



May 17, 2019

Dear members of our union family:

On the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (May 17th), the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) joins in solidarity with LGBTQ2+ workers to eradicate discrimination. On May 17, 1990, homosexuality was removed from the World Health Organization's (WHO) list of mental disorders. In 2003, Fondation Émergence created the first national day against homophobia. You can find more information on Fondation Émergence and the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia here: <https://www.fondationemergence.org/la-journee?lang=en>

This year's theme is "*Online Violence against LGBTQ2+ people has real life consequences*". Though there has been real progress made, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and two-spirit people continue to face discrimination and harassment at work and in their daily lives – and the growing power of online hate groups is only making matters worse. So we must stay vigilant. 73% of LGBTQ2+ people have been personally attacked or harassed online.

Here in the Prairies we are watching with concern as the new United Conservative Party government in Alberta under Premier Jason Kenney has pledged to undo legislation passed by the previous government to protect Gay/Straight Alliances in schools.

There is some good news. In Budget 2019 the federal government committed \$20 million over 2 years for community-based initiatives to support LGBTQ2+ people in Canada, and \$1.2 million in 2020-21 for the LGBTQ2+ Secretariat. These are positive steps, but more must be done.

That is why last year PSAC launched a campaign to build trans-inclusive workplaces. For more information visit: <http://psacunion.ca/trans-rights>

In Solidarity,

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PSAC Prairies

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Prairie Region Council,  
LGBTQ2+ Representative PSAC