

Students' Comments/Feedback:

1) **Need for Support**

- self-acceptance; strength
- wellness
- provoking discussion
- self-understanding
- support

2) **Attitude Change in School Community (homophobia and heterosexism education)**

- GSA announcements not read out as others are for basketball, leadership etc.
- emphasizing sameness
- respect for diversity; individuality
- need acceptance of different points of view
- to promote awareness of the effects of name-calling, language and its impact (i.e. 'that's so gaaaay'; 'faggot')
- challenge peoples' stereotypes of people who are GLBTIQ
- inclusive language in schools

3) **Safe School**

- do not feel school is a safe place
- processes for homophobic bullying/harassment not effective

4) **Action/Empowerment**

- empowerment; courage
- reveal eliminate fear
- to create a supportive atmosphere
- change, hope
- awareness/education
- end separateness/difference
- breaking barriers
- access – resources/support
- promote awareness/reflection
- learn strategies to combat name-calling

Statistical Support:

McCreary Survey, 1999, Key findings:
1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 10

McCreary Survey, 1999, Key findings:
8

McCreary Survey, 1999, Key findings:
9

Students' vision- Charter for Public Education:
That all schools celebrate the Diversity of each and every individual and that all schools are safe for every individual.

Students' suggestions:

- have GSAs set up at every school so students don't have to do it
- include and make note of Queer role models in curriculum (i.e. Leonardo da Vinci, Emily Dickinson, Florence Nightingale...)
- start in elementary schools and include homophobia and heterosexism education in the curriculum; have workshops for staff and the community
- actively celebrate the diversity of each and every student – Awareness Week
- develop more effective and appropriate ways to deal with homophobic bullying and harassment (eg would you put up with a student calling another student 'nigger')
- inform the school communities of our expectations and human rights
- students have taken workshops – they want to speak about homophobia to their peers/staff
- in this district, students are one of the focus groups giving input on new policy and action plan being developed to protect GLBTIQ youth (we have also spoken with Queer parents)