

The CBRC update

Friend,

In this month's newsletter: Summit 2026 schedule-at-a-glance, keynote speakers, improving HIV care for im/migrants and refugees, and more.

THE LATEST

1. CBRC has released its [Summit 2026 Schedule-at-a-glance](#) with preliminary information on this year's panels, workshops, roundtables, and presentations. Our full programming, with session descriptions, will be available at the end of the month. For now, learn more about some of [this year's keynote speakers](#): Black queer femme scholar Dr. OmiSoore H. Dryden, Quebec National Assembly Member Manon Massé, and CBRC Research Director Jad Sinno.



[Make sure to register](#) for Summit 2026 by September 20 to take advantage of early-bird rates. Book [your accommodations](#) and travel as well using our discount codes. Community and non-profit registrants can also access a 10% hotel subsidy. Full details [here](#).

Want to volunteer at Summit? Look under the "Get Involved" section of this newsletter to learn how!

2. As part of our [End the HIV Epidemic, Not HIV Funding](#) campaign, CBRC has sent a group letter to Canada's Health Minister, the Honourable Marjorie Michel, signed by more than 100 community organizations across Canada. In the letter we urge the Minister to prevent prospective funding cuts to government programs that could undermine the community-led response to HIV and reverse hard-won progress toward ending new HIV infections. [Click here to read the letter](#) and see the list of community organizations that signed on.

We still need your help to secure HIV funding. [Please send a letter to your MP](#). It's quick and easy: simply enter your name, email address and mailing address, and we'll send a letter on your behalf.

3. Over the past year, CBRC has gone the distance. From conducting research and delivering programs across the country to expanding into new areas of health promotion and launching our 2030 Strategic Plan, we have made significant strides in addressing the complex and diverse health needs of our communities. [Our 2025-2026 annual report](#) chronicles these major organizational milestones and captures CBRC's impact in the sector and in the lives of 2S/LGBTQIA+ people in Canada.

THE READ

In 2024, the Canadian Institute for Health Information released the [Pan-Canadian Gender, Sex and Sexual Orientation \(GSSO\) Data Standard](#), a document that establishes technical definitions, value sets, and guidance for the consistent collection of gender, sex, and sexual orientation data across Canadian health systems.

Manitoba-based emergency medicine, critical care, and organ donation physician Dr. Murdoch Leeies is an independent researcher who, in collaboration with CBRC, contributed insights to the document. For this month's blog post, we spoke with him about his perspective on the development of the Standard, as well as its potential benefits and broader implications. Read our interview [here](#).

OUR COMMUNITY: Dr. Joseph Cox

Dr. Joseph Cox (he/him) is a public health clinician and researcher. His work in biobehavioural surveillance (i.e., research that combines surveys and biological testing) began back in 2005 with the Argus study — a predecessor of the [Engage](#) study, which he leads in Montreal. Engage focuses on the sexual health of 2S/GBTQ+ men across three research sites based in Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver.

[A recent publication](#) by the Engage Montreal team investigates the incidence and risk factors of syphilis, chlamydia, and gonorrhea among 2S/GBTQ+ men and doxy-PEP prescribing criteria. [In this month's interview](#), Dr. Cox breaks down some findings in the paper and how they can inform more responsible prescribing of doxy-PEP, a promising medication for STIs.



Photo: Dr. Joseph Cox

"Though 2S/GBTQ+ men are a relative minority in the general population, they carry a disproportionate burden of HIV and other STIs. Knowing what's happening with HIV and STI epidemics among this population has always been part of my role in public health, and in my interests as a researcher and a gay man. Public health has a responsibility to make sure people are getting the necessary prevention, testing, and treatment they need."

GET INVOLVED

Summit 2026 is approaching fast and we need your help! We're looking for **volunteers in Toronto** on October 28 (from 1 PM-5 PM) and during conference days on October 29-November 1 (morning, mid-day, and afternoon shifts available) for a variety of roles. Learn more [here](#).

On Thursday, October 29, we are excited to host the **Black Queer Symposium** as part of Summit 2026 ancillary programming in Toronto. To facilitate access to this event, we are offering five \$1,000 scholarships for Black 2S/LGBTQIA+ trainees and community-based staff. Apply by September 25 — full details [here](#).

Chroma NB, with support from CBRC, has created two new resources: maps to help navigate **gender-affirming surgery** and **gender-affirming hormone therapy in New Brunswick**. You can view both maps [here](#). Feel free to share them widely with folks in the province.

Our national study, ***Improving Care For Sexual and Gender Diverse (SGD) Im/migrants and Refugees Living with HIV***, is seeking community members and service providers to take part in virtual interviews:

- **Community members:** Are you a SGD im/migrant, refugee, or newcomer? [Click here](#) to learn about the study and how to participate in these interviews.

- **Service providers:** Do you work with SGD im/migrants, refugees, or newcomers? [Click here](#) to learn more and participate in an interview.
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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- ***A Journey to Knowing*** is a five-part podcast series hosted by Ella Lamoureux on Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQIA+ health and wellbeing, using Indigenous-specific data from the Our Bodies, Our Health survey. Watch *A Journey to Knowing* [on YouTube](#) or find it wherever you listen to podcasts.
- We invite healthcare providers in Alberta who work with 2S/GBTQ+ men to take our free module, **Syphilis and 2S/GBTQ+ People: Screening, Treatment, and Doxycycline Post-Exposure Prophylaxis**. Learn how to manage syphilis screening and treatment among these communities — [sign up for the module](#).
- Last month, we profiled [Spencer Belanger](#), Prairies Regional Manager at CBRC, and spoke about community-based health promotion in the context of the **syphilis outbreak in Alberta**.

CBRC in the Media:

- Ben Klassen, Associate Director of Research at CBRC, was on [CTV Your Morning Vancouver](#) to talk about rising HIV infections in Canada and the importance of funding community-based responses to HIV.
 - Michael Kwag, CBRC's Executive Director, spoke to [The Hill Times](#) about the current context of HIV funding in Canada (Note: the article is behind a paywall).
 - Jad Sinno, CBRC's Research Director, was a guest on the podcast [Everybody Hates Me: Let's Talk About Stigma](#). Jad and the host, Dr. Carmen Logie, discuss how and if stigma has changed toward sexual and gender diversity.
 - Jad also presented at Talking Data Equity, a free drop-in online space about data choices and equity, justice, and community. In their session, [Who Counts? What Counting Creates](#), they discuss the implications of the Canadian census' sexual orientation questions, and touch on community-led research and what can be done for communities after data collection.
 - The Canadian Cancer Society [announced CBRC as a grantee](#) of the Challenge Grants Competition for our work on improving HPV-related cancer prevention for 2S/LGBTQ+ people.
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COMING UP

While we've just released the [Summit 2026 schedule-at-a-glance](#), expect the full program with session descriptions coming later this month. Also, for the first time, we are developing a user-friendly **digital app** that will include the full conference program and allow participants to create their own schedule. More to come.



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