



CENTERING YOUTH VOICE THROUGH ARTS-BASED EVALUATION OF THE WISEGUYZ PROGRAM

Dr. Deineria Exner-Cortens &
Stafford Perry



Land Acknowledgement



TALK OVERVIEW



The WiseGuyz program



Engaging youth through arts-based evaluation

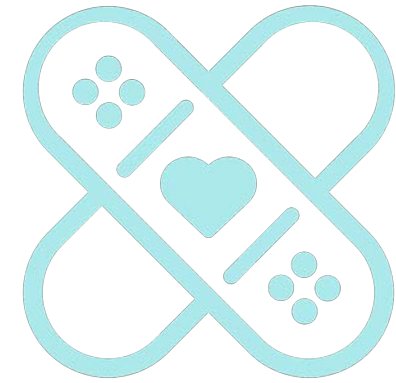
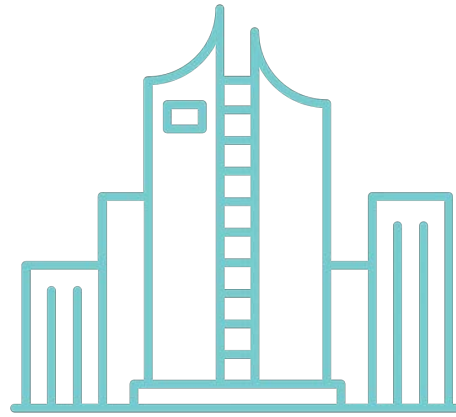
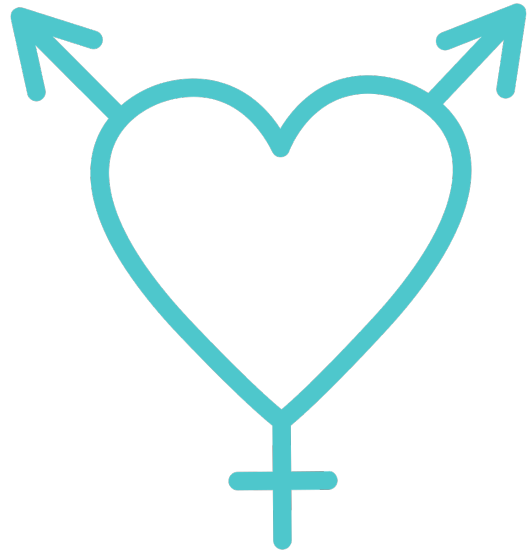


Concluding thoughts



THE WISEGUYZ PROGRAM

WISEGUYZ
Centre for Sexuality



WHAT IS WISEGUYZ? |

What Happens In WiseGuyz?

A typical day

Participate Pass
Privacy Respect
Fun

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

CHECK IN
(With weekly question)

CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES/DISCUSSIONS

BREAK
(food, phones, foraging)

ACTIVITY/DISCUSSION CON'T.

CHILL TIME



YOUTH REACH

Since 2010, we have reached over
2000 youth with WiseGuyz
programming in over **100 sites** in **3**
provinces and territories



**ENGAGING YOUTH
THROUGH ARTS-BASED
EVALUATION**

IN WISEGUYZ, WE TRADITIONALLY ASKED YOUTH FOR FEEDBACK USING....



