Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario

Fédération des enseignantes et des enseignants de l’élémentaire de l’Ontario

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**How to Participate in a Pride Event:**

**A “How-To” Guide for ETFO Locals**

1. **Reserving a Booth:**

To book a booth at your local Pride event, check the *2022 Ontario Pride* *Events* poster (in the ETFO Pride Kit) to find the location nearest you. In the listing, you will find a website and/or Facebook address. Contact that local site to book space for a booth and/or display table for the Pride event. You can also ask to have a booth at a neighbouring event if there is not one in your municipality. Pride events usually take place from May until September, so make your contact as soon as possible.

1. **Creating a Display:**

First, find out whether the organization will supply the display table or whether you must bring your own. Staples and other office supply stores sell tri-fold display boards made of sturdy, freestanding, corrugated cardboard, the type often used for Science Fair backboards. These can be covered but not painted. They typically come in black and white display surfaces.

At your booth include a variety of 2SLGBTQ+ specific materials, available free of charge in limited quantities, from ETFO including:

* + - ***Positive Space*** posters and stickers
    - ***Teach Pride!*** buttons and decals
    - ***I Love GSAs*** stickers
    - ***LGBTQ Rights in Your Workplace*** pamphlets
    - ***Welcoming & Supporting LGBT Families*** brochure

You can order materials through Equity and Women’s Services by contacting Kinjal Patel at 1-888-838-3836 ext. 2243 or kpatel@etfo.org or Mandi Hardy at ext. 2239 or mhardy@etfo.org.

You can also include any pertinent local information, such as events that have been run, available resources and/or relevant committees.

Other ETFO resources could also be displayed. You could include:

* ***LGBTQ Inclusive SchoolPlace Starts Here* video**
* ***Social Justice Begins with Me***
* ***More Than a Play***

Your local’s flag or banner should be part of the display and you can also display a Pride flag.

1. **Templates:**

Included in this kit you will find a number of 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. If you don’t have access in your office to a colour printer, you can copy the files you want and take it to a photocopying place, Staples for example, for printing. 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 ***ETFO Celebrates Diversity*** 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.

1. **Volunteers:**

Having a local ETFO presence is an essential part of the message to the community. Staff your booth with the local executive, committee members, stewards, and members. Encourage members to participate and show leadership by ensuring the local leaders are participating. This is fabulous public relations for your local and gives teachers an opportunity to promote human rights in a very practical way. It is also lots of fun and an event where teachers get great positive feedback. Two to four people at a time for one to two hours each is customary.

It is a great opportunity to reach out to members who may be looking for union involvement. Providing the volunteers with a t-shirt or hat celebrating Pride is a great incentive. Use one of the examples in the kit to have your own t-shirts made locally. Also be sure to use the nametag template so members can identify themselves while staffing the booth or marching in the parade.

5. **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.

6. **How To Get a Pride Flag:**

A variety of Pride flags are available through a variety of sources.

Check your local flag store/maker or 2SLGBTQ+ community store. You can order one from **Glad Day Bookshop**. The following is the store’s information:

**Glad Day Bookshop**

Address: 499 Church Street  
Toronto ON  
Canada, M4Y 2C6

Telephone: 416-901-6600

E-mail: <https://gladdaybookshop.com/>

7. **ETFO Pride and Trans Flags:**

To have your own ETFO Pride flag or Trans flag made or a local version, contact Celia Huang at Cavan Specialty Advertising Ltd., 416-686-6265, 1-800-268-5665 extension 202 or by e-mail at [chuang@cavanadv.com](mailto:chuang@cavanadv.com).

8. **2SLGBTQ+ Local Funding Grant**

ETFO provides funding to locals for anti-homophobia and anti-heterosexism initiatives. Funding is provided up to $300 per local to a maximum of 13 locals per year. You can apply for funding to help cover Pride event costs. For further information, please contact Kathy Pigeon, 416-962-3836, 1-888-838-3836 extension 2275 or by email at [kpigeon@etfo.org](mailto:kpigeon@etfo.org).