBTQ+ students and families, however, we know there is still work to be done. Which is why **ARC Foundation**, through **SOGI 123**, works with educators and education organizations to create spaces where students, families, and members of the school community can feel safe, seen, accepted, and welcome.

As we embark on the 2025-26 school year, BC is entering its ninth year of SOGI 123 in schools around the province. There are thousands of educators connecting through the SOGI Educator Network to create safer and more inclusive learning experiences in their schools. This fall, we're excited to share that for the first time since 2019, the annual SOGI Educator Summit will be taking place in-person in Vancouver! Recognizing our changing landscape, the Summit will be offered in a hybrid format, to ensure educators can participate either in-person or virtually. A save-the-date has been sent to the SOGI Educator Network for the October 22nd event, with further details to be shared at the start of the school year. Through the SOGI Educator Summit, we provide educators with the necessary connections, tools, resources, and supports to create safer and more inclusive learning environments for 2SLGBTQ+ students.

Do you know who the SOGI Lead is in your School or District?

**If not, please reach out to us at
info@sogieducation.org
and allow us to connect you!**

“As a Queer and non-binary educator in BC, the experiences and insights I gained from SOGI 123 events have profoundly impacted both my teaching practice and personal resilience. SOGI 123 has provided a critical opportunity for connection and engagement, creating a vibrant community for reflection and support. This network strengthens our resolve and reminds us that we are not alone in the work we do or in the values we hold ... SOGI 123 is essential for supporting educators like me, to continue to promote compassionate and inclusive educational experiences for all students in BC, particularly those who identify as belonging to the [2SLGBTQ+] community.”

~ 2024 SOGI Educator Summit attendee

This September, we are also pleased to bring you resources to help integrate Indigenous perspectives into SOGI-inclusive frameworks by providing an introductory understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing and being on the topic. These teaching resources include an introductory document, a lesson plan and unit plan, and our much-anticipated SOGI + Indigeneity Learning Module. Please visit our website to find information on **Two-Spirit Belonging in SOGI-Inclusive Frameworks**. These resources can help create an intersectional approach to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, marked on September 30th.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the BCPVPA for their ongoing leadership in fostering SOGI-inclusive education in BC through the efforts of SOGI 123. BCPVPA's leadership and voice is a big factor in helping create alignment and ensuring 2SLGBTQ+ students can feel safe, welcome, and see themselves – and be seen – in their school communities.

To explore our website and resources, please visit **SOGIeducation.org**. For further information on SOGI 123, please contact us at **info@sogieducation.org**.



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Resources we're excited about this fall:

1. **Common Questions About SOGI in Schools** – *This resource was created in collaboration with educators and parents to address some of the most common questions being asked about SOGI-inclusive education.*
2. **Research Findings: SOGI in Education** – *SOGI-focused statistics can be useful in supporting system level change, and in helping colleagues, caregivers, and families to understand why SOGI-inclusion is necessary in K-12 education.*
3. **Learning Module: SOGI + Indigeneity** – *This 90-minute learning module aims to help integrate Indigenous perspectives into SOGI-inclusive frameworks by providing an introductory understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing and being on the topic.*

Looking for ways to incorporate SOGI 123 into your back-to-school planning?

- 1 Talk to your SOGI School Lead! Ask them what they need from you and build a plan together.
- 2 Visit our website, SOGIeducation.org for ideas on how to implement and support SOGI-inclusive education efforts in your school.
- 3 Small changes can make a big difference. See if there is one thing that you can commit to for the year ahead. Feel free to share that commitment with your colleagues and encourage them to do the same!