



ALL FOR ONE & A YEAR FOR ALL

**COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH CENTRE
2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

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Land Acknowledgement

CBRC acknowledges that as a national organization, our work spans across the unceded, ancestral, and traditional territories of Indigenous peoples on land that is currently occupied and known as Canada. This includes the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations, currently known as Vancouver, where our head offices are located. We recognize and are grateful for living and working on all these lands that have been cared for by Indigenous peoples since time immemorial.

In 2016, CBRC endorsed the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. As an organization dedicated to the health and wellness of our communities, we recognize that true reconciliation requires more than an endorsement and have made a series of commitments in our work, including the full integration of Two-Spirit and Indigenous staff into the culture of the organization and delivery of our programs, and creating and centering an intentional space at the Summit for Two-Spirit and Indigenous queer and trans people.

As we continue on our path of Truth and Reconciliation, CBRC continues to learn from our Indigenous staff and partners, reflecting on the ways our actions and social policies impact the lives of Indigenous people, and actively participating in decolonization.

Letter from the Acting Executive Director

To our community,

This past year has been a big one for CBRC—one characterized by change, growth and impact.

Most significantly on the change front, this year we officially expanded our mandate to reflect our greater scope and audience. For instance, when CBRC was created in 1999 it was to serve gay men who were still reeling from HIV and AIDS. Along the way, we learned that “gay men” actually includes a lot of people—bisexual men, trans men, Two-Spirit and non-binary folks. Simultaneously, our focus expanded from HIV and STBBIs to other pressing concerns—issues like mental health, substance use, racism, colonization, conversion therapy, gender-affirming care and so much more.

Today, CBRC’s roster of initiatives serves people of diverse sexualities and genders, and we wanted a mandate to reflect that. While gay men will always be part of our organization, our initial scope has grown to one that serves the full 2S/LGBTQIA+ community, and we are excited for what that means for the future.

Another notable change was wishing our Executive Director, Jody Jollimore, a happy and fulfilling parental leave in February 2022. It’s been an honour serving as Acting Executive Director following Jody’s absence, as well as a rewarding and challenging experience.

Speaking of organizational changes, CBRC grew significantly this past year. With the support of partners, donors and community members, we were able to welcome more staff as well as introduce new programs and research projects. We also secured funding from new sources to branch further into mental health work—an aspect of our community’s overall wellbeing that is becoming an increasing priority.

On the partnership side, we’ve worked with more organizations that serve queer women, trans communities and Two-Spirit communities. We also continued to grapple with how to do our work during a pandemic, testing what’s possible and making sure to tread carefully as things began to open. While our Summit was virtual again this year, we hope to be able to return in person next year.

This year, we also saw the fruits of years of research and advocacy. CBRC was instrumental in advocating for the end of Bill C4, which saw the criminalization of conversion “therapy” in Canada.

With these and other milestones, CBRC is proving that our work is both as necessary and impactful as ever. As we enter our next five-year funding cycle, we can say that we do, in fact, take pride in who we are and what we do—and we are eager for you to learn more in this report.

