



2019-2020 Annual Report

COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH CENTRE

Letter from the Executive Director

2019-2020 was a year of progress and growth, as we grew to meet the needs we faced in order to support our community's health. This fiscal year continued a three-year growth trend, with additional staffing and resources being deployed across the country as CBRC evolved to meet our funder's expectations.

Given the significant and sustained growth of the organization, the Board of Directors approved five Strategic Priorities at the 2019 Annual General Meeting to guide us through this period:

- Invigorating our public political action and advocacy;
- Increasing research scope and researcher capacity;
- Addressing health beyond HIV;
- Engaging Indigenous and Two-Spirit partners in the path toward Truth and Reconciliation; and
- Diversifying our funding base.

In order to hold ourselves accountable, we track and report back regularly on each of these priorities at a Board and staff level. Therefore, I'd like to highlight some examples of our Strategic Directions in action:

Invigorating our Public Political Action and Advocacy

CBRC produced two policy briefs to complement our advocacy efforts:

- [Ending the Discriminatory Blood Ban](#)
- [Ending Efforts to Change Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression](#)

These policy documents include Sex Now data and CBRC's position on the Canadian Blood Services Donor Policy (the Blood Ban) and Conversion Therapy, also known as SOGIECE (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression Change Efforts) in Canada. Both of these documents are being used to stimulate dialogue and advocate for change at local and national levels. CBRC also presented Sex Now data in the form of witness testimony and written briefs to Canada's first ever LGBTQ2IA Health Report by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health.

Increasing Research Scope and Researcher Capacity

As our relationship with Nathan Lachowsky as Research Director and the University of Victoria formalized, so did funding opportunities for the research program. Once an under-funded program at CBRC, the Research Team was able to secure contracts with the Departments of Justice and Women and Gender Equality to conduct research and/or analyse existing data around trans and non-binary health. After years of relationship-building, the Public Health Agency of Canada awarded CBRC the surveillance contract for queer men in Canada, marking the first time queer men will conduct their own national surveillance.

Addressing Health Beyond HIV

In addition to our advocacy efforts around blood donation policy and conversion therapy, CBRC partnered with Health Initiative for Men to produce a position paper on Mental Health and Substance Use, and were successful in their application to the federal Mental Health Innovation Fund to develop a new mental health intervention for queer youth, modeled on other successful youth interventions like Totally Outright. This marks the first time CBRC has been funded to develop a project specifically for mental health and substance use.

Engaging Indigenous and Two-Spirit Partners in the Path Toward Truth and Reconciliation

After actively working to engage Two-Spirit and other Indigenous LGBTQ+ partners for several years, CBRC was able to secure funding for the first Indigenous Two-Spirit Health Promotion Lead from the Provincial Health Service Authority Innovation Fund. This novel position helped CBRC build relationships with 2 Spirits in Motion and other partners and organizations across Canada.

Diversifying Our Funding Base

In addition to those new partnerships mentioned in the previous four priorities, CBRC continued to build new relationships with corporate funders who helped fund a policy consultation and our annual Summit conference. We also held our first ever Open House, intended to bring new and unfamiliar people into the queer men's health movement.

While these are only a few examples of the milestones we've accomplished, they underscore a number of important firsts for the organization.

Whether it's our first contract with a new government department or our first Two-Spirit position at the organization, it is an exciting time to be leading such a hard-working, dynamic, and dedicated team. As I look towards the future, I know that it will be bright. I am looking forward to another year of working with what I am proud to call the best team.

Jody Jolimore

Executive Director

Community-Led Research



Sex Now

Sex Now, Canada's largest and longest running survey of queer men's health, was launched online in November 2019, with more than 14,000 queer men participating, and over 6,000 participants completing the survey. Participants were recruited from every province and territory in Canada.

We continued piloting novel testing technologies and approaches. In BC, Sex Now 2019 included a home testing pilot that recruited over 500 men to try out home dried blood spot (DBS) testing. This pilot will inform the next online version of Sex Now, which will see the scale-up of at-home testing interventions to a national level.

This year, the "Our Stats" data visualization dashboard was launched to make Sex Now data more accessible to community members. The dashboard now contains data on over 120 key indicators from Sex Now 2014/15, 2018, and 2019, and has been visited over 650 times.

Sex Now data was also utilized extensively within CBRC's policy advocacy initiatives, including the development and publication of reports on conversion therapy, blood donor deferral policies for men who have sex with men, at-home STBBI testing, and combination HIV prevention.

This year, our research team continued to expand with the hiring of a new National STBBI Testing and Linkage Manager and the addition of new graduate student investigators and affiliated researchers to CBRC.

