What is Lesbiophobia/Homophobia?

Homophobia involves harassing, prejudicial treatment of, or negative attitudes about or towards lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, two spirited, queer or questioning individuals (LGBTTQQ) or those who are perceived as these sexual orientations or gender identities. Homophobia also includes the belief that heterosexuality is normal and LGBTTQQ identities and sexualities are sinful, deviant and/or disgusting.
Effects of Implementing the Positive Space Campaign

Challenging campus heteronormativity and promoting visibility for LGBTQ people is the main goal of the Positive Space Campaign. The University of Toronto Positive Space Website explains:

[there is still widespread reluctance to speak out about sexual and gender diversity, which stands in stark contrast to the routine talk of the sexual and emotional bonds of heterosexual people. LGBTQ people grow up in and work in environments rife with signs that same-sex attraction is repugnant. Stereotypical and rigid male and female gender roles limit the freedoms and rights of those whose gender identity is outside of these boundaries.

The silence surrounding LGBTQ issues must be broken in order to combat this type of homophobia on campus. This is accomplished through the visibility of LGBTQ positive posters.

people is a prevalent problem on this campus.
and acceptability of violence against LGBTQ things. Clearly, homophobia and the trivialization name calling has occurred frequently among other courses, (or in different situations. One's sexual orientation
evented by the University to rectify the situation, LGBTQ
posters have been ripped down and defaced, members of GLOW. She personally had to take the bag down and fix it. Nothing was done by the faculty of the SLC. This flag was handmade by a student during pride week where a group of students
embracing visibility and changing is thus they are university to specifically stop these crimes of
publicly. Generally nothing is done by the university to address these actions.

Why at the University of Waterloo?
Two-spirited beings has special and respected roles as teachers, leaders, artists, seers and spiritual guides and had special ceremonial duties.

References
University of Toronto Positive Space Campaign
http://www.positivespace.utoronto.ca/site5.aspx
University of British Columbia Positive Space
http://www.positivespace.ubc.ca/
LGBTQ+ Positive Space Brock University
http://www.brocku.ca/positivespace/

What Not?
Multiple Canadian post secondary institutions, notably the University of Toronto, McGill University, Queen’s University, University of Calgary, University of British Columbia, Wilfrid Laurier University, recently Brock University and many others currently have Positive Space initiatives. Waterloo is the only university that does not have a well-developed program to widely promote sexual diversity and alternative identity acceptance.

The question is Why Not?
GLOW, University of Waterloos gay and lesbian center, has been attempting to implement this program for four or more years. The Feds have met briefly regarding implementation and in 2006 made it known that they supported the Positive Space Initiative, however nothing was done after that. The university has refused to implement the program as it could create negative spaces on campus. University of Toronto addresses this problem stating that:

[i]If you do not see a rainbow triangle sticker in a room or office, don’t assume that the occupants have negative views regarding sexual diversity.

...
"lovers" to describe a same-sex relationship unless you are sure that is how the couple describes themselves. "Lover" has, for many people, a purely sexual connotation, which is offensive to someone whose relationship means more to them than sex. You can ask the person what term he/she prefers, or else using "partner" is generally acceptable.

Gay: A man who is romantically/sexually attracted to or involved with other men; also used as an umbrella term for everyone who has same-sex romantic/sexual attractions or relations.

Heterosexual: A person who is romantically/sexually attracted to or involved with members of the opposite sex.

Inter-sexed: A person who is born with both male and female sex characteristics.

Lesbian: A woman who is romantically/sexually attracted to or involved with other women.

Queer: A once derogatory term reclaimed by some LGBQTT persons, often used as an umbrella term to encompass all of LGBQTT, or to refer to political activism or academic inquiry on LGBQTT issues, or as a self-identifying label for persons

Uniqueness Positive Space Campaign for University Campuses: Methodology of Distribution

Homophobic acts that occur on the University of Waterloo campus are of a diffused nature that is it occurs at the individual or group level through daily acts. There is no direct institution from which these acts derive. The context of violence and ignorance directed towards LGBTTTQQ people is taken into account in the dissemination of the Positive Space posters, stickers and buttons.

Instead of having a unified group that distributed these posters and stickers, students, staff and faculty personally put up the posters and buttons. Thus, when someone sees a poster they know that an individual put it up supporting LGBTTTQQ people, not a group.

As ignorance and systematic violence occurs in a diffused nature on campus, so must the resistance. In disseminating postcards to students our postcard project also took this into account. After information was provided to students about the Positive Space Campaign they have the option of peeling of the sticker and placing it anywhere on campus which states I support Positive Space at the University of Waterloo. The sticker facilitates individual students tagging university
The University of Toronto Positive Space website also includes:

Biphobia Conscious or unconscious hatred of, fear of, and discrimination against bisexual men and women. Experienced in both the heterosexual and lesbian and gay communities, and often characterized by a lack of understanding and invisibility of bisexuality as a valid sexual orientation.

Transphobia Conscious or unconscious hatred of, fear of, and discrimination against cross-dressers, transsexuals, transgender people and other gender=benders. Experienced in both the heterosexual and lesbian/gay/bisexual communities. Typically demonstrated through disrespect, denial of rights and needs, and often harassment and violence.

Implementing the Positive Space Campaign:
Helpful Information

Before students, staff and faculty can make educated decisions it is important to understand terms and concepts underlying the Positive Space Campaign.

- Other forms of gender expression and sexual orientation:
  1. Cultural (sexesexual)
  2. Interpersonal (sexesexual)
  3. Personal (sexesexual)
  4. Internalized (sexesexual)

Involves individual behaviors based on those sexual orientations and individual discrimination.

Transphobia consists of personal beliefs and prejudices.

Ways that homophobia can manifest itself in four different personal beliefs.

According to the McGill Positive Space website, society, such as those given above, may also exist outside of a gender categorization. By or in different situations, one’s sexual orientation can consist of more fluid that may change over time and or sexual orientation may be unchanging and consistent or none of all (sexesexual).

Sexual orientation: One’s sexual attraction.

The gender categories set out by society may also exist and variable and may not be limited to heterosexual, a woman. Gender identity may also mean becoming culturally and socially different. Feminine gender identity, for example, may be self-identified as being part of it may be that may follow from ones sex (female, male).

Gender Identity: Self-identification of one’s gender.

Understanding Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.