SURVEYS



INTERVIEWS

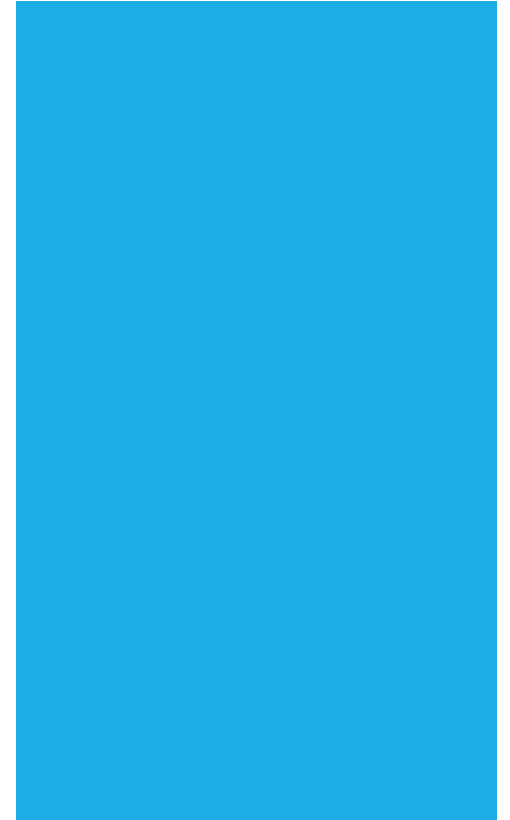


FOCUS GROUPS



ARTS-BASED PROGRAM EVALUATION

- Using visual media to identify changes experienced in the program
 - Share these changes with policymakers and other key stakeholders
 - Youth become partners in the evaluation

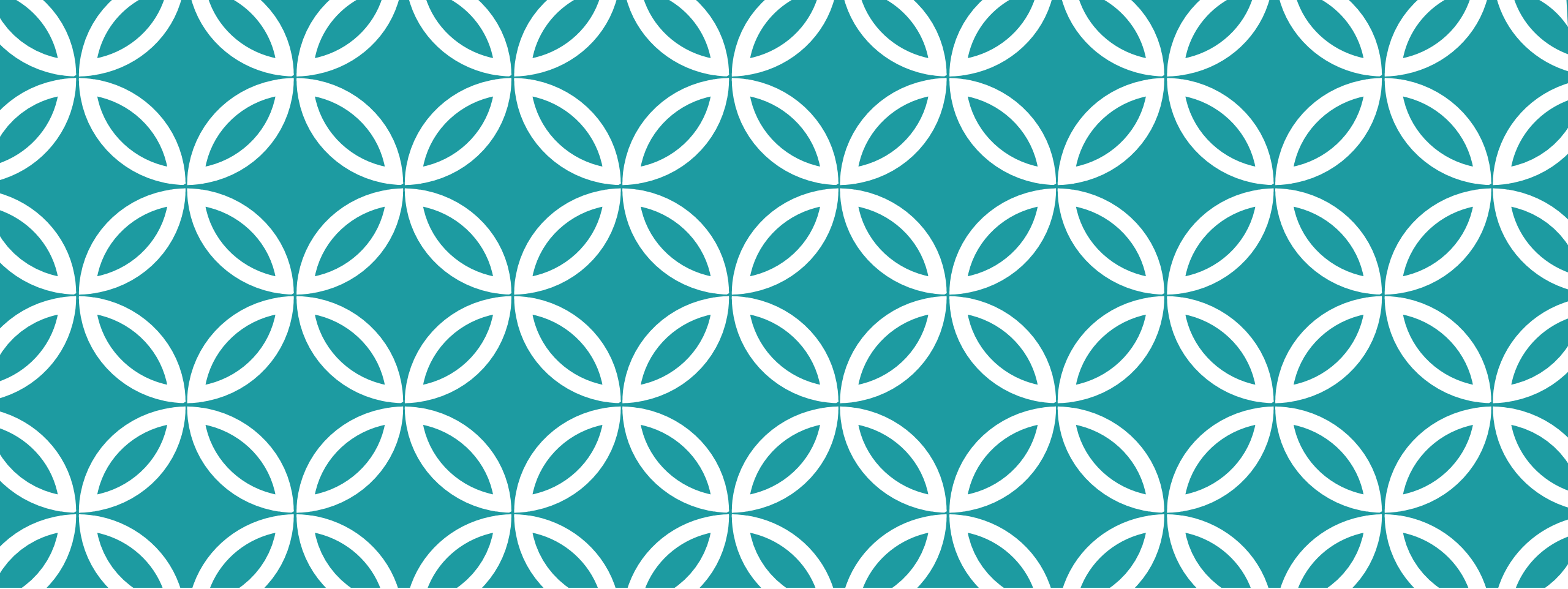




WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE A GUY IN YOUR
WORLD...

Before WiseGuyz?

