



CENTRE FOR SEXUAL AND GENDER DIVERSITY



Despite increasing progress, the fight for equality is not over.

Our centre engages in leading-edge research to help inspire social change for the greater good.

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE FUTURE

MacEwan University is Alberta's premier undergraduate university located in the heart of downtown Edmonton. With a 50-year history of teaching excellence and student success, MacEwan cares deeply about students and the community. Part of MacEwan's success comes out of a commitment to sharing faculty expertise and scholarly activity to support and improve our community – on campus and beyond – and build an inclusive future. **Supporting the Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity will strengthen MacEwan's path toward inclusive excellence and thought leadership. In this world, succeeding means stepping up. Being a problem solver. A trendsetter. Creating something that serves the present and the future. Being a champion of change.**

Funds raised will change the way the LGBTQ2S+ community is supported by creating more sustainable research opportunities and student scholarships. You'll be part of driving progress on real-world initiatives that help real people.



LEADING WITH PURPOSE

Meet the incredible individuals who are leading the campaign to create real, meaningful change in our communities.

“I’m honoured to support this important campaign. The work of the MacEwan Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity is leading important social change and having a major impact in improving the lives of the LGBTQ2+ community in Canada and beyond. This is vital work we can all be proud to champion and support.”

k.d. lang

k.d. lang (THEY/SHE)

Honorary Chair

k.d. lang is one of Canada’s top singer/songwriters whose dramatic and original style has given a new dimension to contemporary music. She has played an important role in the recognition and development of both Canadian country and popular music and has had a significant influence on the careers of Canada’s musicians. In addition to receiving four Grammy Awards and six Junos, lang has been given the Order of Alberta, a star on Canada’s Walk of Fame and the Order of Canada, one of the country’s highest honours. In addition to supporting many charities, lang champions many LGBTQ2S+ causes and looks forward to supporting the work being done by the Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity.



Chett Matchett (SHE/HER)

VP of Strategy, Talent, and Operations

Chett Matchett is the vice-president of Strategy, Talent and Operations at ATB Financial and is passionate about solving complex problems, creating new solutions and formulating new strategies to better serve the lives of Albertans. Matchett volunteered to serve as the chair of the CSGD fundraising campaign after reflecting on the injustices facing the LGBTQ2S+ community, specifically during the COVID-19 pandemic. Matchett believes the CSGD’s work is a path to addressing the current and future inequities the LGBTQ2S+ community faces.



Dr. Kristopher Wells (HE/HIM)

Founder, Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity

Dr. Kristopher Wells is MacEwan University’s first Canada Research Chair, which is focused on the Public Understanding of Sexual and Gender Minority Youth. He is a well-known and respected community advocate whose research specializes in sexual and gender minority youth, education, health, sport and culture. A leading national expert, Dr. Wells has worked with governments and policy makers across the country and has been invited to provide his expertise to the Government of Canada, Canadian Senate, Global Equality Caucus and numerous provincial and territorial governments and agencies.

RESEARCH INTO ACTION

The Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity (CSGD) at MacEwan University supports cutting-edge, community-based research, teaching and service work related to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression on campus and in the community. The CSGD's approach is to educate, motivate and promote research as a catalyst for social change. Serving MacEwan students, staff and faculty, the CSGD develops inclusive and responsive policies, supports evidence-informed practices and encourages the full and equitable participation of sexual and gender minorities on campus and in society. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and Two Spirit (LGBTQ2S+) individuals may have more rights today than ever before, but the fight for equality is not over. LGBTQ2S+ community members still experience discrimination and hate crimes on a frequent basis. Many LGBTQ2S+ seniors are forced "back into the closet" to receive care. Sexual and gender minority youth experience higher levels of family rejection and homelessness, are at higher risk of suicide and experience significantly elevated rates of mental health challenges due to prejudice, stigma and unsafe environments. The COVID-19 pandemic only made matters worse for some of our most vulnerable community members. Now is the time for action to protect and support our most vulnerable.

“The Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity plays a key role in MacEwan University’s commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion. Part of the centre’s work is that we empower our students and graduates, we work together to persevere, and we form strategic relationships to foster empathy and understanding through research and community work.”

