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Waterloo Region

KW Counselling Services Presents a Public Education Series on LGBTQ+ Inclusivity

For more than 12 years, KW Counselling Services has offered counselling services to LGBTQ+ people, and public education on LGBTQ+ issues, through their OK2BME program. The new OK2BME Public Education Series consists of seven half-day workshops that will be held at the KW Counselling Services offices at 480 Charles Street East. These workshops will be free to attend but space is limited so pre-registration at <https://ok2bmelearning.eventbrite.ca> is required.

“Public education has always been one of the pillars of our OK2BME program,” says Leslie Josling, Executive Director of KW Counselling Services. “We recognize that the only way to truly combat homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia is through education. Our vision is of a community where no one is left behind and we can only get there when all LGBTQ+ people feel safe and valued in our community.”

The workshops will be presented by OK2BME staff who all hold a Masters degree and have many years of experience delivering engaging and educational workshops to diverse professionals, community members and students in middle school, high school and university. The topics being offered in this first series of education sessions include: Becoming an LGBTQ+-Inclusive Agency; Bill C-16, An Act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code; Key Clinical Practices for Supporting Transgender Individuals; Key Clinical Practices for Supporting LGBTQ+ Individuals; Trans 101; Supporting LGBTQ+ Families, including Bill 89; Key Mental Health Considerations for LGBTQ+ Seniors; and Supporting LGBTQ+ Students’ Success in Schools.

“Some of these workshops will be most beneficial to mental health professionals, such as social workers, therapists, counsellors, and support workers,” says Washington Silk, OK2BME Coordinator. “Others will be beneficial to human resource professionals, administrators, teachers, seniors’ service providers, parents or guardians, or guidance counsellors.”

The full list of workshops is now available at www.ok2bme.ca. “We’re able to offer this public education series thanks to a Grow Grant we received for OK2BME from the Ontario Trillium Foundation,” says Josling. “We are extremely grateful for the support of the Trillium Foundation for our work with the LGBTQ+ community.”

Outside of this in-house public education series, training and consultation can be requested for a fee. “We have previously done training for RBC Royal Bank, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Manulife, and many others,” says Silk.

To request a training session, or for more information, contact OK2BME Coordinator, Washington Silk at wsilk@kwcounselling.com or 519.884.0000 x213.