Book Reviews / Comptes rendus

Canadian Teachers' Federation and Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario. (2002). *Seeing the Rainbow: Teachers Talk about Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Transgender and Two-Spirited Realities*. Ottawa, ON: Author. ISBN: 0-88989-338-1. 134 pages.

Reviewed by: Robert A. Roughley, M.Ed., M.Counselling (Candidate)

Seeing the Rainbow: Teachers Talk About Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Transgender and Two-Spirited Realities is a resource document that places the unique and often-misunderstood needs of queer individuals into context. As an educator, research methodologist, and counselling practitioner in training, who advocates for inclusive queer affirmative practices in all aspects of society, I recommend this valuable and insightful collection of writings to all individuals, both inside and outside the parameters of educational institutions. The material presented in this publication outlines comprehensive insights into the current implications of our practices, coupled with the unique perspectives of numerous contributors. Readers are offered a solid foundation for enhancing their multicultural awareness and competency development in the field of bisexual, gay, lesbian, transgendered, and two-spirited people (BGLTT) issues.

This text has three central objectives and its sections are arranged accordingly: to present "relevant information about the realities of bisexual, gay, lesbian, transgendered, and two-spirited people (BGLTT); to begin a dialogue through shared stories; and to provide a resource list to assist teachers in finding material with which to address BGLTT issues" (p. 5). Section one offers a detailed and all-inclusive overview of definitions to familiarize the reader with appropriate terminology and concepts pertaining to the BGLTT communities. The second section of this document, entitled "Stories," presents qualitative perspectives of diversity and sexual orientation. A collection of 16 stories offer poignant realities of the stressors and prejudices faced by BGLTT individuals, both in the classroom and within society. Section three, the resource portion of the text, offers both international and Canadian-specific organizations and print-based resources. This text is written from personal and social systems perspectives, leaving behind the scholarly implications of the literature, and allowing for more narrative and practical approaches to appreciating the unique and eclectic needs of the BGLTT communities.

Seeing the Rainbow is a long overdue resource. Queer affirmative books and resources are at a minimum in school and community libraries, and in curricula ranging from the primary years to post-graduate university settings. This book will be beneficial to all educators and counsellors who professionally work to assist with both the pedagogical and formative well-being of BGLTT individuals. From an academic perspective, this text encourages the education and mental health professions to enhance professional competencies and raise awareness in meeting the needs of BGLTT individuals in a heterosexist world. Practitioners in the fields of education and counselling have opportunities to be leaders and advocates in the dismantling of heterosexist ideals within the dominant cultural hierarchy. As a teacher and gay man, I have longed for a document that brings to light the harsh effects of homophobia and heterosexism on BGLTT students, teachers, administrators, and their heterosexual allies. This enlightening document is multipurpose and provides valuable insights for all helping professionals in that it "provides a practical knowledge resource for all teachers who strive to accommodate BGLTT persons and address BGLTT issues in school settings" (p. 7). From the perspectives of counselling and the development of multicultural competencies, this text offers the beginning of a deeper appreciation for the inimitable needs of BGLTT communities.

