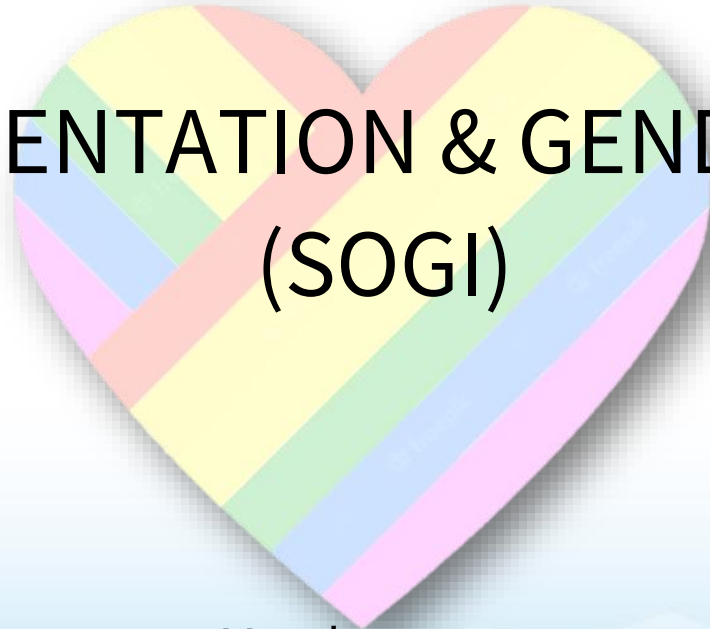


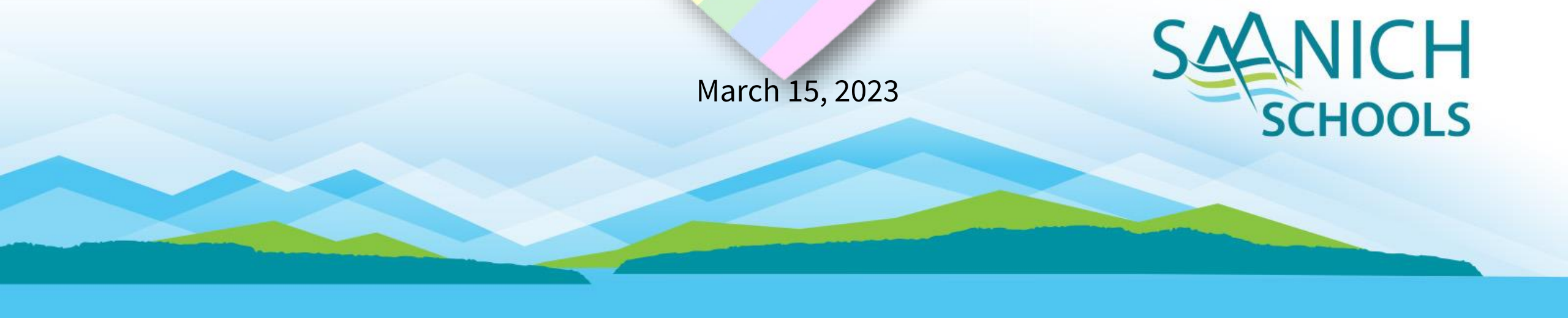
# SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

SEXUAL ORIENTATION & GENDER IDENTITY  
(SOGI)



March 15, 2023

**SANICH**  
SCHOOLS



# SOME FACTS ...

- 2016 - BC Human Rights Code amended to include gender identity and expression as a prohibited ground for discrimination
- 2017 - Canada protected gender expression and identity in the *Canadian Human Rights Act* and *Criminal Code*
- 2018 - Approximately 75,000 Canadians identified as trans or non-binary
- 2019 - Hate crimes targeting sexual orientation were up 41% over 2018
- 2021 - An estimated 1 million people in Canada identified as LGBTQ2+
- The BC Ministry of Education and Child Care mandates the inclusion of SOGI in school codes of conduct as well as the importance of teaching about valuing diversity and respecting differences.
- [SOGI 123](#) is a Ministry approved resource for educators and parents that create a safe, caring and inclusive learning environment for all students regardless of their race, culture, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.



