



## International Day of Pink celebrates diversity in workplaces, schools and communities – April 8

For more than 70 years, the Hospital Employees' Union has championed human and workers' rights, and advocated for social equality on an international level.

That's why HEU is proud to support the International Day of Pink on April 8, and celebrate diversity in the workplace, schools and communities around the globe. It's also a day to speak out against all forms of bullying, harassment, discrimination, homophobia and transphobia.

“Most workplaces are becoming increasingly diverse,” says HEU's secretary-business manager Bonnie Pearson, “and we have observed that in our union's membership over the years. It's important to recognize our uniqueness, raise awareness and educate ourselves on equity issues, so that we can all advocate as one for the basic right to work in a respectful, harassment-free environment.”

HEU has successfully lobbied with labour allies to make significant changes to employer policies and the *Workers Compensation Act* to improve protections for workers experiencing on-the-job bullying or harassment.

In Canada, pink became a national symbol of anti-bullying after two Nova Scotia teenagers stood up for a classmate who was bullied at school for wearing a pink shirt. The high school students – David Shepherd and Travis Price – took up the cause, recruited their classmates, and organized a pink protest.

They bought and distributed 50 pink tank tops to male students, and they all wore them in a day of solidarity against bullying.

While National Pink Shirt Day is recognized in February as a united way to stand up against bullying and harassment, including cyberbullying, International Day of Pink extends beyond that to also celebrate diversity in our communities, schools and workplaces.

For more information on International Day of Pink, visit <<http://www.dayofpink.org>>.

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