

ANNOUNCING an exciting new publication by the **Canadian Teachers' Federation**:

Challenging Silence, Challenging Censorship: Inclusive Resources, Strategies and Policy Directives for Addressing Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Trans-Identified and Two-Spirited Realities in School and Public Libraries.

Authors: Dr. Alvin Schrader & Kristopher Wells, University of Alberta

Available in French and English and can be purchased online: http://www.ctf-fce.ca/e/publications/ctf_publications.asp <http://www.ctf-fce.ca/e/publications/ctf_publications.asp>

The foreword was written by noted Canadian author and media personality, Bill Richardson (who is also a former public librarian).

OVERVIEW

This book is designed as a professional and practical resource to help educational leaders and policymakers within K-12 teaching (teachers, administrators, counselors, and teacher librarians), together with public librarians and other community stakeholders, to learn more about how they can take action to challenge and positively change the educational conditions and social climate for bisexual, gay, lesbian, trans-identified, and two-spirited (BGLTT) youth and for children from same-gender parented families.

This book is the first of its kind to bring together practical strategies, comprehensive research, legislation and an ethical framework for social justice advocacy and inclusive action designed explicitly for school and public librarians. This framework is intended to assist them in fostering diversity, signalling their support and celebration for inclusive spaces, improving the everyday lived experiences of BGLTT youth in schools and libraries and building the resiliency of all students to positively address discrimination and oppression.

To assist in this pedagogical task, the book also identifies key educational resources for administrators, counselors, teachers, school and public librarians, parents and students to help them develop a critical literacy knowledge base of BGLTT issues as key components of ethically responsible schools and libraries in Canada. Ultimately, this book is a call to action for the creation of safe, caring and inclusive schools, libraries and communities for all children and youth.

REVIEW COMMENTS

Challenging Silence, Challenging Censorship blends BGLTT rhetoric with reality at the individual, institutional, and societal level. Thus it grounds the human right to dignity; to education; to equality of opportunity; to participate in the cultural life of the community; to protection from torture or cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment; to peaceful assembly and association; and, to free development of personality in the everyday world of Canadian K-12 schools and public libraries. Authors Schrader and Wells have painstakingly presented their groundbreaking scholarship in practical and accessible terms. All stakeholders in our national educational and cultural networks have a collective moral responsibility to read - and to act - on the knowledge shared in this exceptional book. In these pages, you will find one of the clearest conditions for the development of a democratic education system in Canada.

- Dr. Toni Samek
Associate Professor & Graduate Coordinator
School of Library and Information Studies
Faculty of Education, University of Alberta

Far too many of our BGLTT youth are not receiving the good library service they deserve because librarians lack the knowledge, training, and confidence to provide relevant collections and helpful, sensitive information. With compelling argument and evidence, followed by a rich list of resources, Schrader and Wells' book lays bare our prejudices and excuses for avoiding our professional responsibilities to BGLTT youth, reveals how crucial our work is with this group, and provides us with practical advice on how to provide the library service so crucial to the well-being of our BGLTT clientele. The book is a wonderful source of quotes, resources, and policies that librarians can use to persuade board members and administrators of the importance of service to this user group. The strong representation of Canadian resources is particularly welcome. This book should be on every library education curriculum and within easy reach at every school and public library reference desk.

- Dr. Ann Curry, Professor
School of Library, Archival and Information Studies
University of British Columbia

As the head of the library that serves the most diverse population in North America, I wholeheartedly recommend Professors Schrader and Wells' book. For libraries like Toronto's, with a long history of serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities, it is an excellent tool for assessing and improving our collections and services for youth. For libraries just starting out, it offers not only invaluable lists of resources but also reassuring and expert advice on dealing with internal and external censorship. In its focus on the 'silent minority' of BGLTT youth, it is a much needed guide to an area where libraries can and should play a leading role.

- Josephine Bryant, City Librarian
Toronto Public Library

I was astounded to read how very little 'inclusivity' there really is in library collections. For all those collection development and reference librarians who are convinced that their public and school libraries are meeting the information needs of BGLTT students, this book will persuade you to take a sober second look. The authors challenge all types of libraries to be aware of the important role they must play in improving access to, and acceptance of, diversity and inclusivity issues for sexual minority youth.

- Linda C. Cook, President
Canadian Library Association
Director, Edmonton Public Library

Schrader and Wells challenge us as librarians and teachers to take seriously our legal and ethical responsibilities to care for all students and their families, including those who identify as bisexual, gay, lesbian, transgender and two-spirited (BGLTT). Kudos to all involved in developing and publishing this thoughtful and practical work. This is an essential resource for all librarians and teachers in schools and public libraries and for educators of librarians and teachers as well.

- Dr. Dianne Oberg, Professor and Chair
Elementary Education, Faculty of Education
University of Alberta