



# POSITIVE SPACE PROGRAM POLICY

Date of Adoption: May 13, 2009

Amended: March 09, 2011

Date of Expiration: May 13, 2013

Preamble: Whereas many students, staff and faculty who are, or who are perceived to be, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ), transsexual, trans-variant, intersex, questioning, two-spirit, asexual, pansexual and genderqueer face insults, assault, exclusion and harassment at Kwantlen and within their wider communities; and

Whereas 75% of lesbian, gay and bisexual persons in Vancouver have reported that they have experienced verbal and/or physical homophobia; and

Whereas incidents of transphobic violence are even greater; and

Whereas Kwantlen LGBTQ students, staff and faculty still experience struggles around:

- barrier-free access to Kwantlen resources and programs;
- issues of identity development and coming out; isolation and invisibility;
- homophobia, transphobia and heterosexism in and out of the classroom and workplace; discouragement from pursuing queer academic interests;
- difficulty with gender transition issues;
- systemic access barriers; and
- discrimination and harassment on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity; and

Whereas there is a dearth of LGBTQ positive places on campus; and

Whereas LGBTQ persons may assume negative views and reactions to their sexual orientation/ gender identity unless given strong indications that this will not be the case; and

Whereas LGBTQ persons are oppressed in ways that encourage and maintain their invisibility; and

Whereas the relative invisibility of LGBTQ faculty, staff and students on Kwantlen campuses gives the erroneous impression that their issues are less important or relevant.

Resolution: Therefore, be it resolved that the Kwantlen Student Association supports the creation of a permanent Positive/Safe Space educational program to promote and increase visibility and support for LGBTQ people and issues at Kwantlen by training volunteer resource people and identifying LGBTQ-positive spaces and resources; and

Be it further resolved that the Kwantlen Student Association supports the creation of permanent physical Positive Space/Pride Centres on all campuses to support LGBTQ people at Kwantlen.

Be it further resolved that the Kwantlen Student Association urge Kwantlen Polytechnic University to fund said programs.