## RECENT BC NEWS



# IN THE NEWS ...



- **“As anti-LGBTQ2 hate grows in Canada, advocates say it’s ‘never been as scary’”** (*Global News, Jan 8, 2023*)
  - Canadian LGBTQ2 community members and advocates say the past year has been difficult and scary amid a notable rise in hate crimes, threats and protests
- **“Chilliwack RCMP determines books in schools do not meet the definition of child pornography”** (*Mission City Record, Feb 22, 2023*)
  - A formal complaint about library books was investigated by the RCMP who found that there was no child pornography in the stated books
- **“BC school district bans anti-LGBTQ group from presenting at board meetings”** (*Surrey Now-Leader, Feb 23, 2023*)
  - The Mission School Board banned the anti-LGBTQ group Action4Canada for one year after a graphic January presentation to the Board
- **“BC school district bans public comments at board meetings due to anti-LGBTQ remarks”** (*CBC News, Mar 10, 2023*)
  - Central Okanagan SD cancelled the board meeting’s second comment period due to discriminatory comments containing anti-LGBTQ sentiments and language



# STUDIES & RESOURCES



[A Statistical Portrait of Canada's Diverse LGBTQ2+ Communities](#) (StatsCan, 2021)

[BC Adolescent Health Survey](#) (McCreary Centre Society, BC, 2018)

[Being Safe, Being Me 2019: Results of the Canadian Trans and Non-binary Youth Health Survey](#) (UBC, 2019)

[Ministry of Education and Child Care: SOGI](#)

[Parents' rejection of a child's sexual orientation fuels mental health problems](#) (APA, 2009)

[Still in Every Class in Every School](#) (Egale, ON) (2021)

[SOGI 1 2 3: Policies & Procedures; Inclusive Environments; Teaching Resources](#) (ARC Foundation, BC)

