

Why are we doing this work in Prairie Spirit?

- My Prairie Spirit Classroom is diverse in world view, culture, language, gender identity, ability and interests and this is how we learn together.
- The rights of 2SLGBTQ+ students and employees are protected under the Canadian Charter, Canadian Human Rights Act, Criminal Code of Canada, Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, *The Education Act*, and Saskatchewan High School Athletics Association (SHSAA) bylaws.
- Prairie Spirit is committed to providing inclusive, welcoming, caring, respectful and safe environments that promote the well-being of all. PSSD recognizes that it is a shared responsibility of all members of our community to foster a learning and working environment that promotes every person's dignity and rights.
- Safe schools are free of discrimination, hate speech, physical abuse and other types of harassment based on actual or perceived assumptions around sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.
- Prairie Spirit is proud to be aligning our work with the direction established by the Ministry of Education in the document *Deepening the Discussion* (2015).
- The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation expects all teachers to develop teaching practices recognizing and supporting diversity within the classroom, the school and community.
- We know that some students are feeling unsafe or unwelcomed in school. Research shows that:
 - LGBTQ youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide.
 - A national survey of Canadian high school students found that 64% of LGBTQ2+ students reported feeling unsafe at school.
 - Prairie Spirit's *Your Voice Matters* survey (2022) reported that:
 - 25% of students did not feel that all students are able to be open about who they are without fear of unwanted consequences.
 - 49% of students reported witnessing or overhearing targeted comments towards students that were harmful, based on their gender or sexual identity.
 - 20% of students could not identify an adult who cares about them personally and who they could talk to.