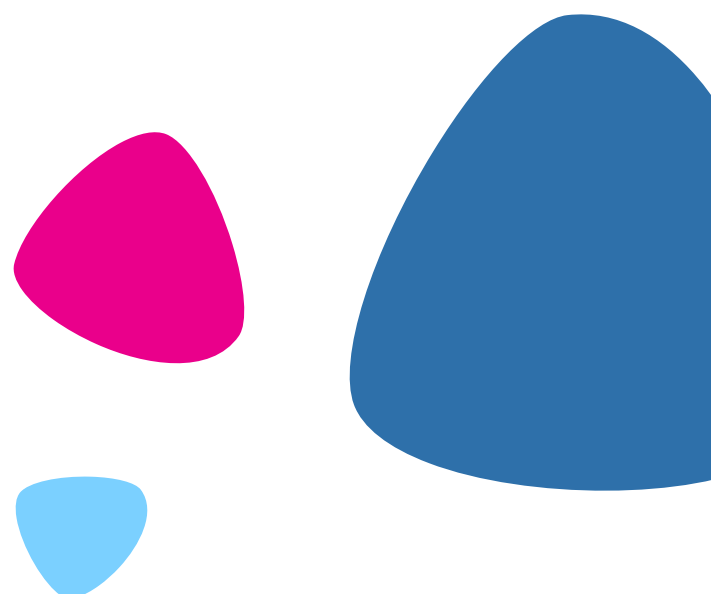
In solidarity,

Michael Kwag

Acting Executive Director

Our Year in Highlights

- CBRC expanded its mission to one that promotes the health of **people of diverse sexualities and genders** (beyond “gay men”) through research and intervention development.
- CBRC grew in size, expanding its communications team to include an **Associate Director of Communications** and a **Knowledge Translation Manager**. A Social Epidemiologist was added to the Research Team and a **Two-Spirit Program Coordinator** joined the Two-Spirit Team. CBRC also hired a **SOGIECE/CP Prevention & Survivor Support Coordinator** to support our work on conversion “therapy.”
- The **Two-Spirit Program became a pillar within CBRC**, with team members hosting the first ever **Two-Spirit Gathering**.
- The **Sex Now Survey** returned with an online edition in additional languages, reaching 6,000 people.
- Data collected as part of Sex Now played a key role in the drafting of **Bill C-4**, helping to criminalize conversion “therapy” practices in Canada.
- Through Sex Now, we also distributed over 5,300 **free HIV self-test kits**, offering an additional 1,500 kits to more than 20 GBT2Q+ organizations across the country through **Test Now: Community Edition**.
- We engaged in advocacy work to address the omission of Two-Spirit experiences in the **In Plain Sight investigation** looking into Indigenous-specific racism in BC’s healthcare system. We also made suggestions to the **federal government** on what they should be focusing on during their first term. CBRC also advocated to end the **poppers ban** and help **Quadrangle, NL** establish a 2S/LGBTQIA+ community centre in St. John’s.
- **Summit** returned to a virtual format with the theme of **Disrupt and Reconstruct** and featured keynotes by Florence Ashley, Francisco Ibáñez-Carrasco, Jack Saddleback, jaye simpson, Kai Cheng Thom and Rinaldo Walcott.
- We launched **Do You Mind?**, our first leadership program that went beyond CBRC’s traditional target demographic and included the broader 2S/LGBTQIA+ community.
- We also launched two new training programs, one on **Gender-Affirming Care: Surgical Readiness & Aftercare** and the other on **Prescribing PrEP for HIV**.





Two-Spirit Program

When it comes to the health and wellbeing of Two-Spirit people in Canada, CBRC is committed to moving beyond acknowledgments and making Indigenous knowledge, practices and community-building a core part of what we amplify as an organization.

Key to making progress on this commitment is recognizing that CBRC's Two-Spirit work should be led by Indigenous people. As such, we hired CBRC's first Two-Spirit Program Manager in the fall of 2020, Jessy Dame. Thanks to Jessy and other partners' hard work, in 2021 the Two-Spirit Program launched and became a pillar within CBRC.

This year we also added two other members to the [Two-Spirit Program team](#), and they continue to work with Two-Spirit and Indigenous queer and trans communities to increase access to testing, sexually transmitted and blood borne infection (STBBI) prevention tools and other services and support.

This year, the Two-Spirit Program team published [interviews and consultations](#) with several Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and Elders, as well as healthcare professionals, to explore the feasibility of an at-home HIV and STBBI testing project for British Columbia. We plan to launch our **Medicine Bundle Project** in the next fiscal year. The goal of the project is to bring sacredness back to sex and provide Two-Spirit and queer Indigenous folks with holistic resources (including HIV self-test kits) that address sexual health needs.

CBRC's first **Two-Spirit Gathering**, co-hosted with the 2 Spirits in Motion Society, took place online and in concert with Summit 2021. The event drew more than 70 participants from across Turtle Island (Canada and USA). The Two-Spirit Program team released a [report](#) on the gathering, which highlighted major needs identified by participants, as well as recommendations to address them and create more Two-Spirit, Indigiqueer, trans and gender-diverse spaces to connect with each other and nurture the community and its members.

In June 2021, during National Indigenous History Month, Jessy Dame provided [an update](#) on CBRC's commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action and announced the inaugural **Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQQIA+ Awareness to Celebration Day**, which took place on March 21, 2022. The celebration was chosen to be held on the spring equinox, as the date represented transformation and change, which is the in-between state that Two-Spirit people have typically occupied. The event recognized and celebrated the diverse sexualities and gender expressions within Indigenous communities and consisted of education and teachings from Two-Spirit Elders and Knowledge Keepers, proclamations from Indigenous leaders and government officials, and entertainment. Moving forward, it is our hope to work with our many community partners to increase awareness and celebrate all Two-Spirit people on this day.

Finally, the Two-Spirit Program team helped with the creation of a new website for the [Two-Spirit Dry Lab](#), Turtle Island's first research group or lab that focuses exclusively on Two-Spirit people, communities and experiences.

