

Q&A

Q) A young trans athlete has just joined my daughter's sports team. This feels unfair to the other cisgender female athletes.

A) The fundamental issue here that may surprise you is that dividing athletes along the lines of sex/gender—while easy, and traditionally done—has been an unfair division in many ways. What would be far more considerate would be dividing athletes based on aspects like height, or weight categories. Cis-gender female athletes have even been barred from participating in the olympics for naturally high levels of testosterone. If a trans athlete has any advantage on the field due to her body's past, it will be marginal, and more based on her family's bodily characteristics rather than the shaping done by pre-transition hormone levels.

Q) If gender and sexuality are such personal things, why are conversations about gender and sexuality being had in school settings?

A) Conversations around gender and sexuality are new topics of our time, and are (very unfortunately, to everyone's detriment) currently a major talking point politically. But! when removed from the political spectrum, these conversations are quite mundane in nature, and more or less could be a chapter in any social studies textbook. Even if your child isn't queer, they most certainly will know other queer students, or have queer friends. The conversations had around queerness in the school environment are helpful to the student body as a whole.

Lastly, trans and queer individuals are just people, subject to the same character flaws and talents expressed by all of us. We desire a place within society, not separation from it.

This Q&A was written Juneau MacPhee, Dawson City Artist & Community Member, with support and contributions from others the community. It was given in good faith with the hopes of dispelling disinformation.

Please share this, but do not distort this pamphlet's message.
Take care of yourselves.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

www.sogieducation.org
www.advocacy-canada.lgbt
www.transequality.org
www.thetrevorproject.org
www.qmunity.ca
www.treatitqueer.org
www.egale.ca
www.lgbtqhealth.ca

Studies and Articles Referenced:

Castagnaro, G. (2023 Feb 27) New Study Confirms Regret Rates of Gender-Affirming Surgery are Non-Existing. GenderGP.com <https://www.gendergp.com/new-study-confirms-regret-rates-of-gender-affirming-surgery-are-non-existent/>

Bustos, VP, et al. (2021 Mar 19) Regret after Gender-affirmation Surgery: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Prevalence. *Plast Reconstr Surg Glob Open*; 9(3):e3477.

Abreu, R. L., et al. (2022, March 24). Impact of Gender Affirming Care Bans on Transgender and Gender Diverse Youth: Parental Figures' Perspective. *Journal of Family Psychology*.

STAND IN SOLIDARITY
WITH TRANS & QUEER
COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Q&A guide to
support & learn about

**TRANS & QUEER
YOUTH AND
INCLUSIVE
EDUCATION**

queer
yukon

Hello, thanks for reading more about inclusive education, and about how trans and queer rights are being affected in our community.

In this pamphlet you'll find answers for some questions you may have on what is, unfortunately, becoming a topic of debate.

We appreciate you joining this discussion with an open heart and mind. We hope this information and the online resources on the back will encourage you to discuss these topics with love, understanding and an informed opinion.

*see the back of this pamphlet for references to peer-reviewed studies and articles

If you are looking for more information or have questions, please feel free to email us:

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jules@queeryukon.com
info@queeryukon.com

YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME HERE

If you would like to connect with Queer Yukon to offer support, or if you need support, please email us or check out the volunteer section of our website at: www.queeryukon.com

Q) My child isn't queer, nor is anyone in my immediate family. Why are we being forced into conversations about pronouns, and why is it being so widely circulated in the public schools and in the workplace?

A) The importance of pronouns and an individual's right to being called how they desire is a new and evolving structure of social etiquette. Nobody is being forced to do anything, but it is through agreed upon norms of social etiquette that we show respect to other individuals we don't know, and make them feel like they are meeting us on equal footing.

Q) Ten years ago this was barely an issue. Now conversations around queer politics are everywhere and I feel like I have to walk on eggshells around people when this subject comes up. Why do I have to give special treatment to queer people and these issues?

A) Through social media and our increased interconnectedness, there has been an explosion in people realizing who they are and how they want to fit into our larger social fabric. Queer people in no way want special treatment. Like everyone, 2SLGBTQIA+ people just want to go about their lives as normally and as easily as possible.

Using correct names and pronouns is an extension of social etiquette that make trans and queer people feel included and allowed to be themselves, just normal everyday people. You are extending someone grace and being polite when you ask what their pronouns are.

Q) I misgendered a trans person a couple of times by mistake and they got really upset and angry. I didn't mean to, but now our interactions are uncomfortable and they don't want to talk to me. Why can't they see that this was just an accident and that I have good intentions?

A) Misgendering trans people hurts them deeply. It indicates that you are interacting with an image you have of them, rather than seeing the individual that they are. If you misgender someone, just correct yourself and carry on. When you try to explain to them that it was just a mistake, or that you actually see them and you are just adjusting, you are accidentally making this conversations about you and your intentions, rather than acknowledging the pain you have caused and simply just moving on. This essentially reminds the trans person in very plain terms that their existence is unusual, and that they exist in a place outside of mainstream society.

Q) Is there a chance a child could come to harm from gender affirming care?

A) No. Gender affirming care for children means allowing them to dress and present how they feel most comfortable, and in some cases prescribing puberty blockers that are commonly and safely used to delay early puberty among cis and trans children alike. The worrying truth is, the risk of suicide for trans and queer youth is startlingly higher if they don't get the support they need.*

Even among adults who access hormones or surgery, there is a very low rate of dissatisfaction for gender affirming care, around 2%. (This is far less than regret for knee and hip operations, at 6%-36%*).