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**Lansdowne**  
Middle School

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November 27, 2013

To whom it may concern,

This is a letter of support for the amazing Art show that the tru2U Youth Group created in the summer of 2013 after being awarded a generous grant by the Capital Regional District. This show was set up by the tru2U youth program supported through the South Island Pride Community Centre. In October 2013, students, staff and community members across School District 61 were invited to attend the Art Show created by this group of youth.

The School District 61 Gay Straight Alliance Advisory Committee held their monthly meeting at Lansdowne Middle School where the art and poetry were on display. There was also an open house as well as the Parents' Advisory Council meeting held during that week.

The show consisted of a variety of pieces from several mediums exploring different Queer (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Two-Spirit, Intersex, Questioning and Allies) themes and issues that youth face themselves, with others and in the community. The topics were *Faces of Pride, Opening the Blinds: Writing into Self, Freaky Fibres* and *LGBTQA Bodies and Hearts in Motion*. Themes that were explored included coming out, identity, exploration of self and self-esteem, relationships, positive, queer mentors in the community, creating safety, etc. through writing poetry, hands on sculpture making and painting.

Some of the comments made by attendees were:

- \* Wow, I didn't know there was a place to do this
- \* Provocative and courageous
- \* Interesting perspectives through the writing
- \* So cool that marginalized young people have safe venues to explore themselves
- \* Where can I sign up? Creative!

It is an honour to continue to support tru2U youth group and their creations of art. I believe that without the funding from the CRD, this event would not have happened. If there are any questions, please contact me at 250-598-3336 ext 233.

In Solidarity,

Mitchel du Plessis  
Youth and Family Counsellor  
Co-chair of the SD61 GSA advisory Committee