

Developing resources and connection for trans and nonbinary youth in northwestern BC: A collaboration with Foundry Terrace

Supported by a UBC Centre for Community Engaged Learning Connect to Communities Grant

Project activities summary

By Max Edworthy, June 26, 2023

1. November 2022 Workshop

- a) Initial community consultation for project goals and objectives
- b) Discussion of trans joy
- c) Resources for trans youth in the north

We identified the following general goals with youth advisors:

- Understanding and acceptance of trans identities
- Access to affirming healthcare
- Opportunity for connection with peers
- Greater acknowledgment of the intersection of identities, including neurodiverse & trans identities.

Specific objectives included:

- Establish gender-affirming gear exchange
- Connection with peers through arts and craft groups
- Increase queer visibility in Terrace through pride pin making event.
- Queer media exchange, to guide creation of 2SLGBTQIA+ Library at Foundry Terrace
- Information sessions regarding accessing affirming healthcare.

Trans joy



Elle (Yasmin Finney) and Tao from *Heartstopper*

The experience of trans joy guided this project. Our first meeting highlighted trans and two-spirit lives and accomplishments.

These included northerners such as Ivan Coyote (storyteller) and Dr James Makokis (physician; see below), as well as other Canadians such as Quinn (Olympic gold medalist in soccer) and Elliot Page (actor).



Dr James Makokis, Two-spirit physician serving trans and Indigenous people in northern Alberta

Resources identified:

Terrace

- Foundry Terrace (Group workshops and activities, counselling, cultural resources, NP services)
- Pride pals (Social connections)
- School GSAs (Gender and Sexuality Alliances, formerly Gay-Straight Alliances)
- SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) 123 school and district lead teachers.

Northern

- Foundry Prince George (NP provides gender affirming care).
- Blue Pine Clinic Gender Clinic (Prince George)

Provincial

- QMUNITY (e.g., ID clinic, Binders, Bras, and Breast forms Exchange, queer-centred counselling)
- TransCare BC (Information about accessing care, health navigators)
- BC Children’s Hospital Gender Clinic

National

Rainbow Health Ontario
Egale Canada

2. February Crafts and Gender-Affirming Gear Exchange opening.



Foundry’s Gender-affirming Gear Exchange provides:

- Binders
- Breast forms
- Trans tape



Photo:
<https://www.gc2b.co>

QMUNITY provides virtual fitting room support for size selection as well as a chest health guide available at <https://qmunity.ca/get-support/youth/bbbexchange/>

3. Media share & library development, March 2023

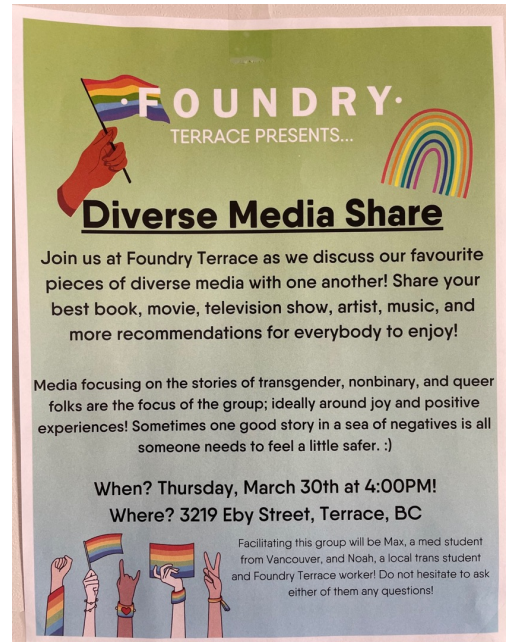
Titles in blue (among others) were purchased through the CCEL Community Grant, and are available at the Foundry 2SLGBTQIA+ Library.

Movies and TV

- Alice Júnior
- Heartstopper
- Steven Universe
- Danger and Eggs
- Kippo and the Age of Wonderbeasts
- Over the Garden Wall
- The Owl House
- She-ra and the Princesses of Power
- Spider-man: Across the Spiderverse
- Wildhood
- Umbrella Academy
- The Walking Dead
- Tales of the City

Books (fiction)

- Cemetery Boys, Aiden Thomas
- Dreadnought
- Pet
- The Witch King
- Felix Ever After
- Long Way to a Small Angry Planet
- The Lesbian's Guide to Catholic School
- Julian is a Mermaid
- My Awesome Brother
- Under the Cerulean Sea
- The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue
- Detransition Baby, Torrey Peters
- The Miseducation of Cameron Post



2SLGBTQIA+ books at Foundry Terrace (initial order)