Investigaytors and Leadership Development

With our portfolio of leadership development work, it was a busy year that is best shown in numbers. Here's what our team was up to:

- We held 38 unique interventions (e.g., meetings, workshops, bootcamps)
- We engaged 20 queer youth, who contributed a total of 611 volunteer hours and 4 research mentors who contributed 16 volunteer hours
- The Investigaytors team delivered 4 presentations and 4 posters at the 2019 Summit (including the first Summit presentation delivered in ASL)
- We published one resource created to support queer youth access HIV PrEP in BC
- We published an [editorial](#) in the Georgia Straight that highlights the Investigaytors program and our toolkit

Knowledge Exchange



Summit 2019

Our annual Summit was, once again, a success. Summit 2019 was dedicated to talking about what is and isn't working forGBT2Q people to access everything we need to live happy, healthy and supported lives. The Summit hosted keynote presentations from leading figures inGBT2Q health research, as well as advocates who spoke to the intersecting nature of marginalization for sexual and gender minority men. This Summit also highlighted critical findings from CBRC's Sex Now Survey as we turn our focus on how we can increase access and accessibility to health care and community supports forGBT2Q.

[Read our full 2019 Summit Report here](#)

Digital Engagement

2019-2020 was a year of consolidation of our digital presence and expansion to other platforms in order to reach our diverse audiences including academics, policymakers, other community organizations, and our own communities. Further, our efforts to provide information in both official languages continue to be part of our commitment not only in our website but in our emails to subscribed members and in our social media platforms.

Our Website

CBRC's website (www.cbrc.net) has become an important hub of information for important subjects and conversations that have taken place across Canada, such as mental health and problematic substance use, the blood ban among men who have sex with men, and sexual orientation and gender identity or expression change efforts (SOGIECE).

Our articles, fact sheets, and reports – amongst some of our diverse knowledge translation products – have brought over 8,900 unique visitors and generated more than 97,000 page views. The seven-part coverage of HESA hearings onLGBTQ2 health generated almost 3,000 pageviews and provided great opportunities for engagement with the community and with the several other organizations involved who actively followed and shared it through their own platforms.

Last year also marked the first time we broadcasted our Summit conference live through our website. As an effort to provide wider access to audiences unable to attend in person, we broadcasted 14 sessions in total – which included all of our plenary sessions and half of our concurrent oral presentations – live and free of charge.

Social Media

Social media is an active part of CBRC's knowledge translation and communication strategy. We've used our platforms to reach out to our diverse audiences and communities through Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube for years, and starting last year, also through LinkedIn and Instagram.

Our wide production of knowledge translation products has offered amazing opportunities to connect with our communities and stakeholders over social media. Increasing not only the number of people engaged with our content but the actual number of interactions that people have with such resources.

We witnessed an increase in audience awareness and engagement/interaction in all of our CBRC social media profiles between March 31, 2019 and on March 31, 2020:

Platform	2018-2019	2019-2020
Facebook		
# of New Page Likes	593	1,764
# of Reactions	16,325	33,029
# of Comments	1,842	3,399
# of Shares	2,879	5,074
Twitter		
# of Followers	115	227
# of Likes	648	1,621
# of Retweets	425	715
Instagram		
# of Followers	0	428
# of Likes	0	2,338
# of Comments	0	41
LinkedIn		
# of Followers	18	428
# of Reactions	0	2,338
# of Comments	0	41

Campaigns and Digital Projects

Our social media growth has also been positively affected by diverse campaigns that we have developed and shared as a way to present key data results in a more accessible language.

Some of those campaigns include our work on HIV testing, the discriminatory blood ban, and IDAHOT (the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia).

Stigma and discrimination continue to harm our communities.

In 2018, gay, bisexual, trans, Two-Spirit, and queer people (GBT2Q) said they wanted help with:

25%	depression
25%	anxiety
18%	body image
7%	suicidal thoughts

* Data from CBRC's Sex Now 2018 in-person survey

Stigma and discrimination continue to harm our communities.

In 2018, gay, bisexual, trans, Two-Spirit, and queer people (GBT2Q) in Canada reported facing discrimination in the last year based on their:

sexual orientation	body type	race	gender
22%	20%	12%	9%

* Data from CBRC's Sex Now 2018 in-person survey

Stigma and discrimination continue to harm our communities.

In 2018, 1 in 4 bi guys reported being discriminated against because of their sexual orientation in the last year

* Data from CBRC's Sex Now 2018 in-person survey

Network Building

Advance Community Alliance

A pan-Canadian collaboration to improve the accessibility and uptake of health services among GBT2Q folks in Canada, the Advance Community Alliance, builds on the collective expertise of five leading community-based organizations across Canada to amplify the voices of GBT2Q folks within the health system. As lead partner for the Alliance, CBRC led the collaborative development and delivery of a community-facing online campaign focused on sexual health and harm reduction within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. This work began in the final quarter of the fiscal year and would include the development of visuals which integrated community and public health messaging surrounding social distancing, sex partners, and safer sex.

This year, CBRC leveraged its personnel and partner networks to expand its community health leadership programs (Investigaytors, Totally Outright, and Pivot) into new locations in the Prairies and Atlantic including Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Halifax, and St. John's Newfoundland, delivering 10 unique programs in Years 2 and 3 of the Alliance project.

Through the Alliance, CBRC also developed and delivered a range of presentations, workshops, consultations, and learning opportunities for CSOs and healthcare providers.

