



International Student
CONNECT



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LGBTQIA2S

LGBTQ is a short acronym for LGBTQIA2S, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Transsexual, Queer, Questioning, Intersexual, Asexual and 2 Spirited Com

LGBTQ RIGHTS

- [NewYouth.ca](http://www.newyouth.ca) is an online community for newcomer youth with information on school, work, health and immigration. It also lists events for young people across the province and lists a number of scholarships, grants and bursaries available to newcomer youth www.newyouth.ca.
- Youth Opportunities Ontario provides information on employment, education, social programs and volunteering across the province www.youthconnect.ca.

Discrimination against people because of their sexual orientation or gender identity is against the law in Canada. Under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Ontario Human Rights Code, all people are equal.

This means that you cannot be discriminated against, because you are part of the LGBTQ community, for employment, social services, housing, contracts, and membership in unions and professional associations.

If you are part of the LGBTQ community in Canada, you have the right to marry your partner, adopt children and serve in the military (if you are a Canadian citizen). You have the same rights to access health and financial services.

EGALE is Canada's major LGBTQ human rights organization and has intervened before the Supreme Court of Canada in every gay rights case that has reached the court. To learn more visit <http://egale.ca>.

The Lesbian Gay Bi Trans Youth Line is a free and confidential information and support hotline where LGBTQ youth can talk to other youth, obtain events and programs information, referrals and support.

Call **1-800-268-9688** or visit www.youthline.ca.

WORKPLACE

LGBTQ persons are protected against harassment or discrimination in the workplace.

Employers cannot ask you about your sexual orientation, gender identity, or same-sex partnership status to maintain or determine your job eligibility.

HOUSING

Landlords cannot discriminate against potential tenants because of their sexual orientation or gender identity as the Ontario Human Rights Code is recognized by the Landlord and Tenant Board.

HEALTH CARE

Health care providers cannot deny you care because you are part of the LGBTQ community. You should tell your health care provider that you are part of the LGBTQ community. Information shared with your health care provider and your health records are confidential.

IMPORTANT NOTE

You can sponsor your same-sex spouse, common law, or conjugal partner. The same rules that apply to opposite-sex partners apply to same-sex partners. To learn more, visit the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Taskforce (LEGIT) at www.legit.ca.



SUPPORT

There are many LGBTQ support groups in Ontario. To find one near you, call or search 211 Ontario. Groups specifically for different cultures and newcomers are listed below.

Salaam: Queer Muslim Community

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Salaam-Canada/153766412578>

Supporting Our Youth Project (SOY)

offers various drop in programs, services and referrals: www.soytoronto.org

Iranian Railroad for Queer Refugees (IRQR)

<http://english.irqr.net/>

Queer Asian Youth (QAY)

www.facebook.com/acas.qay

The 519 offers various support, cultural and recreational programs for the entire LGBTQ community, their families and allies:

www.the519.org/programsservices/groups

LGBTQ Parenting Network

It provides family planning, research and support: <http://lgbtqpn.ca>

DID YOU KNOW?

Each summer communities across Ontario hold Pride celebrations. LGBTQ Pride is a positive way to fight discrimination, recognize community leaders and advocate and celebrate our diversity and Queer rights achievements. Toronto's Pride Week is one of the largest in the world!

Positive Spaces are safe and welcoming environments where LGBTQ newcomers are able to access services free from discrimination. Learn more at www.positivespaces.ca

In July 2005, Canada became the fourth country in the world, after the Netherlands, Belgium and Spain, to legalize same-sex marriages nationwide.