Research

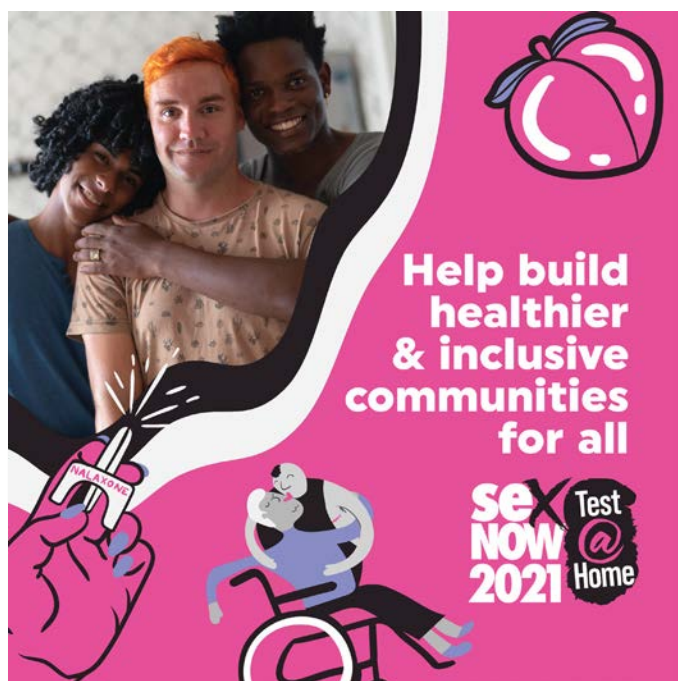
It's always been important for CBRC to collect data on our community and the issues we face—but in a year still marred by COVID-19 closures, continued restrictions and greater isolation, such efforts were more crucial than ever. This year, our research projects aimed not just to gather data from but to also connect with vulnerable pockets of 2S/LGBTQIA+ people from across the country.

2021 Sex Now Survey / Test@Home

From April to August, CBRC ran another online edition of Sex Now, Canada's largest and longest running survey of GBT2Q men and non-binary people. This year's survey was made available in several new languages (Spanish, Punjabi, Traditional Chinese and Simplified Chinese) in addition to English and French.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic introduced new barriers to regular HIV testing, this year's edition also consisted of a new component: Test@Home, which offered the mailing of up to three rapid HIV self-test kits to each participant (18 years or older) who requested them. Test@Home was a nationwide partnership with [REACH Nexus](#).

In all, 6,000 people participated in the survey and CBRC was able to distribute over 5,300 HIV self-tests.



Test Now: Community Edition

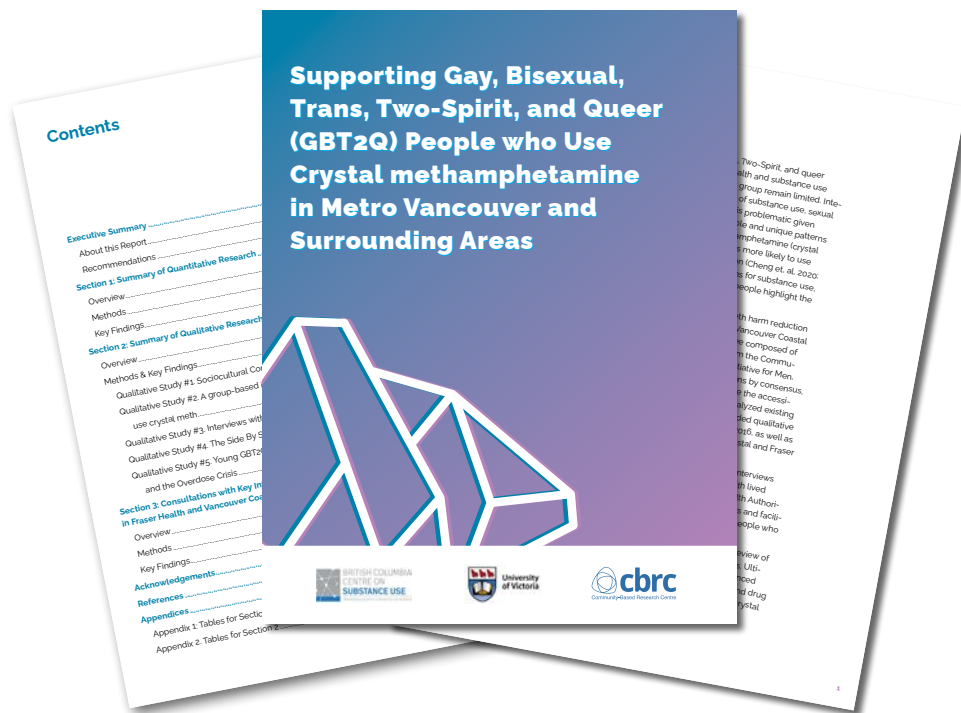
In addition to Sex Now, CBRC provided 1,500 free HIV self-test kits in January and February to a network of more than 20 GBT2Q+ organizations across the country through Test Now: Community Edition. The program offered low barrier access to HIV self-testing, making getting kits as simple as visiting a local community-based organization you trust and answering a few (optional) questions.

