



Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)

Fédération des enseignantes et des enseignants
de l'élémentaire de l'Ontario (FEEO)

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Participating in a Pride Event: A “How-To” Guide for ETFO Locals

Why Participating in Pride Matters

Participating in Pride is an act of solidarity and celebration. The presence of ETFO locals at Pride events is a form of community engagement which shows the important connection between educators as 2SLGBTQ+ advocates and broader social issues. A local's presence at Pride demonstrates our union's commitment to social justice both to members who identify as 2SLGBTQ+ and to the broader community. Your local's involvement puts a face to the union and shows that your local's executive, committee members, stewards, and members are also part of the community.

Reserving a Booth

1. Pride events usually take place from May until September. Check the [2026 Ontario Pride Events poster](#) to find the Pride event nearest your local.
2. Reach out to the organizers to see how your local can participate.
3. Book a booth /or area to set up a display table.
4. Find out whether the local Pride organization will supply a display table or whether you must bring your own.

Creating a Display

Create a display board with tri-folded, sturdy, freestanding, corrugated cardboard. These are the ones used in science fairs and can be purchased at an office supply store. They typically come in black and white display surfaces and can be covered but not painted.

Curate family friendly resources such as colouring sheets and diverse booklists which centre diverse 2SLGBTQ+ lived experiences. Consult your public library to access Pride booklists. Share any pertinent local information, such as events that have been run, available resources, and/or relevant committees. The ETFO resources below can support this work:

- Resource: [Taking a stand with school boards: Defending 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion in schools](#)
- Resource: [ETFO Suggested Resources for Gender Independent Children and Transgender Youth/Adults](#)
- Resource: [2SLGBTQ Education Timeline](#)
- Resource: [2SLGBTQ+ Pronoun Tip Sheet](#)
- Voice Article: [Standing Firm Against Hate](#)
- Voice Article: [2SLGBTQ+ Inclusion](#)
- Podcast: [Countering anti-2SLGBTQ+ hate as an educator](#)
- Podcast: [Building inclusive spaces for 2SLGBTQ+ students and families](#)

Include a variety of 2SLGBTQ+ specific materials, available free of charge in limited quantities, from ETFO's Provincial Office. The following are available, upon request:

- Positive Space stickers
- Buttons

- Stickers: I Love GSAs, Celebrate Pride or Pride & Solidarity
- *LGBTQ Rights in Your Workplace* pamphlets
- Pencils

You can order materials through Equity and Women's Services by contacting Carol Aldover at 1-888-838-3836 ext. 2283 or caldover@etfo.org or Punita Bhardwaj at ext. 2236 or pbhardwaj@etfo.org.

Use your local's flag or banner and display a Pride flag if your local has one. Check your local flag store/maker or 2SLGBTQ+ community store, a variety of Pride flags are also available online. ETFO encourages locals to use unionized print shops. To have a customized Pride flag or Trans flag for your local, contact Celia Huang at Cavan Specialty Advertising Ltd. She can be reached by phone at 416-686-6265, 1-800-268-5665 extension 202 or by e-mail at celia@cavanadv.com or chuang@cavanadv.com. Please note that a customized flag will take a month for production and shipping.

Templates:

Included in this kit you will find several different templates. Some of them can be adapted to include the name of your local. The templates are all in Word format and are downloadable to print. The materials will look best if they are printed in colour. We have shown the templates as specific products, but you can use your imagination to find many other uses. You could use the ***Pride & Solidarity*** flag to make pencils, t-shirts, and/or other items. The backdrop for your display board can be adapted for your local and/or you can add other local information.

Volunteers:

Participating in Pride is a form of member engagement which is fun and often receives positive feedback. It is a great opportunity for members who may be looking for union involvement. Some tips for managing volunteers include:

1. Recruit volunteers via your local's method of communicating to members.
2. Communicate why your locals' involvement at the Pride event is important.
3. Schedule volunteer shifts in two hour increments to allow for rest.
4. Have at least 2 to 4 volunteers per shift.
5. Ensure that volunteers have water, food, and sunscreen.
6. Provide a t-shirt or hat with your local's logo and the Pride flag

When There Is No Local Pride Event:

If your community or a nearby one does not have a community event planned to celebrate Pride, your local can still support the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Please refer to the "Letter to Municipal Officials" template to ask for a Pride flag raising at the city/town/municipal hall. A display can also be set up in a variety of locations including malls, libraries, school board offices, city halls, community fairs, and festivals.

2SLGBTQ+ Local Funding Grant

ETFO has funding for 2SLGBTQ+ local Initiatives. Grants of up to \$300 per local to a maximum of 20 locals per year, for the specific purpose of addressing homophobia and heterosexism. Funding will be made available to locals on a first-come, first served basis. For further information, please contact Kathy Pigeon at the provincial office at 416-962-3836, 1-888-838-3836, ext. 2275, or at kpigeon@etfo.org.