Since WiseGuyz?



EXAMPLES FROM YOUTH ARTISTS |

SITES

Site Number	Site Description
1	Rural, school-based
2	Urban, community-based
3	Remote, school-based
4	Northern, school-based



Healthy Relationships

BEFORE WISEGUYZ

Sometimes like rough on the edges but if you dig in you can get like a smooth surface. Well like, so like, sometimes life is kind of tough sometimes in some feel that before WiseGuyz I was in areas and it's rough in some places. It was kind of bumpy, you know, sometimes it was good and then it was like bad. Then like you talk to people at WiseGuyz – CO2



AFTER WISEGUYZ

Basically so eventually, you'd go through some dense brush but then eventually you'll get into the open and kind of be like free. People all around you kind of like having to really hold everything inside. When you hit like the outside you can kind of like express yourself – CO2



BEFORE WISEGUYZ

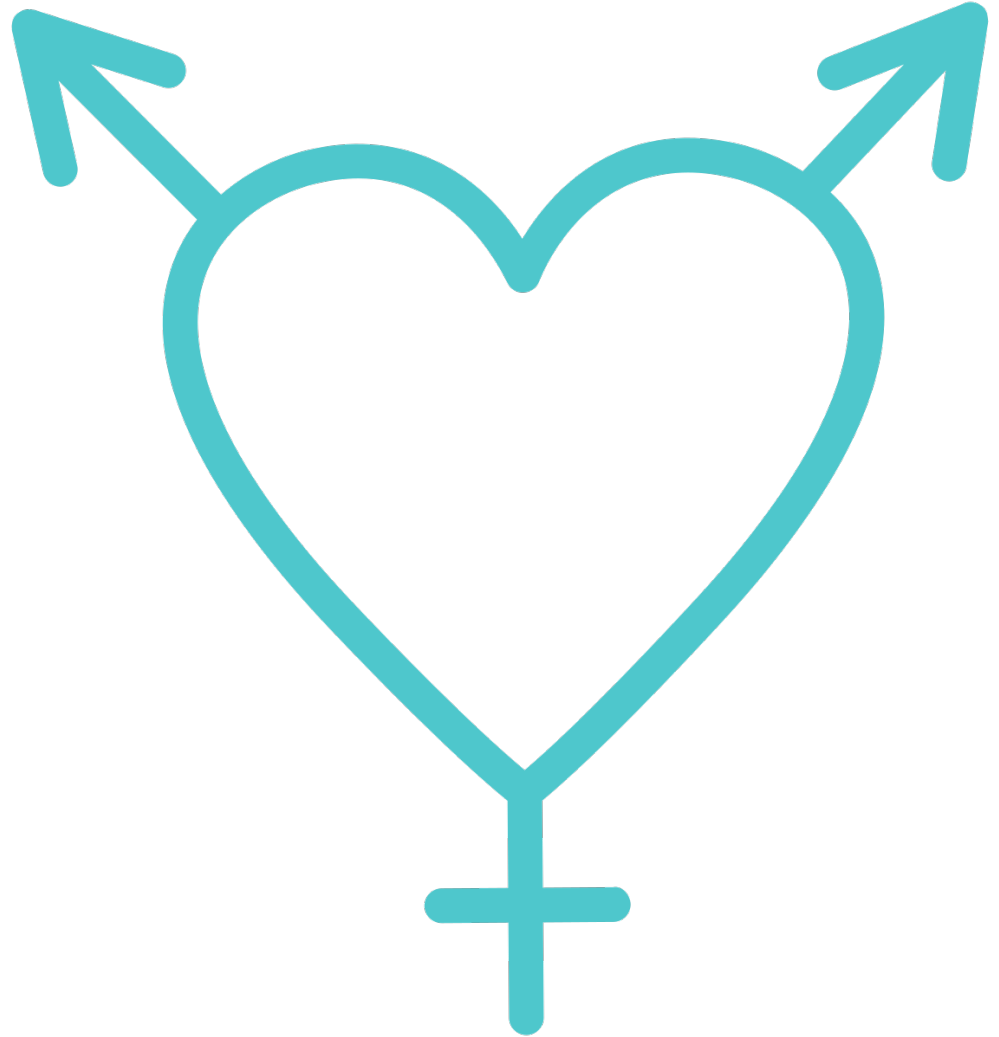
We were learning how to take care of ourselves – Jeff Grizzly