Test Now Buddies (TNB) program

A trial initiative designed to complement the Test@Home component of Sex Now, the Test Now Buddies program provided peer support to participants who requested an HIV self-test kit. The purpose of TNB was to offer support in how to use the HIV self-test kit correctly, answer any questions that participants may have and send follow-up surveys over a six-month period. Buddies also connected participants with HIV and STBBI prevention and care resources (confirmation testing, HIV prevention tools) and other relevant resources, like mental health support, and collected survey data on the experiences of participants who use the test.

The Crystal Methamphetamine Project

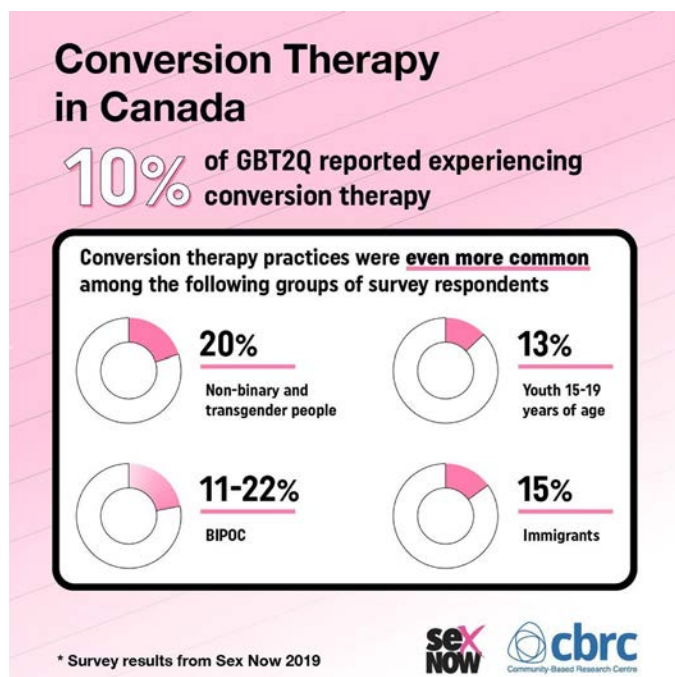
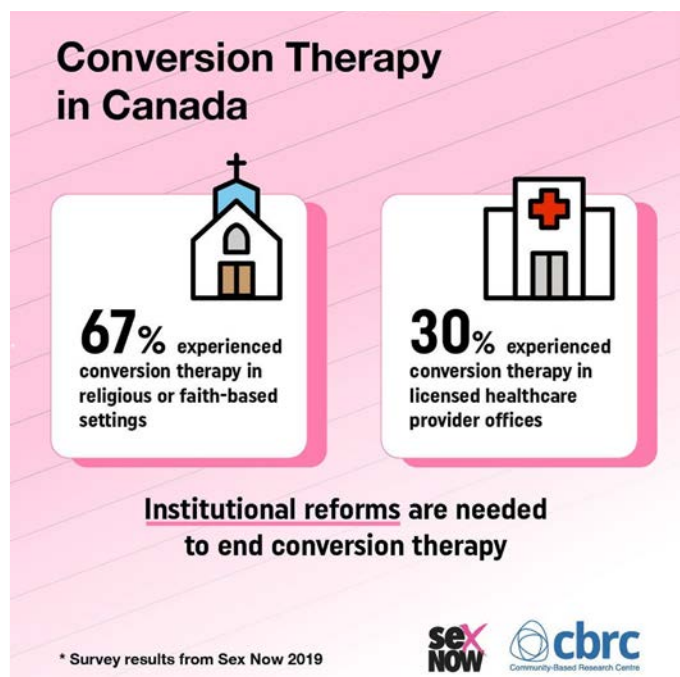
In November 2021, we [published a report](#) identifying gaps and opportunities in crystal meth harm reduction services and treatment of GBT2Q people in the Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Health regions. The report addresses: patterns of and motives for crystal methamphetamine use; gaps in services and supports; healthcare and harm reduction preferences; the role of trauma and stigma; and recommendations for addressing crystal methamphetamine harms and service gaps.



Conversion “Therapy” Survivors Research

CBRC’s data played a role in driving work around conversion “therapy” in Canada at a pivotal time. The SOGIECE/Conversion ‘Therapy’ Survivor Support Project was a 2021-2022 community-based research project led by and for survivors of sexual orientation and gender identity expression change efforts (SOGIECE) and conversion “therapy” (CT). Through a survey, focus groups and interviews, we listened to 270 survivors to assess what supports they needed, in order to work with Canadian partners to deliver those supports. In March 2022, we published [Findings from a National Survey, Focus Groups, and Interviews](#), which provides clear findings on the needs of Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and other sexual and gender minority people in Canada who have been harmed by SOGIECE/CT. The findings highlight barriers experienced in recovering from harm, as well as supports and resources that were helpful during participants’ recoveries.

