



60 Years of QTBIPOC Activism and Care

What moments of QTBIPOC and allied activism and care between 1970 and the present have challenged heteronormativity, cis-normativity, and racism in Canada?

Mitzi Badlis researched Vanessa Russell



Vanessa Russell is a lesbian educator in Toronto whose ongoing research and work as a former TDSB equity consultant and teacher at the Triangle Program has focused on meeting the needs of queer youth in light of the homophobia they face in schools. I chose to focus on this activist because she has dedicated her life

to work which embodies her love and care for Ontario's queer community, especially its young students, and that serves as inspiration for the kind of educator I would like to be someday.

Julia Chapman researched Richard Fung

Richard Fung is a video artist, writer, public intellectual and theorist. As an activist he produces complex film and art informed through his identities as Trinidadian, Chinese, Canadian, and as a gay man. While I may not be able to share in all of Fung's identities, as Canadian-Trinidadian born in Canada, I personally feel his story is imperative to share.



Chika Duru researched Delwin Vriend



For my research project I studied the Alberta v Vriend case. This was the landmark Supreme Court case that made discrimination based on sexual orientation illegal across Canada. I choose this research topic because

I wanted to find a way to merge my academic interests in the Canadian legal system and my interest in Canadian Queer history.

Giovanna El-Warrak researched Michelle D. Douglas

Michelle D. Douglas is a Canadian human rights activist responsible for a landmark legal challenge in the Federal Court of Canada against the military's discriminatory policies against LGBTQ+ service members.



Mia Jakobsen researched Rupert Raj



Rupert Raj is a transgender man who used writing to disseminate valuable information about trans research, education, counselling, and surgeries. He essentially served as an information broker between the medical/psychological community and the transgender community, which in turn allowed trans individuals to feel confident and safer.

Jialu Li interviewed a Trans youth about gender-inclusive washrooms

My research examines a trans youth's need for washroom accessibility and gender-inclusive environments. The image created by artist Ailadi expresses people's explorations of inclusion diversity and gender equality, which connects to the aspirations of my research.



Cherise Pan worked with an interview about not coming out



Cherise Pan's monologue is based on an interview with an Asian-Canadian youth working with Asian CommunityAIDS Services who speaks about not coming out.

Anya Shen researched j wallace skelton



j wallace skelton is an educator, researcher, youth and social worker, artist, and long-time advocate for the wellbeing of trans students across Ontario school boards. As an aspiring educator myself, I am especially fascinated by skelton's emphasis on arts-based community activism and critical literacy in the process of making spaces of education more accessible to trans and gender-diverse individuals.

Vivian Wang researched Alan Li

An immigrant from Hong Kong, Alan Li is a gay physician, community organizer, and human rights activist who has been a leader for Gay Asians Toronto since 1981 and is spearheading activism work for HIV/AIDS as well as queer, racialized, and other marginalized communities in Toronto. Embodied in my own intersectional identity, I aim to highlight Alan Li's intersectional activist work that resists the Orientalist narratives, elimination, and colonial violence imposed on communities that I am a part of.



Shakira Willems researched Alec Butler



My research has been on the struggles & activism of the Two Spirited peoples of the First Nations. I've chosen Butler because he empowers the movement to be seen in a different lens that centralizes Indigenous voices & ways of being.

Research Methods:

- Conduct archival research on queer and trans moments of activism and care.
- Share these moments through a set of verbatim theatre monologues.



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