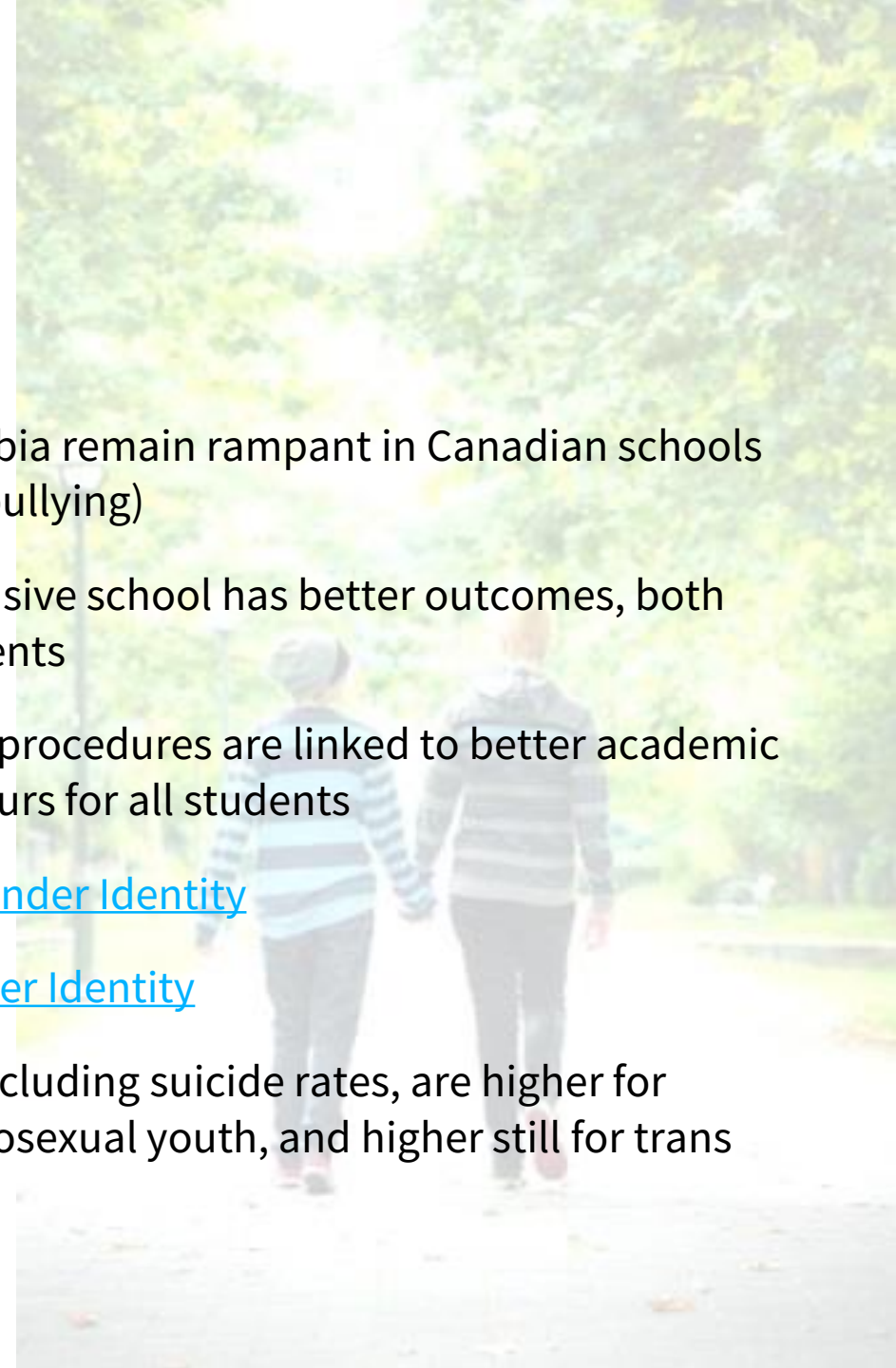


WHY IS SOGI  
EDUCATION  
IMPORTANT?



## SOGI

- Homophobia, biphobia and transphobia remain rampant in Canadian schools (e.g. language slurs, harassment and bullying)
- Research shows that creating an inclusive school has better outcomes, both academically and socially, for all students
- GSAs and SOGI-inclusive policies and procedures are linked to better academic outcomes and lower negative behaviours for all students
  - [Policy 27 – Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity](#)
  - [AP176 – Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity](#)
- Nearly all mental health indicators, including suicide rates, are higher for 2SLGBTQ students compared to heterosexual youth, and higher still for trans youth.



# THE PRICE FOR REJECTION

- Parental rejection of gay teens can adversely affect their health:
  - 8x more likely to have attempted suicide than those whose families accepted them
  - 6x as likely to report depression
  - 3x as likely to use drugs or have unprotected sex
  - Gay teens are disproportionately represented among the homeless, in foster care and juvenile detention

(American Psychological Association, 2009)



