

Time Line – Attempts by Gabriel Picard, his family and CTEACH to encourage the Lakehead District School Board to seriously address systemic homophobic harassment within their schools.

November 2003

Gabriel Picard finally reveals to school administrators the ongoing and long term harassment that he has suffered while at Hillcrest High School and asks that they do something to stop it. Little is offered to him save reporting every incident to the office and having it dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

November and December 2003

Gabriel's parents meet with school administration to discuss what can be done. His mother and sister present the administration with a binder (compiled by his mother and sister) containing board and provincial policies, human rights codes, models from other school boards and articles of reference in an attempt to show what can be done.

December 2003,

Top administration at the board office reveals to the family that they are satisfied and "feel it is being dealt with correctly." Phone calls to the director are not answered and they are referred by a message back to the original administrator who refused earlier to meet with the family and review the suggestions and reference materials that are included in the binder.

January to May 2004

Harassment still continues in the hallways at Hillcrest against Gabe. His mother connects with other seriously concerned citizens to try to persuade the Board to take a more proactive approach in dealing with harassment. CTEACH is formed.

April 18, 2004

CTEACH requests permission to make a presentation on positive ways to deal with homophobia and heterosexism in Lakehead Public Schools at a Board of Trustees meeting.

April 30, 2004

An official complaint is launched with the Human Rights Commission against the Lakehead District School Board by Gabriel Picard.

May 10, 2004

Mr. Ron Oikonen Chair of the Lakehead District School Board writes to inform CTEACH that a delegation before the Board would not be the appropriate venue to make a presentation about their concerns and offers of help to deal with systemic bullying within Lakehead Public Schools. The CTEACH letter is referred to Instructional Services.

June 2, 2004

CTEACH makes a presentation to a Board administrator from Instructional Services. Gabe relates his experiences of homophobic harassment at that meeting. Information and resources are shared offering many suggestions and strategies that other Ontario school boards find effective in educating students and staff in helping preventing homophobic violence.

June 14, 2004

The Lakehead District School Board responds in writing to the CTEACH presentation and the board reiterates their belief "in the importance of a safe learning environment for all students." They inform CTEACH that a gap analysis will be conducted to determine what resources are present that reflect the diversity of the population and that bullying initiatives will continue to be explored with principals. There is no mention of how this will make it safer for their students.

August 30, 2004

CTEACH responds in writing to the Board with their concerns, suggestions, and offer to help develop real strategies that will address homophobic violence within the schools.

September 8, 2004

Mr. Ian Sutherland Superintendent of Employee and Community Services declines comment to CTEACH because the matter is before the Human Rights Commission in the form of a complaint.

September 2004 to Present

CTEACH members continue to gather resources and support from across the country (including MPP Michael Gravelle). On December 3, another request is made to the Chair of the Board, Mr. Oikonen, to make a presentation of their concerns and propose suggestions to help end this type of bullying in their schools. We are presently waiting for a reply.