AFTER WISEGUYZ

I learned important life skills that I am likely to use – Jeff Grizzly





Sexual Health

BEFORE WISEGUYZ

“Meh”

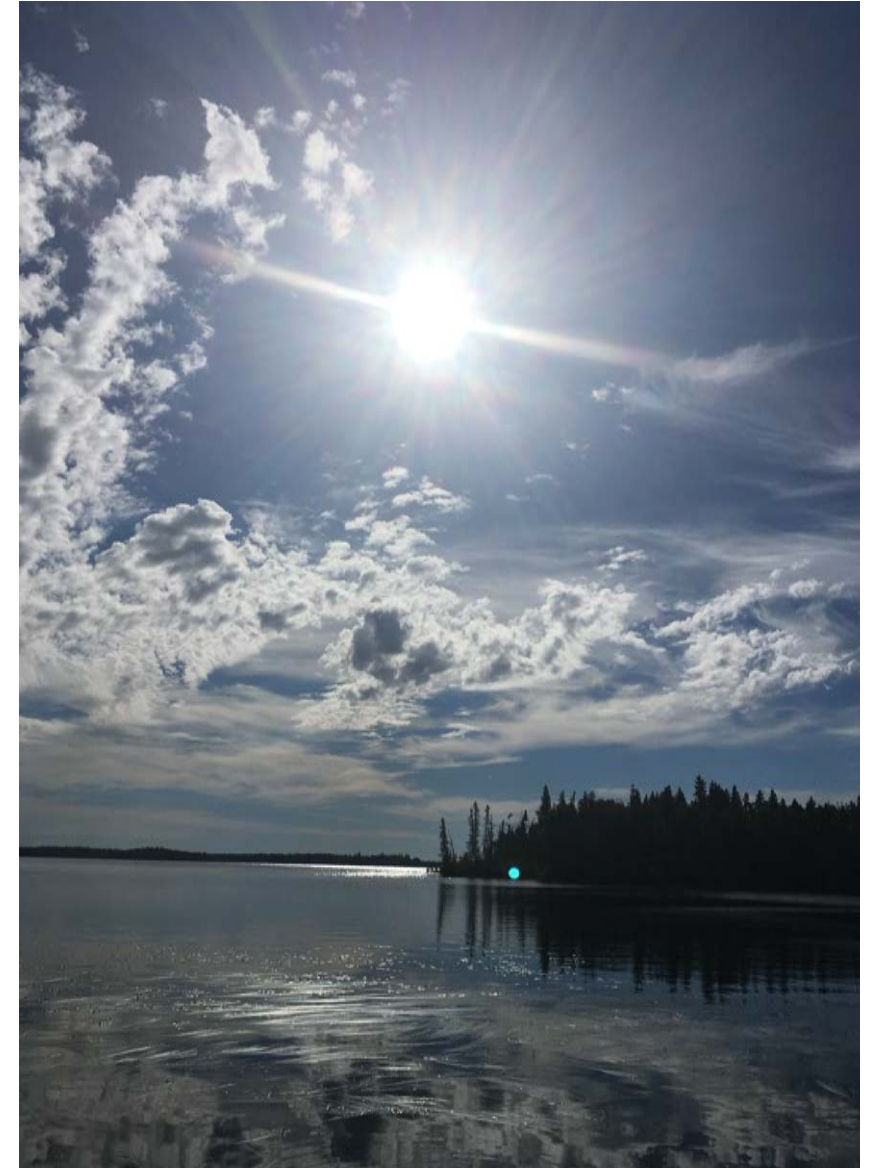
Before WiseGuyz my knowledge of sexual health and masculinity was very one sided. Almost like tunnel vision. The lack of colour represents the lack of knowledge in terms of sexuality, gender, masculinity – John



