Are you worried about how others will react when you come out to them?

Are you feeling silenced, invisible, unsupported, unsafe or uncertain about revealing your sexual identity or gender identity on campus?

Do you find yourself avoiding situations or not getting the help you need for fear of negative reactions?

Are you experiencing the negative effects of homophobia, transphobia and heterosexism?

Do you want to question the invisibility, silence and shame around issues of sexual orientation and gender identity and help build a more inclusive, respectful and diverse community?

Then Positive Space is for you!

You can expect a non-judgmental, open atmosphere.

I want to be a member of the VCC Positive Space Committee? How do I join?

If you want to become a member and participate in the Positive Space campaign at VCC, e-mail positivespace@vcc.ca.
WHAT IS POSITIVE SPACE?

Positive Space at VCC increases the visibility and number of respectful, supportive, educational and welcoming spaces for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBTQ+) faculty, staff and students. VCC’s Positive Space is also for allies (supportive persons).

WHO ARE THE RESOURCE PERSONS? HOW DO I FIND THEM?

Positive Space Resource Persons have a Positive Space poster in the area they work. All Resource Persons have received training in homophobia, heterosexism and transphobia, awareness of queer culture and knowledge of local resources within the Lower Mainland.

The poster displayed in their work or study or space on campus is to indicate that their space is a welcoming and supportive space for all members of the campus community to turn to for support, information and resources on LGBTQ+ issues.

These are places where it is safe to be open about issues of sexual orientation and gender identity without fear of homophobia, transphobia or harassment.

WHAT CAN A RESOURCE PERSON DO FOR ME?

Positive Space Resource Persons want to help. They are knowledgeable and supportive of sexual and gender diversity at VCC. They can talk openly with you and answer some of your questions. You don’t need to censor your speech to remove LGBTQ+ content or gendered pronouns with these people. You can expect a non-judgmental, open atmosphere. They will have access to local resources in order to help you find the VCC or off-campus resource you are looking for. Resource persons are not counselors and are not expected to provide long-term support.

WHY IS Positive Space Needed?

Although there have been some significant gains in attitudes and behaviours toward LGBTQ+ persons in recent years, much still needs to be done to foster a truly inclusive community. The reality is that many LGBTQ+ persons grow up in a climate of disapproval and fear or loathing of their sexual orientation or gender identity. It is true that the College’s Policy on Harassment, Discrimination and Bullying on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identification (among other grounds) prohibits discrimination and harassment on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identification, however, students, staff and faculty who are, or who are even perceived to be LGBTQ+ may continue to face insults, assault, exclusion and harassment in their communities or VCC.