



iSMSS

INSTITUTE FOR SEXUAL MINORITY STUDIES AND SERVICES

2016/17 ANNUAL REPORT

Housed in the University of Alberta's Faculty of Education, the **Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services (iSMSS)** leads groundbreaking research that affects policy development, intervention, education and community outreach for sexual and gender minorities (SGM), nationally and globally.

Bringing together research, teaching, institutional service and community outreach under one umbrella enables us to combine our studies and services functions in ways that create opportunities for innovative intellectual work and sustained educational and community outreach.

Our research not only helps youth at large, but also guides professional development and education for teachers, social workers, family physicians, psychologists, guidance counsellors and other caring professionals, enabling them to be better resources and advocates for SGM youth and their families.

MISSION

The Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services (iSMSS) is an interdisciplinary hub for scholarly and community work on sexual and gender minority identities, issues and concerns. Our mission is to advance groundbreaking research, policy and practice focused on education, health and social services, emphasizing children, youth, families and communities.

RESEARCH & ADVOCACY

As Canada Research Chair in Sexual and Gender Minority Studies, Dr. André P. Grace conducts research to support recognition, respect, and accommodation of young sexual and gender minority (SGM) persons in institutional contexts (education, healthcare, and policing) and in community contexts where vulnerable youth may be living in care, street-involved, or homeless. For details, visit www.andrepgrace.com. This year he continued conducting SSHRC-funded research synchronizing resilience research, policymaking, and practice in ways that assist SGM youth to grow into resilience. Of note, a national youth resilience survey was launched in English and French this year. Dr. Grace uses research findings to inform the Comprehensive Health Education Workers Project (chewproject.ca). For this work, Dr. Grace was awarded the 2017 Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Community Justice Award in the Innovation Category for extraordinary contributions promoting community safety through crime prevention in the province. Dr. Grace's research assistants include Jeffrey R. Hankey and Michel Lévesque, both of whom are SSHRC doctoral scholars whom he supervises. Corey Wyness is the lead intervention and outreach worker and educator with the CHEW Project.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

iSMSS offers a variety of innovative programs and services, including:

- **Camp fYrefly:** A summer leadership camp for LGBTQ2S+ youth
- **fYrefly in Schools:** A free peer-to-peer education program for junior & senior high schools,
 - *Where the Rivers Meet:* Using culturally relevant teachings, and recommendations put forward by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, in partnership with local Indigenous peoples and communities to create inclusive and respectful school and community environments for LGBTQ2S+ youth
 - *Franco-Queers:* A partnership with Francophonie Jeunesse de l'Alberta to create space for LGBTQ2S+ folks in Alberta's francophone communities
- **Family Resilience Project:** Offers free short-term counselling to sexual and gender minority (LGBTQ) children, youth, and families.
- **Alberta GSA Network & Provincial Conference:** Provides support to students & teachers to start, strengthen, and sustain GSA clubs in Alberta's schools.
- **U of A Safer Spaces Initiative:** Working through explanations of the origins of homophobia and transphobia to develop a greater understanding of how much gender and sexuality assumptions play out in our day-to-day lives.
- **University of Alberta Pride Week:** Engaging campus communities, and coming together to build safe, supportive, caring, and respectful campus environments for LGBTQ2S+ students, staff, and faculty.

- **Comprehensive Health Education Workers' (C.H.E.W.) Project:** This project uses Dr. Grace's C3 model focused on providing comprehensive health education and outreach, community support services, and compassionate policing to sexual and gender minority youth and young adults. This unique model is helping to fill a recognized gap in coordinated mainstream institutional recognition and accommodation of vulnerable youth in Edmonton.
- **Pride Tape:** Showing support to/from teammates, coaches, parents and pros to LGBTQ2S+ players. Showing every player they belong in the game.
- **You Can Play:** Ensures safety and inclusion of LGBTQ2S+ folks who participate or wish to participate in sport; including: athletes, coaches, and fans.
- **NoHomophobes.com**

2016/17 PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Highlights of some major activities from the past year include:

MAYOR'S PRIDE BRUNCH

With over 600 community leaders, supporters and friends of fYrefly, we celebrated camp successes and raised funds to help cover the costs of Camp fYrefly Edmonton.

PRIDE TAPE

In 2017 Pride Tape won a Clio international award in the social good category!

ISMSS SCHOLARSHIPS

We offer several undergraduate and graduate scholarships for UofA students focused on LGBTQ2S+ research, leadership activities and community service.

YOU CAN PLAY

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Building Inclusive Sporting Communities
(Dr. Cheryl MacDonald, iSMSS Post-Doc researcher)

Research: Dr. MacDonald is currently studying attitudes towards homosexuality among former and retired National Hockey League (NHL) players and is currently conducting interviews that will inform enquiries about aggressive and stoic masculinity in hockey, how those representations may be connected to homophobia in the sport, and why there are no openly gay players in the NHL.



OUR PEOPLE

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FIND OUT MORE

Visit [iSMSS.ualberta.ca](https://ismss.ualberta.ca) for detailed information about our research, programs and services

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