AFTER WISEGUYZ

“Guiding Light”

*After WiseGuyz my knowledge become very expansive and clearer because of the open community and environment. I as a person have become more open with my loved ones –
John*



BEFORE WISEGUYZ

I didn't get any information to use condoms – Connor



2023



AFTER WISEGUYZ

So because [of] WiseGuyz I know how to use things so condoms and then I know like stuff like stereotypes – Connor

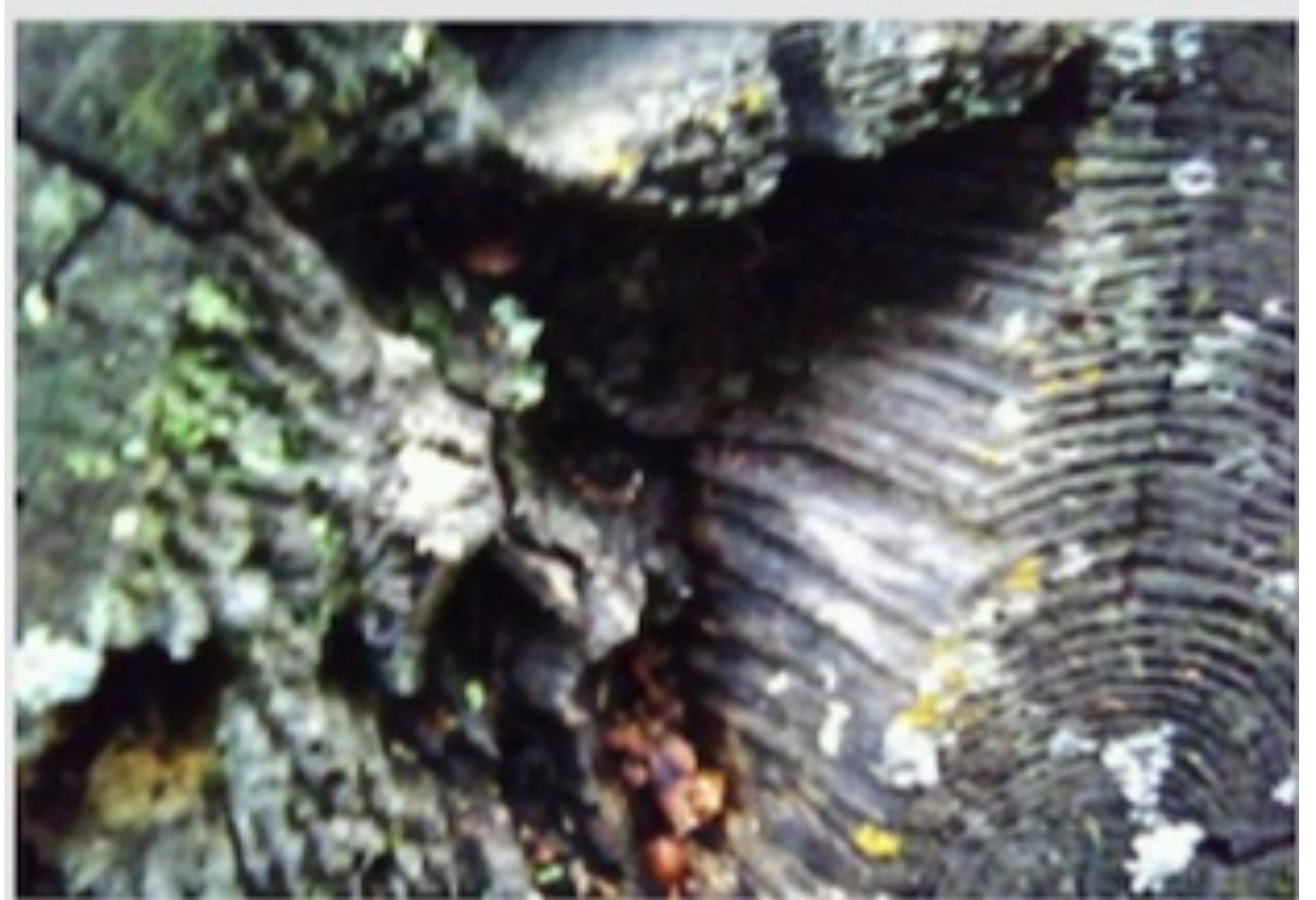


Gender and the Media

BEFORE WISEGUYZ

“The Hole of Stereotypes”