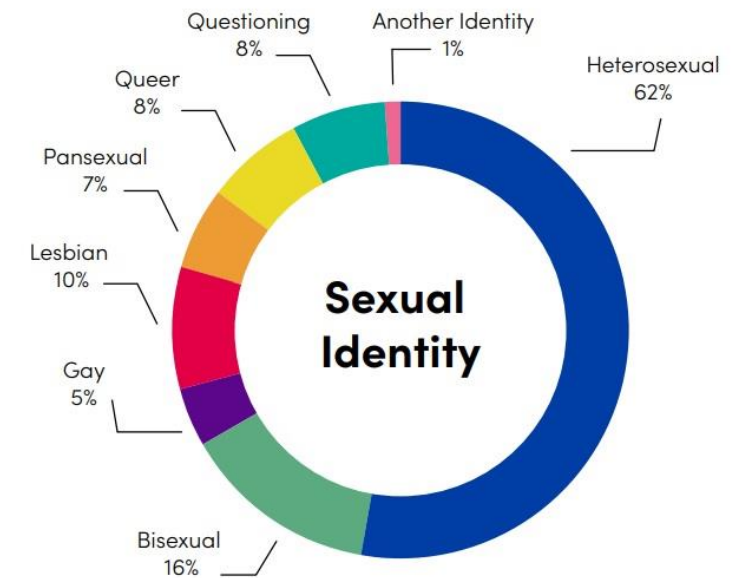
2021 CANADIAN STUDY  
4000 Gr8-12 STUDENTS  
39% IDENTIFIED AS  
2SLGBTQ



## HOMOPHOBIA / BIPHOBIA / TRANSPHOBIA

- 64% of all respondents reported hearing homophobic comments daily or weekly at school
- 30% of 2SLGBTQ respondents had been victims of cyberbullying, compared to 8% of cisgender heterosexual respondents
- 57% of trans respondents had been targets of mean rumours or lies
- 62% of 2SLGBTQ respondents feel unsafe at school, compared to 11% of cisgender heterosexual students

SEXUAL IDENTITIES



(Still in Every Class in Every School, 2021)