The Network

The Network is a resource for improving the health and well-being of gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, including trans and Two-Spirit people in British Columbia. Through the Network, we accomplished the following this year:

- We launched [Checkyourself.today](https://www.checkyourself.today), a website which promotes combination prevention and is an innovative tool for BC folks to locate PrEP pathways in their area.
- The BC Community Advocates program ran for the second year, bringing together 12 leaders from around BC to the Summit and disseminate findings back to their home communities.
- We developed and found funding for the Indigenous and Two-Spirit Health Promotion Lead position, expanding on CBRC's work with queer, trans, and Two-Spirit folks in Indigenous communities.
- "HIV: Healing Inner Voices," a film supported by CBRC in funding focused on the stigma of HIV in Indigenous communities, and was released and shown to stakeholders in BC.
- The Network partnered with the Pacific AIDS Network to host a webinar series. Presented topics were: Summit 2019, Sex Now, and Health Initiative for Men's intervention for guys at all levels of outness entitled "Outside In."
- We partnered with Health Initiative for Men to conduct a community consultation for the needs of queer guys in Prince George.
- We updated the Network's Continuing Professional Development (CPD) course – taken by over 187 physicians – to include PrEP education and to be more inclusive of trans and Two-Spirit folks.

Programming in the Atlantic

In Atlantic Canada, CBRC has continued its growth in terms of building knowledge of our organization and our partnerships. Our staff and contractors conducted focus groups (community engagement committee meetings) in Moncton, St. John's, and Halifax, gaining feedback and insight from our community to guide our work.

Here are some of our key engagement activists from the past year:

- The Egale Outshine 2019 GSA conference in Fredericton, NB
- Totally Outright in Nova Scotia and PEI, organized by the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia and PEERS Alliance
- Education panel for healthcare providers on an introduction to LGBTQ+ health, organized by prideHealth, held during the Halifax Pride festival

Four key events also took place this past year. In September, CBRC hosted a regional forum on GBT2Q health with participants from all four Atlantic provinces. Participants helped provide feedback on CBRC initiatives, built stronger networks for the work in the region, and heard about local initiatives. Also in September, we hosted a policy consultation with key Atlantic Canada stakeholders to address combination prevention for the GBT2Q community.

To mark International AIDS Awareness Week in November, we organized a public presentation on PrEP, partnering with Dalhousie University to ensure health professions students participated.

In March of 2020, St. John's held Pivot, a four-day leadership program in developing systems change. Despite snowstorms and COVID-19, all participants completed the program virtually and the team is working to develop an intervention from the work the participants completed.

Ongoing projects include the development of local STBBI educational resources with organizations in PEI, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland. We were thrilled to partner with PEERS Alliance, prideHealth, and Planned Parenthood Newfoundland and Labrador.



Programming in the Prairies

In the prairies, CBRC had a successful year of building knowledge of our organization and momentum in our partnerships. This year, we continued to educate policymakers, healthcare professionals, community-based organizations, and community members through presentations and events including:

- In 2019, we coordinated the creation of the Alberta Trans Health Network. The group includes community members, community-based organizations, nurses, pharmacists, researchers, and provincial health representatives.
- In 2019, we held the Alberta Regional Forum in September, where those working with GBT2Q sexual health come together for knowledge translation, exchange, and group collaborations. The network continues to meet with members working in community-based organizations.
- The Trans Wellness Initiative has been developing content for the community, such as chest binding health, social and legal transition support, feminizing and masculinizing hormones, etc.
- "Sex and COVID-19" resources were created to bridge the gap of knowledge about harm reduction and sexual practice during COVID-19.



Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position

[This page](#) links to documents that detail CBRC's statement of financial position.

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	450,395	754,687
Accounts receivable	251,771	26,277
Prepaid expenses	13,271	12,461
Total current assets	715,437	793,425
Capital assets	15,306	10,033
	730,743	803,458
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accruals	154,612	139,985
Deferred grants	336,764	359,563
Total Liabilities	491,376	499,548
Net assets		
Invested in capital assets	15,306	10,033
Internally restricted	77,620	165,668
Unrestricted	146,441	128,209
Total net assets	239,367	303,910
	730,743	803,458

Statement of Operations

As of March 31

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Revenue		
Grants	1,896,020	1,831,718
Sponsorships	48,804	68,783
Registrations and other contracts	22,702	—
GST recovery	17,104	—
Donations	3,880	14,606
Interest	987	865
	1,989,497	1,915,972
Expenses		
Wages and benefits	1,028,678	803,818
Contractors	446,061	510,776
Resource materials	258,290	119,774
Travel, meetings and conferences	148,651	162,213
Rent	70,878	72,632
Professional fees	27,388	13,137
Office and supplies	25,322	7,134
Equipment rentals	16,900	10,299
Honorariums	14,870	30,620
Insurance and evaluation	12,036	3,133
Amortization of capital assets	4,966	2,764
	2,054,040	1,736,300
Excess of revenue (expenses) for the year	(64,543)	179,672



Thank you for reading our annual report. We appreciate your support of our work.