Dr. Annette Trimbee,
President and Vice-Chancellor



Advancing social change

Take a look at some of the initiatives that the Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity is leading.

Conversion Therapy Ban

The CSGD has been on the frontlines in the fight against so-called “conversion therapy” practices, which seek to change, suppress or deny a person’s sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. These unethical practices are dangerous and destructive and have no place in our society. In December 2021, Canada passed the most comprehensive legislation in the world prohibiting the advertising, offering and profiting from “conversion therapy” practices. This was truly a historic and remarkable moment in the fight for LGBTQ2S+ equality. Yet, there is still more work to do to create affirming environments and support survivors.

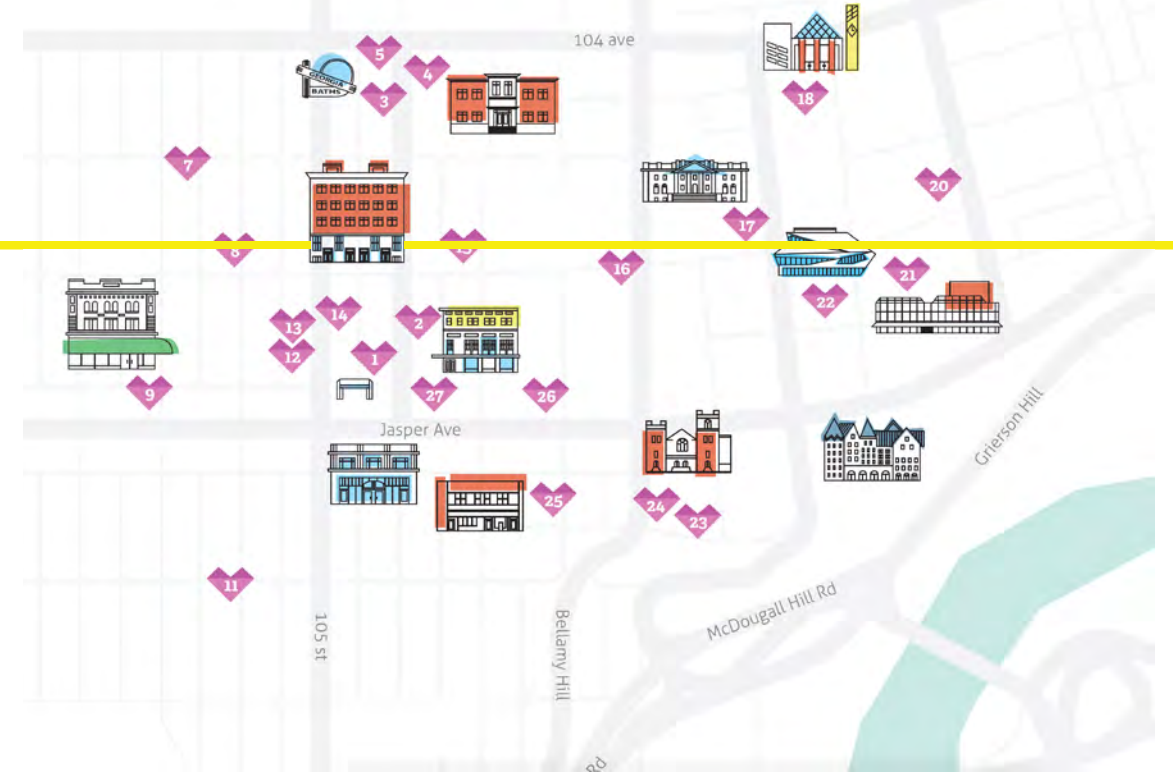
Rainbow Health Clinic

Unfortunately, access to health care is not equal. Many LGBTQ2S+ individuals still experience significant barriers to inclusive care and treatment. In 2019, with support from the CSGD, the MacEwan University Health Centre began offering the “Rainbow Clinic,” a unique program designed as a safe and affirming space providing specialized care to LGBTQ2S+ students, staff and community members. With support, the CSGD aims to continue to grow and expand the Rainbow Health Clinic to help remove systemic barriers and increase access to inclusive care.



