

# Day of Pink 2010

**Wednesday, April 14th, 2010**

The BCTF and Vancouver School Board are once again encouraging schools to join in this celebration and opportunity for learning and discussion about bullying, gender stereotypes, homophobia and transphobia.

The two main organizations promoting this day in Canada are Jer's Vision: <http://www.dayofpink.org> and locally, the BCTF: [www.bctf.ca](http://www.bctf.ca)

## **History**

The Day of Pink is not just a celebration, but also a day of action, born when a high school student in Cambridge, Nova Scotia was bullied because he wore a pink shirt to school, and was called homophobic names. His fellow students decided to stand up to bullying; and hundreds of students came to school wearing pink to show support for diversity and stopping discrimination, bullying and homophobia.

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2007/09/18/pink-tshirts-students.html>

Some studies have shown that homophobic language is the most commonly heard form of verbal bullying in secondary schools, and is also the least responded to by adults and youth. But homophobia doesn't start in high school. It begins during the primary years with gender based teasing and stereotypes. Regardless of grade level, developmentally appropriate discussion can help prevent homophobia and create an atmosphere of acceptance for all kinds of differences.

## **Goal**

The goal of Day of Pink is not only to wear pink in support of anti-bullying, but also to discuss the original student led initiative, and to have age appropriate discussions in your classrooms and come up with solutions to homophobia, transphobia and bullying. Schools across BC will hold events, activities and lessons that will engage students, and help them really understand the hurt caused by bullying, gender stereotypes, homophobia and transphobia. The day should foster commitment to being open minded, to celebrate differences, and to accept each other regardless of these differences.

Reports from schools indicate that student leadership and involvement produces the most successful events.

## **Action**

We encourage you to support students if they have already started a "Pink" campaign at the school. If not, please share the idea with students, or with a staff-student Social Responsibility Committee, or Secondary Gay-Straight Alliance, student council, or social justice group.

For a comprehensive list of things you can do in elementary or secondary classrooms go to: <http://www.bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=17998>

For Day of Pink classroom posters with age appropriate ideas of what you can do on the back of them go to: <http://www.bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=17992>

You can order free posters for your school by contacting Jacquie Boyer at [jboyer@bctf.ca](mailto:jboyer@bctf.ca)

Here are some additional ideas to help you get started:

- Wearing anything pink – t-shirt, hair temporarily dyed, face painting, ribbons, wigs, hats, scarves
- Have students bring old clothes to be dyed pink in advance.
- Have students write words describing how homophobic or gender based teasing/bullying (i.e. “That’s so Gay!” ) has made them feel and write their ideas on cut out pink hearts.
- Create anti-bullying posters / hold a poster contest (make sure they explicitly include homophobia)
- Invite an organization like Out in Schools to do presentations in classrooms [www.outinschools.com](http://www.outinschools.com)
- Have a pink T-shirt logo/design contest
- Plan and hold an assembly for all students; invite parents - discuss harms of homophobia on school culture
- Create an anti-homophobia pledge for students to say and sign
- Incorporate Day of Pink activities into Intermediate or Secondary students Anti-homophobia PSA contest entries. See [www.outinschools.com](http://www.outinschools.com) for contest deadlines and details. You can also view last year’s winners online.
- Create a book display in the library that recognizes the positive contributions of LGBTQ people in society
- Send information about homophobia and bullying home in the parent newsletter
- Have students write stories or opinion pieces for the school newspaper or for sharing in class
- Encourage colleagues to read a book/story and/or do a lesson about gender stereotypes, homophobia, transphobia and discuss it with their class
- Role play how witnesses (bystanders) can respond to the offender, the receiver (provide empathy and support) or gather support from other witnesses or outsiders (adults, friends). For lesson plans on name-calling go to:  
<http://www.galebc.org/namecalling08.pdf> (it may take a few minutes to download this resource).

**Thanks for working to make your schools safer and more accepting places for ALL students.**