CBRC also published data collected from the 2019 edition of the Sex Now survey, which asked specific questions aboutGBT2Q folks’ [conversion “therapy” experiences](#), including settings, ages, and durations. It was found that as many as 10% ofGBT2Q people have experienced CT (sample size: 9,214), and of those numbers, 30% experienced CT in licensed healthcare provider offices.



CBRC Study on LGBTQ2+ Health Programs in Canada

In February 2022, a study conducted by CBRC found that few 2S/LGBTQIA+ health programs in Canada actually target “upstream” [social determinants of health](#). Our researchers examined 220 programs from across Canada and found only two interventions on employment issues, four on housing and two on education. By comparison, there were 102 programs that offered social support groups and 51 intervening on access to health services.

The Future of PrEP

Work began this year on The Future of PrEP, a new research project that aims to prepare Canada for the arrival of “long-acting” PrEP by better understanding community needs and preferences for accessing and taking the medication. We laid the ground with two webinars, one that took place during Summit 2021 ([PrEP: Where Are We Going?](#)), the other in March 2022 ([PrEP: Where Are We Going?](#)).

Knowledge Translation and Exchange

What sets CBRC apart from other research and data collecting organizations is a strong commitment to making sure that knowledge is shared widely and used to the benefit of our 2S/LGBTQIA+ community. Though Summit continues to be the leading avenue in Canada for such exchanges, we continue to find year-round ways to get the latest findings and materials into the hands of those who need to see it.

2021 Summit

From October 27 to 29, Summit 2021 was once again held virtually. Though we wish we could be in person again, the event continues to be a major touchstone for our national 2S/LGBTQIA+ community, as well as the allies that support our work.

This year, the event was preceded by Pre-Summit events (October 20-26) and included a Two-Spirit Gathering (October 27). The theme of Summit 2021 was Disrupt and Reconstruct, inviting presenters and attendees to consider the ways in which we can leverage disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to achieve truly transformative, fair and just healthcare systems.

The caliber of our keynote speakers was incredible and included people like Florence Ashley, Francisco Ibáñez-Carrasco, Jack Saddleback, jaye simpson, Kai Cheng Thom and Rinaldo Walcott.

Summit 2021 had 59 speakers and 927 registrants with 845 live viewers (86% attendance rate). Pre-Summit events had 327 registrants, with 189 live viewers (57% attendance). Furthermore, our evaluation of this year's event shows that the Summit continues to be an effective knowledge translation initiative: **92% of respondents said that the Summit was relevant or useful for their work.**

Once again, we invited queer and trans artists to attend Summit and create a piece of content inspired by sessions they attended and what they learned. Six participants were chosen by CBRC from the Atlantic and Prairie regions to create original artworks for the [Creators Project](#). Additional artists were also selected by ACT, MAX Ottawa and the Health Initiative for Men.

The CBRC team is proud of the new partnerships with community-based organizations, healthcare providers and community activists that we cultivated during this year's Summit. Financial support was provided by ViiV Healthcare (Presenting Partner), Gilead Sciences Canada (Presenting Sponsor) and the Government of Canada, which included project funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC).

The [Summit 2021 Content Library](#) is available on our website along with the [2021 Summit Report](#).



Webinars and Panel Discussions

This year, CBRC partnered with several organizations—such as the Black Gay Men's Network of Ontario, CATIE and the Enchanté Network—to collaborate on public webinars and panel discussions.

What We Know: BGMN Discusses Sex Now Survey Results Among Black Same Gender Loving Men (August 12, 2021) With Robert Alsberry, Jermaine Hall, Lance McCready and Kymani Montgomery (Black Gay Men's Network of Ontario), in conversation with Michael Kwag (CBRC)

Chronicling Our Stories: Narratives of 2SLGBTQ+ Communities and Chronic Health (January 27, 2022) With poets Eli Tareq El Bechelany-Lynch and Nisha Patel in conversation with CBRC's Anu Radha Verma (CBRC). A collaboration with the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies (University of Toronto)

Lessons Learned from the Campaign to Ban Conversion Therapy: How to Continue Momentum for 2SLGBTQI+ Rights (February 17, 2022) With Tyler Boyce (The Enchanté Network), Nick Schiavo (No Conversion Canada), Claire Yacishyn (TransSask Support Services), Randall Garrison (Member of Parliament, Esquimalt—Saanich—Sooke, British Columbia), Elder Richard Jenkins and Michael Kwag (CBRC)

PrEP: Where Are We Going? (March 22, 2022) With Darrell Tan (St. Michael's Hospital), Harlan Pruden (Chee Mamuk, B.C. Centre for Disease Control), Gabriel Enxuga (Lambda Health), Jordan Bond-Gorr (Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance) and Mik Vattiata (CBRC)



Programs

2S/LGBTQIA+ people coast-to-coast are passionate about their identities and are determined to lift up their peers. Though our roots are in British Columbia, CBRC's now national mandate means we have a responsibility to reach all those who want to become the leaders, learners and helpers of tomorrow's 2S/LGBTQIA+ community. We do that by engaging them in one of our many programs or courses, some of which are highlighted here.