Pride Tape

PrideTape started in Edmonton as a grassroots campaign to help promote inclusion and build awareness that many LGBTQ2S+ youth continue to drop out or be pushed out of the game they love. It is a badge of support and inclusion for LGBTQ2S+ players, coaches and fans, signalling that “you belong here.” Today, PrideTape is supported by the National Hockey League (and is utilized by all 32 teams) and is featured in over 30 countries around the world. This initiative continues to grow with partnerships in other sports and sporting organizations at all levels. Wrapping your stick is only the first step. Education and empathy need to follow to support real and meaningful change.



Edmonton Queer History Project

Queer histories are often unnamed, undocumented and frequently go unmentioned in historical texts and official public archives – and are largely absent in public discourse. School curriculum seldom includes positive representations of LGBTQ2S+ people, communities or cultures.

A team of local researchers and community historians are addressing this critical absence through life history interviews, archival research and storytelling in an effort to document the people, places and moments that have contributed to Edmonton’s rich and diverse LGBTQ2S+ histories. Queer history can be found everywhere. You just need to know where to look.

A community-based research project that continues to evolve and progress, the Edmonton Queer History Project features a downtown map and walking tour of 27 sites of historical interest, a treasure trove of archival photos and images, as well as a podcast to help make this history come alive.

SUPPORTING LGBTQ2S+ STUDENTS



Meet Japkaran (HE/HIM) Undergraduate Research Assistant

"I believe that my generation is quite fortunate to be growing up at this time and to be young in present-day society," says Japkaran Saroya, Bachelor of Arts student in Honours psychology. "We are able to come out at earlier ages, live as our authentic selves and love freely with a significantly larger amount of societal acceptance. This was rarely the case for older members of the community."

Japkaran has been involved as a research assistant supporting the Edmonton Queer History Project, which seeks to remember the people, places and events that have built our understanding of Edmonton's LGBTQ2+ community over the past 50 years. His research is one example of the life-changing work and critical advocacy done by the Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity, which removes barriers and creates opportunities for students to access post-secondary education and engage in research opportunities that contribute to education and social change.

"I thoroughly enjoy the work I do with Dr. Kristopher Wells and the centre," says Japkaran. "I find it incredibly insightful to be able to look into the past and see how far the LGBTQ2S+ community has come. In the research that I've done, I've been able to see the domino effect of the different influential moments in Edmonton's queer history that allowed for the community to thrive and find a place for itself in our society today."



Meet Emery (THEY/THEM) Scholarship Winner

"My goal in this community is for every LGBTQ2+ person who has just come out to see that they belong and deserve to be celebrated for who they are," says Emery Davies, Bachelor of Arts student.

Emery is the 2021 recipient of the Hayley Jayne Richman Memorial Award, which supports students who are members of the LGBTQ2+ community, allies of the community or those who have LGBTQ2+ parents. Emery was an active leader with their high school queer-straight alliance (QSA), served on the planning committee for the 2020 Virtual Alberta GSA conference and volunteers to give educational classroom presentations about LGBTQ2+ identities and how to dismantle homophobia and transphobia in schools.

The scholarship is helping Emery pursue their plans to one day become a teacher so they can continue educating and supporting young people.

But students like Japkaran and Emery – and many others – still need your help.

Support the sustainable growth of the Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity. Your contribution will fuel social change and champion the LGBTQ2+ community at MacEwan and beyond. The centre, and our university, is committed to exceptional learning experiences, testing boundaries and using expertise to improve our community.



YOUR GIFT HELPS DRIVE MUCH-NEEDED SOCIAL CHANGE

We need you now more than ever. Our fundraising goal is \$5 million to support an emerging needs endowment fund and \$2 million to provide much-needed scholarships, awards and bursaries to students.

This is your moment. By investing in the Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity, you will:

- Enable the CSGD to focus on the issues that are most critical to the LGBTQ2S+ community and to take inclusive action and engage in important research and advocacy.
- Support timely, responsive and flexible work, education and scholarly activity that are necessary to bring about urgently needed social change.
- Invest in MacEwan University's commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion and human rights.
- Build the next generation of trendsetters by supporting student research and mentorship opportunities and contributing to scholarships, awards and bursaries that support LGBTQ2S+ students and their allies.
- Support the current growth and sustainability of the CSGD for future generations.





REACH OUT NOW TO BE PART OF THE CHANGE

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