



SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK 2023: HOW SERC IS HELPING MANITOBANS "GET THE FACTS"

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WINNIPEG, MB – The Sexuality Education Resource Centre (SERC) is helping Manitobans “Get the Facts” as part of the theme of Sexual and Reproductive Health Awareness Week, which is February 13-17, 2023. Some of SERC’s upcoming programs and events include:

SERC will be challenging misconceptions relating to sexual and reproductive health, by offering bite-sized comprehensive information through a series of social media posts called Get the Facts!, this year’s SRH week theme. These posts will address common misconceptions that SERC facilitators hear during workshops, and what they wish more people knew.

On Feb. 14, SERC is partnering with Real Love Winnipeg to distribute free safer sex supplies and offer sexual health information at the Good Will Social Club, during the Real Love Valentine show. SERC will have a table at the event from 7-11 pm.

Totally Outright, a free community health leadership program, is launching Hallway Talks, a Q&A video series. Hallway Talks, consists of two parts: an open call for 2STLGBQ+ sexual health and relationship-related questions, and a video series that will be circulated on SERC’s social media platforms. Topics covered will focus specifically on Queer sexual and reproductive health, Trans health access, safer substance use, sex and pleasure, building family, and (dis)ability and sex.

In Brandon, several events will take place during and in the days leading up to SRH week. On Feb. 9, an STBBI testing event will be held at the Brandon University campus, a collaboration with Men’s Resource Centre. SERC will also have a table at the Maple Leaf plant for resource sharing, safer sex distribution, and STBBI testing. Additionally, The Brandon Sexual Health Committee will be distributing updated information and safer sex resources throughout the week at local bars, lounges, and other businesses in Brandon.

SERC continues to offer full-day training opportunities, webinars, and “Lunch & Learn” style events to support service providers in Manitoba, through its Training Institute. By training educators and service providers, SERC can disseminate comprehensive knowledge of sex and sexuality to a broader audience than through direct instruction alone. Schools and organizations may also request specific training sessions, with remote and Indigenous communities given registration priority.



Training Institute sessions happening during SRH week include Advocacy Into Action: SERC's Approach to FGC on Feb. 14, a webinar explaining SERC's Our Selves, Our Daughters program, and on Feb. 15 is Gender and Power: Looking at the Binary "Ultimate (Wo)man", which is part of the Teaching Comprehensive Sexuality Web series.

Sexuality education changes lives and significantly impacts public health. By giving people the right information to better care for themselves, sexuality education promotes diversity, reduces instances of intimate violence, lowers the prevalence of homophobia and homophobic bullying by informing a deeper appreciation for sexual diversity, and helps develop the skills required for healthy relationships.

For more details about SERC's programming in Winnipeg, please contact the Winnipeg office at 204-982-7800 or by email at info@serc.mb.ca. For details about SERC's programming in Brandon, please contact the Brandon office at 204-727-0417 or by email at brandon@serc.mb.ca.

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By respecting people's cultures and beliefs, and challenging only ideas and not people, the Sexuality Education Resource Centre has become Manitoba's primary source for sexuality and reproductive health information and advocacy. We are a pro-choice, feminist organization, committed to respectful and judgement-free safe spaces, and equitable access to fact-based information.