Advance Alliance

CBRC is a member of the [Advance Alliance](#), a partnership between leading community-based organizations from across Canada dedicated to the health and wellness of GBT2Q+ folks. CBRC serves as the “backbone” organization for the alliance while also implementing Advance initiatives in the Atlantic and Prairie regions.

Advance: National Highlights

One of the major accomplishments of the Advance Alliance earlier in the year was the publication of [Challenges, Opportunities and Priorities: Findings from a National Consultation on HIV and STBBI Prevention Among Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Two-Spirited and Queer Men \(GBT2Q\) in Canada](#). In this report, we outlined key themes from a national stakeholder consultation on challenges, opportunities and priorities for strengthening combination prevention among GBT2Q+ people. Our community partners for this project were ACT, QTHC, Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance (GMSH), Health Initiative for Men (HIM), OUTSaskatoon, MAX Ottawa and RÉZO. This national consultation was funded by Gilead Sciences Canada.

Another accomplishment this year was the release of Advance Progress Cards for nine Canadian cities, as well as one National Progress Card, all of which were created and [made available on our site](#). Showcasing results from CBRC's 2018 Sex Now Survey, this new series of local and national infographic reports provides a snapshot of key indicators related to HIV & STBBI combination prevention services (e.g. testing, PrEP, vaccines, mental health services, etc.) for community members, service providers and policy makers. Advance Progress Cards provide an important snapshot on what access and uptake of sexual health and other key services looks like among GBT2Q+ people across Canada.

To further facilitate access and uptake of sexual health and other key services among GBT2Q+ people, CBRC and the other members of the Advance Alliance have continued to deliver capacity-building activities and knowledge products with not only GBT2Q+ community members, but also staff from community-based organizations and healthcare providers/public health professionals who work with this community.

This year was the final year of the first five-year funding cycle for the Advance Alliance. During this year, CBRC reached 246 staff from community-based organizations, 1,799 healthcare providers/public health professionals and 132 GBT2Q+ community members. In reviewing data from the past five years from Advance Alliance partners, we learned that, as a whole, we surpassed our targets of reaching 4,825 staff from community-based organizations (we reached 5,216), 1,031 healthcare providers/public health professionals (we reached 3,041) and 6,121 GBT2Q+ community members (we reached 11,469).

Advance: Atlantic Regional Highlights

- In August 2021, Pivot participants in Newfoundland and Labrador created “[Refocusing the Spectrum: Indigenous Reflections on Sexuality, Gender, & Health Outside of Colonialism](#),” a virtual art gallery and panel exploring the intersectionality of sexuality, gender, health and Indigeneity.
- Based on the success of [Prescribing Gender-Affirming Hormones](#), an online training program for primary care providers created in 2020 with prideHealth, we launched a new training course in January 2022: [Gender-Affirming Care: Surgical Readiness & Aftercare](#). The free course is intended for primary care providers (physicians, residents and nurse practitioners) who can complete surgery coverage applications and provide post-operative care, but all healthcare professionals are welcome to take the course. That same month, we also launched [Prescribing PrEP for HIV](#), an online training for healthcare providers who want to know more about prescribing pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV. This course is also free and has been certified by the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Nova Scotia Chapter for 1 Mainpro+ credit.
- In March 2022, CBRC hosted an Atlantic Regional Forum. Over the course of two days, this in-person event brought over two dozen local partners and community-based researchers together for networking and knowledge exchange.

Advance: Prairie Regional Highlights

- This year, we launched [The Trans Wellness Initiative](#), which provides trans and gender-diverse people with information and resources about important topics—such as sexual and mental health, navigating pathways to surgery and social and legal transition. Through TWI, healthcare providers can also learn more about providing competent and affirming care for trans and gender-diverse communities. The Trans Wellness Initiative presented their work at Summit 2021.
- In March 2022, CBRC hosted the Prairies Regional Forum to support clinicians, service providers and representatives in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. There were 91 participants who joined the conference virtually to hear from the professional, academic and lived expertise of the panelists and guest speakers.

Do You Mind?

CBRC's Do You Mind? (DYM) program was one of our first leadership programs that went beyond the historicalGBT2Q+ target demographic of CBRC to include the broader 2S/LGBTQIA+ community. The pilot project was designed to empower gender and sexual minority youth (ages 18-29) to become mental health-savvy knowledge holders and advocates in their communities. Do You Mind? is now a self-sufficient program available in both English and French.