Graphic novels, comics, and manga

- Forest Hills Bootleg Society
- As the Crow Flies
- A Snake Falls to Earth
- The Legend of Auntie Po, Shing Yin Khor
- Surviving the City, vols. 1 & 2
- Rabbit Chase
- This Places: 150 Years Retold
- Moonshot: The Indigenous Comics Coll.
- A Girl Called Echo: Northwest Resistance
- The Magic Fish
- Welcome to St. Hell
- Blackwater
- Magical Boy
- Lumberjanes, ND Stevenson
- Wandering Son
- Cheer Up! Love and Pom Poms
- Thieves
- Grease Bats
- Snapdragon
- Love me for who I am
- Rain, Jocelyn Samara D.
- The Prettiest Platypus

Games

- Paper Mario: Thousand-Year Door
- Night in the Woods

Nonfiction

- The Care We Dream Of: Liberatory and Transformative Approaches to LGBTQ+ Health
- Fierce Femmes and Notorious Liars
- I Hope We Choose Love: A Trans Girl's Notes from the End of the World
- Gender Queer: A Memoir, Maia Kobabe
- Tomboy Survival Guide, Ivan Coyote
- A Queer and Pleasant Danger
- Gender Failure, Ivan Coyote and Rae Spoon

Additional book lists

<https://lgbtqreads.com/>

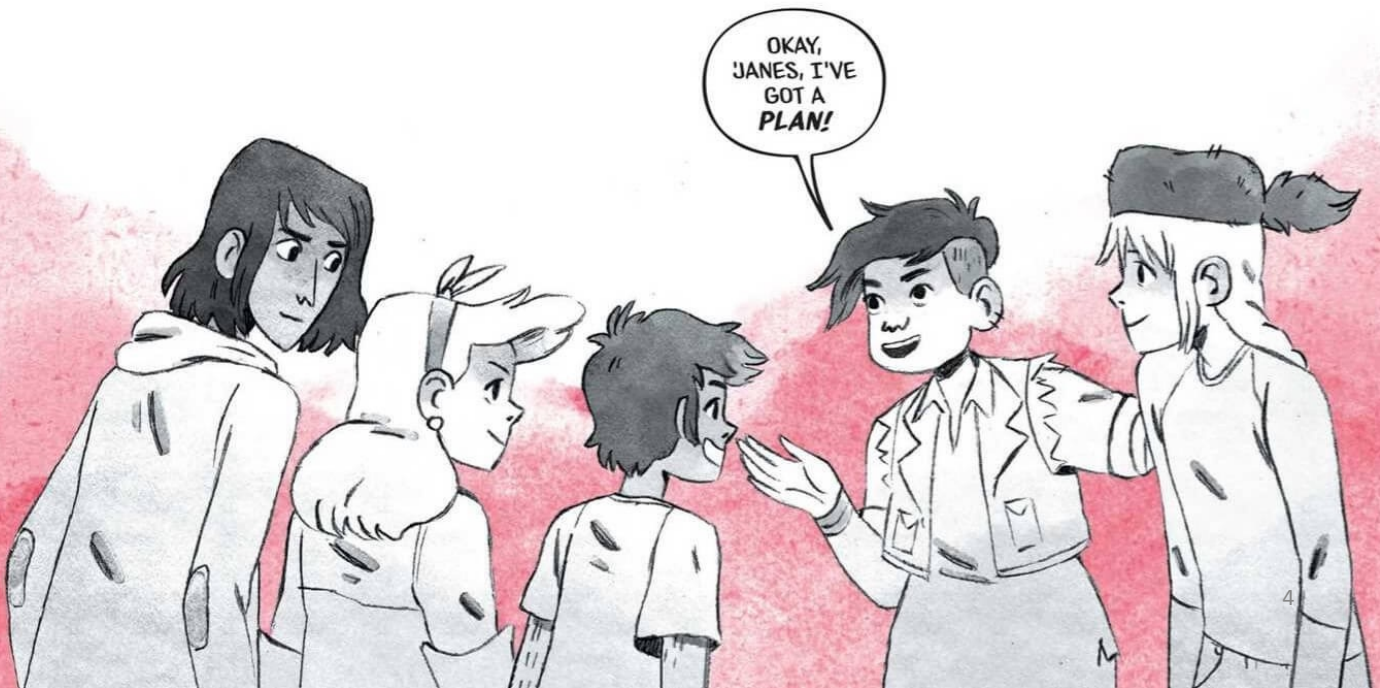
BCCH Gender Resources – Recommended Reading (including for parents):

<http://www.bcchildrens.ca/health-info/coping-support/gender-resources>

Books and Company (Prince George)

<https://booksandcompany.ca/education/so-gi-books>

Image from
Lumberjanes, ND
Stevenson



4. Pride button-making, June 2023

- Participants created an array of buttons reflecting their diverse identities and interests.
- Northern Health pride pins were distributed at MMH to increase queer visibility and signaling of safety and acceptance.

