

Diversity Fact Sheet:

Surrey's LGBTQ+ Community

LGBTQ+ is an acronym that stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning. There are different variations used with the plus (+) representing additional letters.

Sexual Orientation

Sexual Orientation is a term used to describe a pattern of romantic or sexual attraction. The terms *Gay* (referring to somebody attracted to another individual of the same sex) or *Lesbian* (a term specifically identifying a female attracted to another female) are two examples of terms describing sexual orientation. In 2018, over 73000 couples reported being in a same sex relationship in Canada with over 24,000 reporting being married.

Gender Identity

Gender Identity is our personal experience with our own gender. It is important to note that there is a distinction between *sex* (a biological trait) and *gender* (a social construct typically assigned at birth to correspond to somebody of a specific sex). Just because someone may choose to dress in clothing of the opposite sex does not mean they want to take on the associated identity or sexual orientation.

Gender Expression

Gender Expression is how we choose to express our gender identity. When interacting with somebody and you are unsure about their gender, don't assume! Just ask how they prefer to be identified and use the pronoun(s) or gender which they indicate or use themselves, or the name they introduce themselves as (even if it does not match the name on their ID). Additionally, try using gender neutral language such as "police officer" vs policeman.

