



2017/18

ANNUAL REPORT

iSMSS

Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services

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 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 AND ADVOCACY

Foci of Research Program of Canada Research Chair in Sexual and Gender Minority Studies

- Comprehensive health, educational, and cultural concerns of sexual and gender minority (SGM) youth and young adults in intersections with race, class, Indigeneity, and other relational differences.
- Addressing sexual and gender minority issues in educational and social policymaking, law, and legislation in Canada and its provinces and territories.
- Parameters of caring professional development and practice for teachers, nurses, police officers, social workers, counselling psychologists, and other professionals working with vulnerable SGM youth and young adults.
- Researching resilience as a construct, process, and outcome in helping sexual and gender minority youth and young adults to deal with adversity and trauma.
- Advancing greater synchronicity among interdisciplinary research, policy, and practice in working with sexual and gender minority youth and young adults in Canada.
- Using research to inform the ongoing development of an evidence-based C3 model for working with SGM youth and young adults, which is focused on comprehensive health education and outreach, community intervention and supports, and compassionate policing.

PROGRAMS AND 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**

PROJECTS AND 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

Dr. André Grace
Research Associate
andre.grace@ualberta.ca

Dr. Kristopher Wells
Research Associate
kris.wells@ualberta.ca

Aman Powar-Grewal
Manager of Programs
and Services
aman.powar-grewal@ualberta.ca

Dr. Alvin Schrader
Adjunct Professor
alvin.schrader@ualberta.ca

Michael Phair
Adjunct Professor
michael.phair@ualberta.ca

Lauren Alston
Provincial GSA Coordinator
Alberta
GSAnetwork@gmail.com

Corey Wyness
CHEW Program Coordinator
CHEWproject@ualberta.ca

Bryan Mortenson
Administrative Secretary
bmortens@ualberta.ca

Rebecca Blakey
Sexual & Gender Minority
Equity Advisor
rblakey@ualberta.ca

Shayne Golosky-Johnston
Where the Rivers Meet
Coordinator
goloskyj@ualberta.ca

Evan Westfal
fYrefly in Schools
Education Facilitator
fyrefly@ualberta.ca

FIND OUT MORE

Visit iSMSS.ualberta.ca for detailed information about our research, programs and services.

✉ iSMSS@ualberta.ca

☎ (780) 492-0772

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