



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Egale Canada and Government of Newfoundland & Labrador Working Together to Promote Gay-Straight Alliances**

**Toronto:** Egale Canada is thrilled to announce the formation of a new partnership with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to promote safe and caring schools for all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Through this partnership, Egale will be delivering teacher-training workshops on lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) inclusivity within schools, as well as producing a provincially-tailored Equity and Inclusive Education Resource Kit to be distributed to all junior and senior high schools in Newfoundland and Labrador.

“We are delighted to be working with Newfoundland and Labrador on this initiative,” said Helen Kennedy, Executive Director of Egale. “This is the first province in Canada to make MyGSA kits available to all junior and senior high school students, teachers and administrators. We are very proud of Newfoundland and Labrador’s commitment to safe and caring schools for everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.”

The new program is funded through the Provincial Government’s Violence Prevention Initiative, led by the Women’s Policy Office, and developed in partnership with Egale Canada. It will be delivered to schools in spring 2012.

Egale conducted Canada's first and only [national survey on homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in Canadian schools](#), published in May 2011. It revealed shockingly high levels of bullying, violence and harassment directed toward LGBTQ students:

- Two-thirds of LGBTQ students feel unsafe at school.
- 20% of LGBTQ students and almost 10% of non-LGBTQ students have been physically harassed or assaulted because of their perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.
- 37% of youth with LGBTQ parents have been verbally harassed about the sexual orientation of their parents.

Egale Canada is Canada's LGBT human rights organization: advancing equality, diversity, education, and justice.

**For more information:**

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