I feel that before WiseGuyz I was in that hole and I think most people are where you follow their stereotypes. Everyone says like guys hate pink, guys don't play with dolls, and you end up not doing things you enjoy because people think it's not okay – CO2

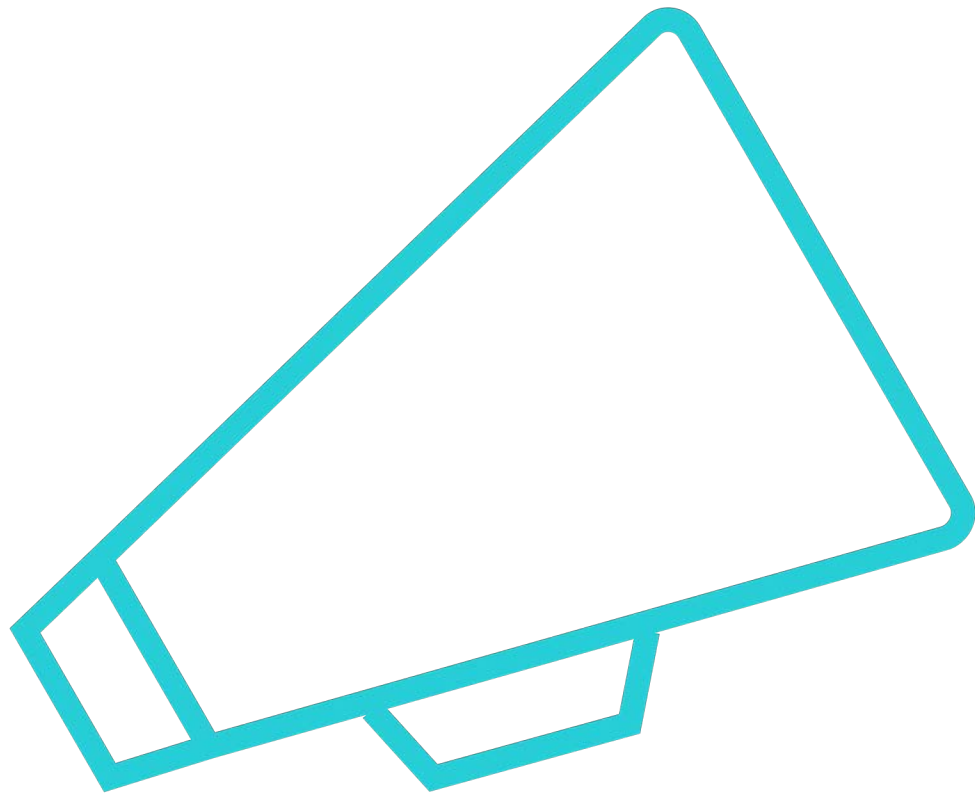


AFTER WISEGUYZ

“Darkness Before Light”

After WiseGuyz I feel like I have worked through the forest of stereotypes to say my opinions, and freedom to do what you like without being told it's wrong – CO2