This year, we shared our [learnings](#) from running the pilot project (2020-2021) in collaboration with YouthCO in British Columbia, the Edmonton Men's Health Collective (now known as the Queer and Trans Health Collective) in Alberta and the Youth Project in Nova Scotia. Among the participants, we found the following:

- 78% of respondents reported increased knowledge and/or skills
- 90% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the program provided an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to community health and wellbeing
- 100% of respondents indicated that they believed the community interventions they developed through the program will have a positive impact on the health of their communities
- 90% of respondents reported that they were very likely or somewhat likely to remain engaged in similar work with community-based organizations or groups
- 50% reported actual new or increased involvement in community-based initiatives

Findings from this year of DYM programming were also shared in a [webinar](#) conducted in March 2022.



Advocacy

Health, education, justice—these systems are so integral to our lives but are controlled by government and public agents who, too often, do not reflect our community and know little about us. That's why it is our responsibility to, whenever possible, make our voice heard loud and clear, and this year CBRC saw tangible, positive outcomes from our many advocacy efforts.

Poppers Ban

In advance of Pride season, CBRC called on Health Canada to [end the federal poppers ban](#) by launching an advocacy campaign to Canada's Minister of Health and local MPs, asking gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men and allies to sign a letter in support of ensuring a safe poppers supply. Despite being banned in 2013, poppers continue to be used by GBT2Q men and non-binary people. CBRC believes the ban continues a history of Canadian health policy that stigmatizes substance users and sexual minority groups. In July 2021, CBRC launched a [national advocacy campaign](#) to overturn the ban and called upon the public to write letters to the Minister of Health. This advocacy sparked a national conversation on the poppers ban. CBRC also asked people to share stories of how the crackdown has impacted them personally and more than 600 people answered the call.

In February 2022, we also provided a special update on our poppers work just in time for Valentine's Day: "[What's Poppin' on CBRC's Initiative to End the Poppers Ban](#)."



Inclusion of Two-Spirit Experiences in 'In Plain Sight'

In July 2020, BC Minister of Health Adrian Dix established the In Plain Sight investigation in response to reports of Indigenous-specific racism in BC's healthcare system. CBRC's Two-Spirit Program Manager, Jessy Dame, worked with other Two-Spirit leaders to mobilize participation of Two-Spirit and queer Indigenous folks in this response; however, when the report was published in November 2020, Dame was shocked to discover the omission of Two-Spirit experiences. To remedy the situation, Dame [wrote to the Minister of Health](#) and the In Plain Sight investigation team, looking for answers and requesting a meeting. After months of advocacy, CBRC received [an invitation to meet with the Deputy Minister's team](#) and a commitment to do more research on the subject to address the gap.

Five Ways Canada's New Government Can Improve Life for Queer and Trans People

In October 2021, on the heels of the federal election, CBRC published [Frontiers of Queer & Trans Health Advocacy](#), highlighting relevant statistics and making high-level recommendations on five issues the federal government should focus on in its new term. The five issues included:

- The Stigmatization and Criminalization of Our Communities
- Barriers to Gender Affirming and Culturally Competent Care
- Mental Health and Its Determinants
- Harm Reduction in Substance Use
- HIV and STBBI Testing, Prevention, Treatment and Support

Support for Quadrangle NL

This year, we supported a group of mobilized folks in Newfoundland under the banner of Quadrangle NL in their advocacy efforts to establish a 2S/LGBTQIA+ community centre in St. John's. CBRC is proud to support Quadrangle NL in their campaign that is putting pressure on various sectors of government to fund a shared home for more than a dozen 2S/LGBTQIA+ community organizations and initiatives currently working without a physical space for queer and trans people in the province.



Federal 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan Input

In developing their Federal 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan, the Canadian government solicited submissions from organizations and individuals across the nation for suggestions on what the government should focus on to improve the lives of queer and trans people.

As another opportunity for advocacy, CBRC developed an extensive written submission that spoke to many of the issues we continue to call attention to as a community. These include priority areas such as: STBBI/HIV testing, prevention, treatment and support; overcoming barriers to critically important care; mental health; culturally competent care; substance use; and several others.

We also used our submission to highlight how the government could better engage the community when it comes to funding, designing or rolling out initiatives aimed at us, as well as how these initiatives should be more intersectional to reflect just how diverse the queer and trans experience really is. We hope to see as many of our recommendations reflected in the final action plan, due to be released in 2022, and will continue to push for such an outcome.

Canada Bans 'Conversion Therapy'

The law, which takes effect on Friday, puts Canada in the company of more than a dozen countries that have banned the widely discredited practice.

Share full article



Bill C-4

In December 2021, then-Knowledge Exchange and Policy Development Director Michael Kwag travelled to Ottawa for the tabling of Bill C-4, the proposed federal conversion therapy law, which was passed unanimously by the House of Commons on December 1. Data collected as part of Sex Now played a key role in the drafting of Bill C-4 and was referenced in the Government of Canada's press release, which led to [coverage in the New York Times](#).