SOUTH VANCOUVER  
ISLAND

NON-BINARY  
STUDENTS

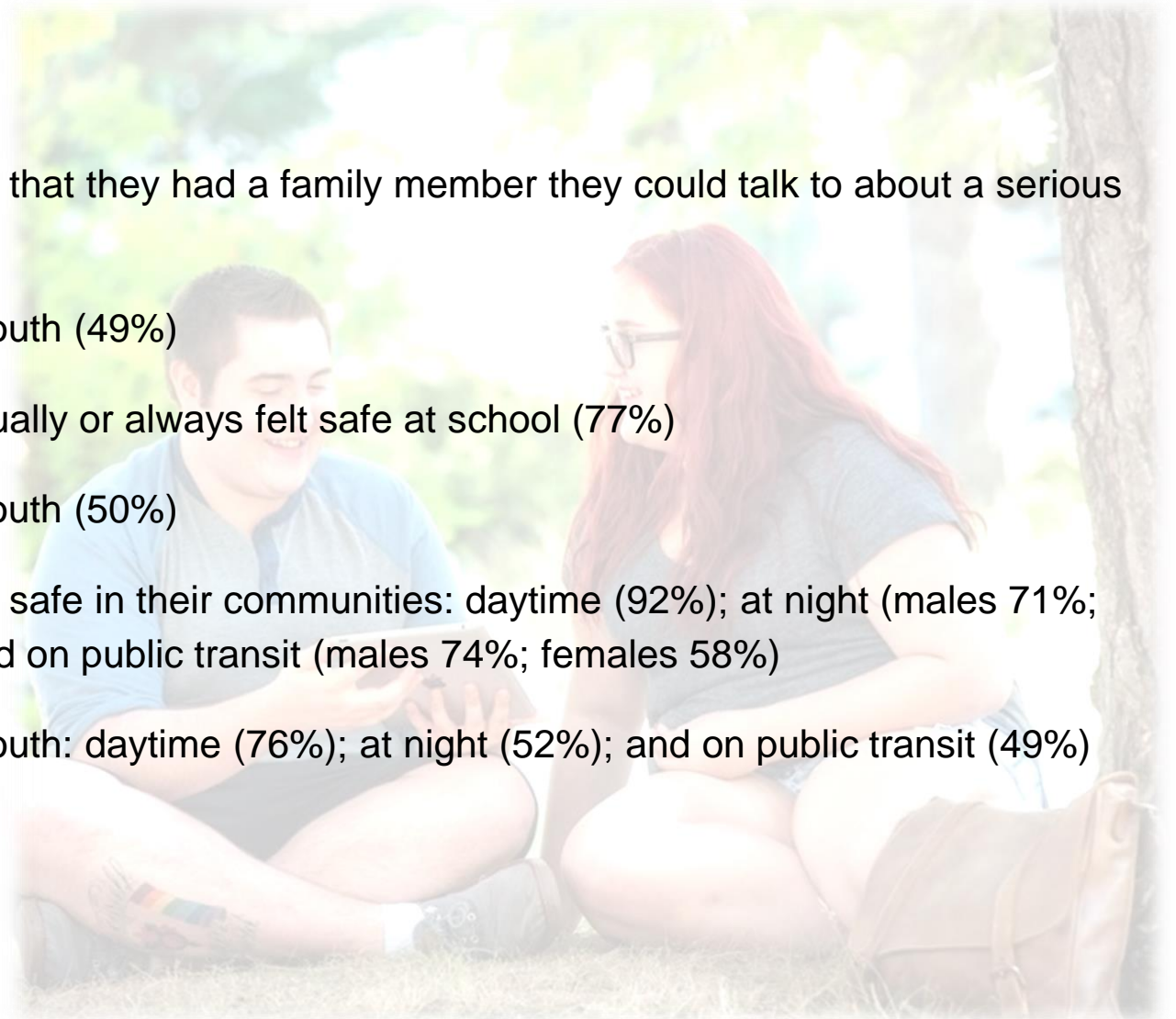
CONNECTEDNESS AND  
SELF-CONFIDENCE

SAANICH  
SCHOOLS

# BC Adolescent Health Survey

- Most students felt that they had a family member they could talk to about a serious problem (71%)
  - Non-binary youth (49%)
- Most students usually or always felt safe at school (77%)
  - Non-binary youth (50%)
- Most students felt safe in their communities: daytime (92%); at night (males 71%; females 65%); and on public transit (males 74%; females 58%)
  - Non-binary youth: daytime (76%); at night (52%); and on public transit (49%)

(McCreary, 2018)





