



**QUEERING**

**SEX**

**ED.**

# INTRODUCTION

Queering Sex Ed. is a program of Planned Parenthood Toronto,  
generously funded by the Community One Foundation



# QUEERING SEX ED

## WHO ARE WE?

We're a group of queer and trans\* youth between the ages of 18-29, supported by Planned Parenthood Toronto staff. As well as being volunteers at Planned Parenthood Toronto, we're also educators, students, volunteers, social workers, health promoters and activists. We have many privileges. For the sake of absolute transparency, we would like to acknowledge that the majority of the Youth Advisory Committee are white, able bodied folks. We have limitations and we are open to suggestions and criticisms. We are not experts, but we have knowledge and experiences to share. We can't speak for every experience, and we're not trying to since we're constantly learning and unlearning, too. We're open to dialogue. As much as we would like it to, this resource won't include everybody or everything. We are trying to be as inclusive as possible, and trying to create something different than any other sex education resources that we've seen.

This is a starting point.

## WHAT DOES QUEERING SEX ED LOOK LIKE TO US?

- |                 |                          |                        |
|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| -Inclusive      | -Asexual positive        | -Empowering, not       |
| -Accessible     | -Doesn't assume identity | fear/shame based       |
| -Sex-positive   | -Youth positive          | -Opens rather than     |
| -Kink positive  | -Experience based        | closes possibilities   |
| -Queer positive | -Body positive           | -Accounts for pleasure |
| -Poly positive  | -Include trans* and      | -Not too scary         |
| -Youth positive | cis people               | -Awesome               |



# QUEERING SEX ED

## WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

We like sex. We believe in consent, positive body image, healthy sexuality and healthy relationships. We recognize the need for an alternative sex education resource. It's not okay that gaps are being made and have left out or ignored our sexual experiences. There's so much opportunity in the queer world and that includes queer sex. Penis and vagina is one kind of sex, but it's not the only kind! This information should not only be available, but also celebrated. We want to reframe the sex that we have and the sex that we want to have as something positive. We want to see the kind of sex we have in the resources we learn from, and have it reflected in curriculum. It's needed. Statistics and our experience say that it's needed.

According to Planned Parenthood's Toronto Teen Survey (2009), 13% of young men and 8% of young women reported they have learned nothing about sexual health. While almost 92% of youth surveyed have received some form of sexual health education, 8% have had none at all. <sup>1</sup>

We want to empower youth to have better access to information than a standard that was set 20 years ago. We want to be inclusive of people who are often excluded from the mainstream. We want to celebrate choice. Youth are only being given part of the story, sometimes without even knowing what they're missing out on! We want to debunk myths, and to provide education and resources that might not otherwise be available, so that youth can make informed decisions around sex. There is so much missing, but we know we have the capacity to make things better. Our community needs this. We need this.

<sup>1</sup>Sarah Flicker, Susan Flynn, June Larkin, Robb Travers, Adrian Guta, Jason Pole, & Crystal Layne (2009) Sexpress: The Toronto Teen Survey Report. Planned Parenthood Toronto. Toronto, ON.



# QUEERING SEX ED

## WHAT ARE THE GAPS IN TRADITIONAL SEX EDUCATION? 🚦

Sex education doesn't just happen: it is taught by people, and those people get to decide what's worth including. A lot of the people who teach us about sex are older, straight, cisgendered people with privilege around gender, ability, race and class. A lot of traditional sex education is about fear-mongering: the general message is that if you have sex, you'll get hurt. Sex ed is strictly technical, often about reproduction and almost never about pleasure or broad understandings of safety. We learn anatomy, and anatomy only. The information we're given is gendered. We learn that some identities are legitimate and some are not. We learn these things by what's included, but also what's not included. Some of our identities don't even get acknowledged. Traditional sex ed is aimed at people who are cisgendered and specifically, straight able-bodied cis people: everybody else is excluded.

## WHO CREATES THESE GAPS? 🚦

Healthcare.

School.

Parents.

Porn.

Government.

Media.

Peers.

Institutions.

Our whole world.

Even resources created by queer people in queer spaces can perpetuate these gaps. We create gaps in what we include and choose not to include.