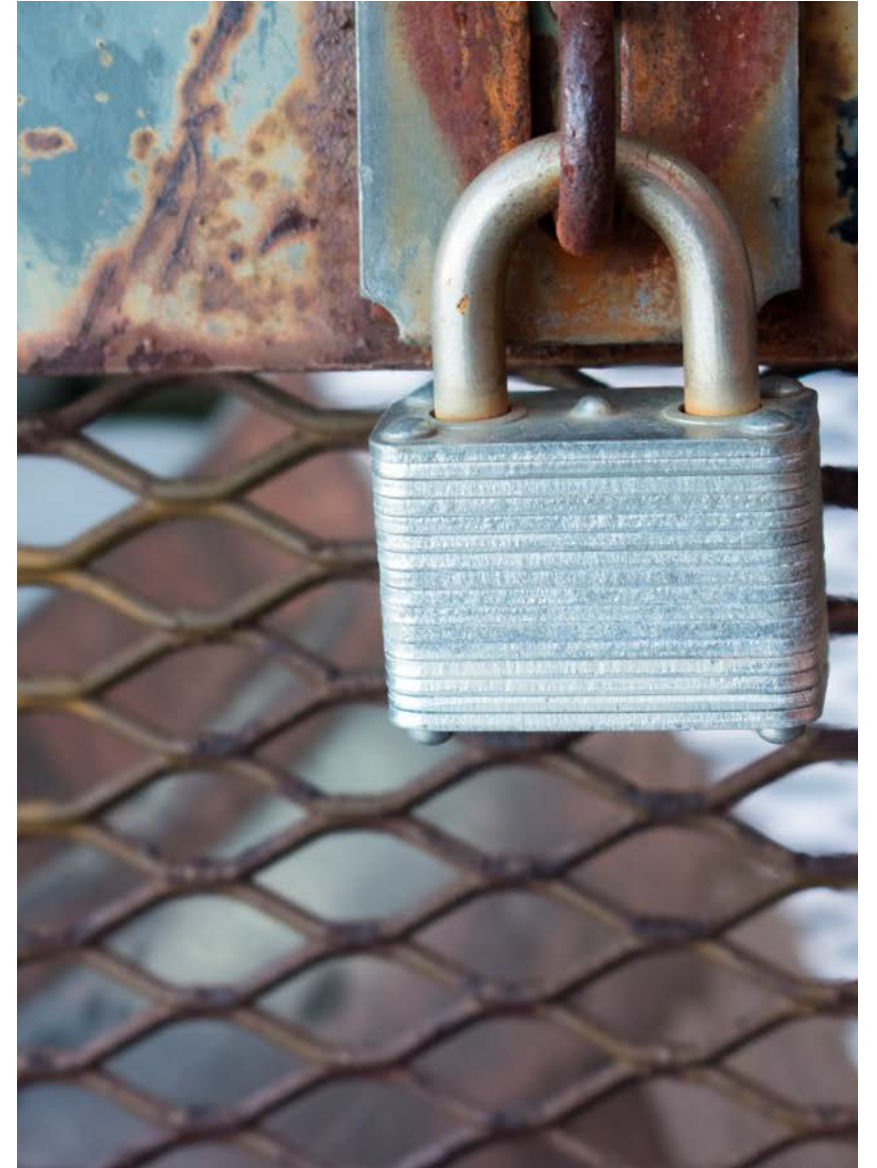


Human Rights, Advocacy & Allyship

BEFORE WISEGUYZ

“Locked In”

This photo represents how before WiseGuyz, guys can feel like they need to comply to a system to be masculine. It can be very difficult to break out of the system, almost like a lock. Without assistance, you can be stuck in and forced to not be themselves – Sky



AFTER WISEGUYZ

“Clarity”

This photo shows clarity and detail, representing guys’ ideas about masculinity. They understand that they do not need to conform to standards as applied to them, but [are] able to be their unique selves. As well they can take their knowledge and spread it to others - Sky





CONCLUDING THOUGHTS



BENEFITS & CHALLENGES FROM A RESEARCH PERSPECTIVE



**BENEFITS & CHALLENGES FROM A PRACTICE
PERSPECTIVE**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Youth artists

**Participating school divisions and
community agencies**

WiseGuyz facilitators

Dr. Debb Hurlock

Dr. Kathleen Sitter

Jordan Keough

Ceilidh McConnell

Emily Matejko

Dr. Alysia Wright

Marisa Van Bavel



Public Health
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé
publique du Canada



Policy Wise
for Children & Families



sperry@centreforsexuality.ca



[@YYCsexualhealth](https://twitter.com/@YYCsexualhealth)



www.centreforsexuality.ca



deinera.exner2@ucalgary.ca



[@D_ExnerCortens](https://twitter.com/@D_ExnerCortens)



www.hopelab.ca

QUESTIONS?