CANADIAN HEALTH  
SURVEY

1,509 RESPONDENTS

BC STATISTICS

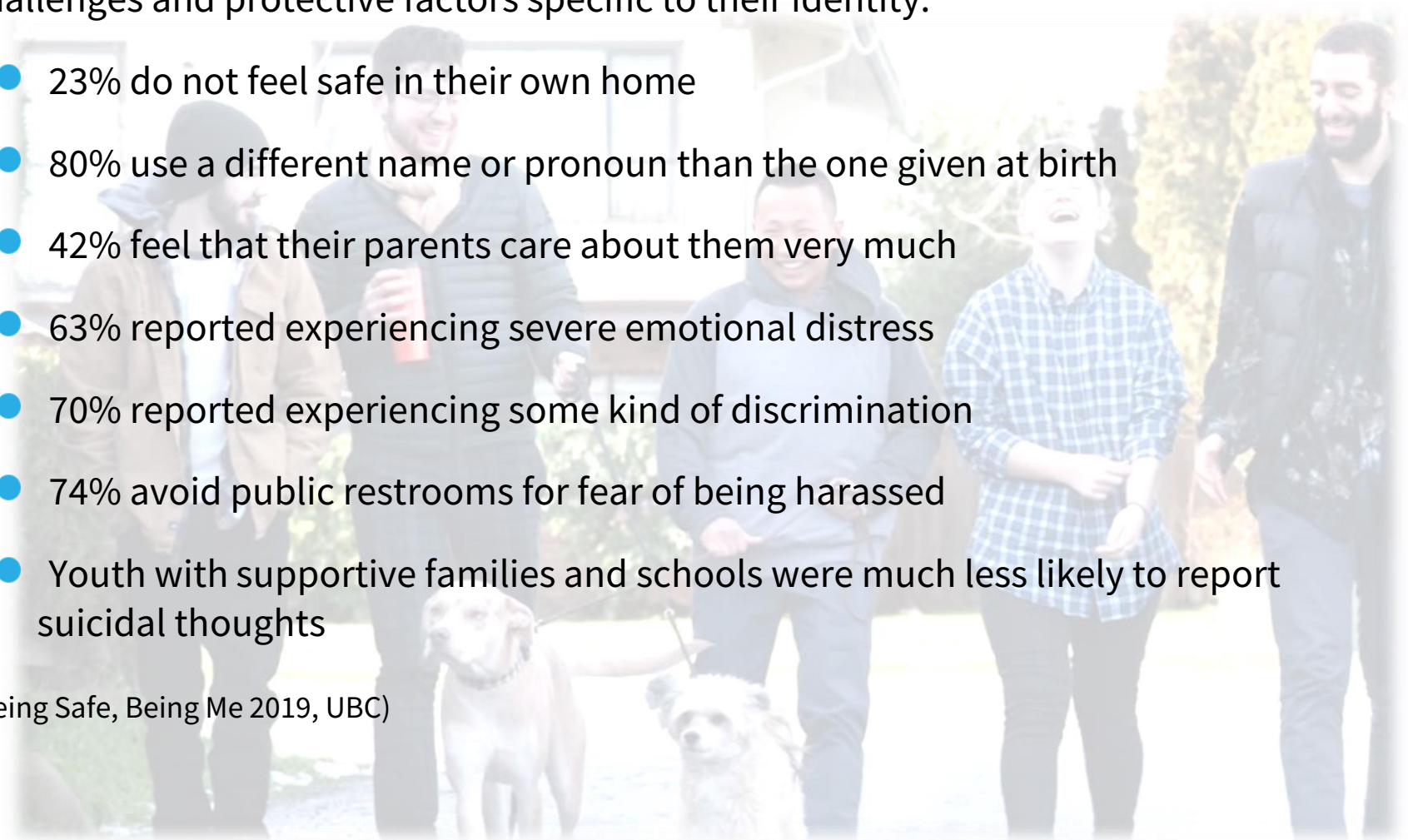
**SANICH**  
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# TRANS AND NON-BINARY YOUTH

Current research indicates that trans / non-binary youth experience health, social challenges and protective factors specific to their identity:

- 23% do not feel safe in their own home
- 80% use a different name or pronoun than the one given at birth
- 42% feel that their parents care about them very much
- 63% reported experiencing severe emotional distress
- 70% reported experiencing some kind of discrimination
- 74% avoid public restrooms for fear of being harassed
- Youth with supportive families and schools were much less likely to report suicidal thoughts

(Being Safe, Being Me 2019, UBC)



# RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS

- Have policies and procedures that demonstrate your organization's commitment to an inclusive and emotionally safe environment
- Provide tangible signs of acceptance as well as participating in events like pride walks
- Provide training for school staff to help both students and teachers
- Affirm the importance of using correct pronouns and chosen names
- Ensure that schools have safe spaces like universal washrooms
- Provide teaching resources that reflect the diversity in schools and communities



# ACTION & VISIBILITY

- Policy 27 - Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity
- AP176 - Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity
- School-based SOGI leads
- SOGI in Saanich [website](#) (Elementary curricular resources)



# SOGI in Saanich



This website was created for Elementary-level Saanich District staff. On this website there is a scope and sequence for K-5 SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) Curriculum. In addition to lessons at each grade level, there are also additional resources including Pride Month materials and ways to further adult learning.

