



May 12, 2008

## BACKGROUND

### Egale Canada First National Survey on Homophobia in Canadian Schools

#### Phase One Results

**LGBTQ = lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and Two-Spirit, queer and questioning**

- **Over 1200 participants so far from every province and territory in the country.**
- **About 20% no longer in school, enabling us to compare current and past students' responses.**
- **Kids from big cities, small towns, rural areas, reserves, armed forces bases.**

**Based only on those who self-identified as LGBTQ or straight and who were enrolled in school in the last year**

- **Over two-thirds of LGBTQ participants reported that they felt unsafe at school, compared to 1 in 5 straight participants.**
- **Over one-third have skipped school because they felt unsafe there or on their way there, compared to one-eighth of straight participants.**
- **Half the LGBTQ participants are only out to a few friends at school, or to no one at school.**
- **Over half of LGBTQ participants reported that they have been verbally harassed because of their sexual orientation.**
- **Almost half (49%) have had mean rumours spread about them at school.**
- **Almost a third (31%) have had mean rumours spread on the internet or through text messages because they are LGBTQ.**
- **Over a quarter have been physically harassed because of their sexual orientation.**
- **41% had been sexually harassed compared to 19% of straight kids.**
- **LGBTQ participants reported feeling unsafe on school buses, in the gym and changing rooms, in the cafeteria, under stairwells, and in hallways.**

- **LGBTQ participants who had been harassed or assaulted were much less likely than straight participants to report it to school staff members.**
- **Fewer than half felt comfortable talking to their parents about LGBTQ issues.**
- **Almost half (47.5%) agreed with the statement, “It is hard for me to feel accepted at my school” (compared to one fifth [19%] of straight participants).**
- **Almost two-thirds (62%) agreed with the statement, “Sometimes I feel very depressed about my school” (compared to just over one-third [36%] of straight participants).**
- **Almost 40% of straight participants reported that they made homophobic remarks sometimes or frequently.**
- **19% of LGBTQ participants made homophobic remarks sometimes or frequently, perhaps to fit in.**
- **Things looks better if you’re not the target, but still a long way from perfect:**
  - **49% of straight participants thought that at least one area of their school would feel unsafe for LGBTQ people, and 70% of LGBTQ participants.**
  - **60% of straight participants thought teachers addressed homophobia effectively, compared to only 33% of LGBTQ participants.**
  - **54% of straight participants and 61% of LGBTQ participants reported that they had not been taught about LGBTQ issues in any school classes or assemblies over the past year.**
  - **Of those who reported that they had been taught about LGBTQ issues, 17% of straight participants saw the coverage as negative, but 24.5% of LGBTQ participants saw it as negative.**

**More information:**

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