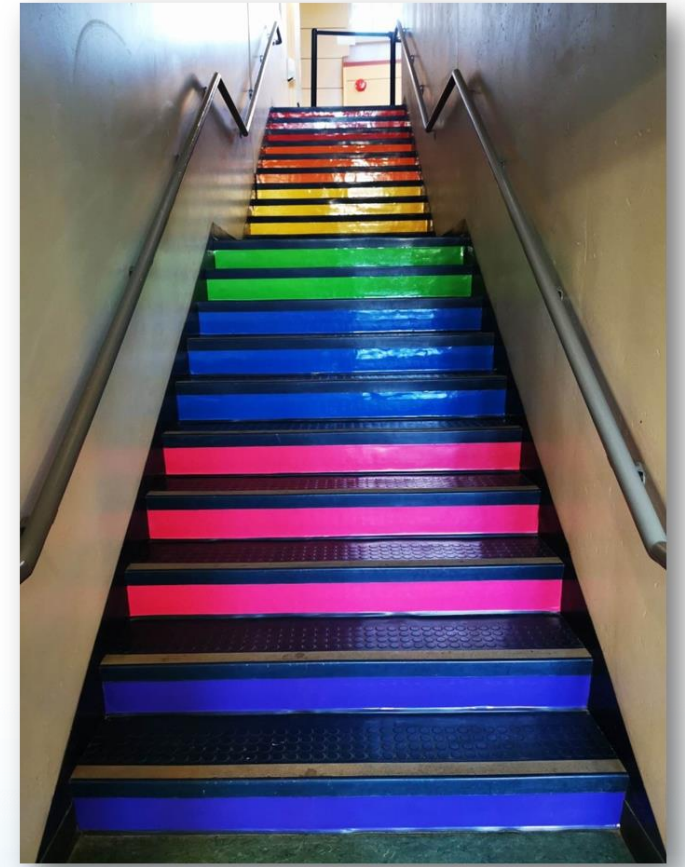
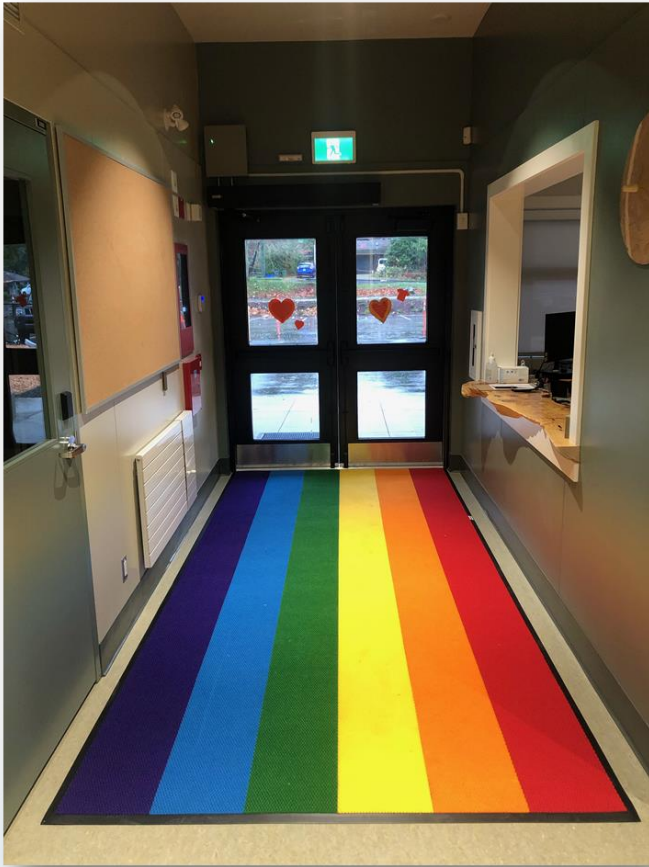


We acknowledge and thank the WSÁNEĆ people on whose traditional territory we live, learn, and teach. The WSÁNEĆ people have lived and worked on this land since time immemorial.

# ACTION & VISIBILITY

- Policy 27 - Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity
- AP176 - Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity
- School-based SOGI leads
- SOGI in Saanich [website](#) (Elementary curricular resources)
- Middle & Secondary school GSA opportunities
- Universal / Gender-neutral washrooms
- Rainbow welcome mats, benches, stairways ...





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