Data from Sex Now's 2019-2020 survey demonstrated that as many as 1 in 10 queer and trans people reported having experienced conversion therapy, and the majority of these (72%) started with youth under the age of 20. Importantly, the data show that conversion therapy practices appear to be even more common among non-binary and trans people (20%), youth between the ages of 15 and 19 (13%), immigrants (15%), and Black, Indigenous and people of colour (11 to 22%; varying by specific identities).

Our Communications

An audience of queer and trans people, and our engaged allies, have been looking for opportunities to become more immersed in our work and 2S/LGBTQIA+ issues broadly. The proof of that comes following our newsletter launch this year—now a major tool in our communications strategy and already boasting more than 6,000 recipients. We'll continue to find new ways to share our collective story and keep people informed.

The Update

CBRC's official newsletter, The Update, was launched in August 2021. The monthly communications tool shares brief updates on CBRC's many activities and events, while also drawing attention to the accomplishments of our staff and community partners. More than 6,000 subscribers receive the newsletter.

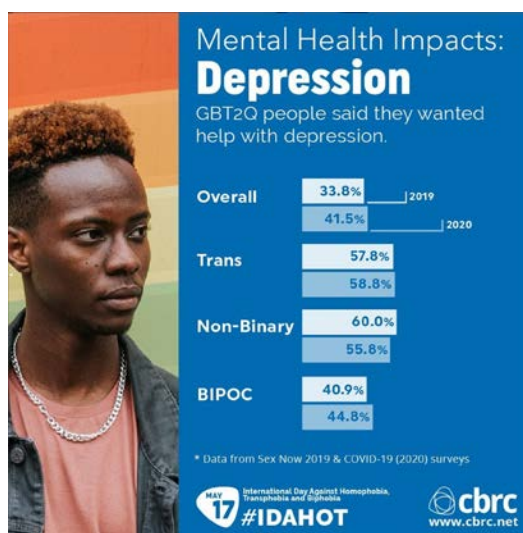
The newsletter also saw the launch of "The Read," a platform for CBRC staff and community partners to share personal takes on queer and trans health. Here are some of the articles we ran this year:

- [National HIV Testing Day: How combating stigma and a new tool can increase HIV testing](#) by Chris Draenos
- [How Indigenous people are creating pathways to HIV care and testing](#) by Martin Morberg
- [How GBT2Q people in Atlantic Canada face additional barriers when it comes to testing](#) by Kirk Furlotte
- [Stigma and Shame: Why Aren't Youth on PrEP?](#) by Liam O'Brien
- [Undisclosed: Trauma, HIV Disclosure and My Black Experience](#) by Jermane
- [Taking Pride in Who We Are and What We Do](#) by Jody Jollimore
- [Taking Back the Space: Lessons from CBRC's First Two-Spirit Gathering](#) by Jessy Dame
- [Reflections on Bill C-4: An Advocate and Survivor's Take on the New Federal Conversion Therapy Ban](#) by Michael Kwag

Dates of Recognition

International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

For the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (May 17, 2021) CBRC released findings which demonstrated that Canada's GBT2Q communities continue to face health and social challenges. [Data gathered from the 2019 and 2020 Sex Now surveys](#) reveal that despite advances in social acceptance and legal rights in recent decades, stigma and discrimination against sexual and gender minorities persists in Canada today. GBT2Q people continue to experience elevated health and social needs, which are even higher among racialized and gender-diverse communities. What's more, the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated health and social challenges and may be contributing to worsening disparities in health outcomes and access to support.



National HIV Testing Day

Even with Health Canada's approval of HIV self-test kits, there has been a lack of leadership from the government to ensure that anyone who wants a test can get one. As part of the Test@Home program, CBRC created [a series of videos](#) for National HIV Testing Day (June 27, 2021) to combat stigma and raise awareness about the importance of testing for HIV. Canadian model and activist Travis L'Henaff, who is HIV positive, demonstrated how to take an HIV self-test.



World AIDS Day: Adding up the Equation of U=U

For World AIDS Day 2021, we took the opportunity to share [some preliminary Sex Now 2021 data on U=U](#) to get the message out that it is a highly effective HIV prevention strategy, and anyone who is working in healthcare should look for opportunities to discuss U=U, especially to those who are HIV-negative.

Media Relations

CBRC significantly upped its media relations in 2021, leading to 132 articles during the fiscal year that expressly spoke about our work. This year, CBRC became a “go-to source” for Canadian media outlets looking for comments on matters related to 2S/LGBTQIA+ health.

Some of the outlets that spoke about our work include: Canadian Press, CBC Radio, CBC Television, CTV News, Edmonton Journal, Fugues Magazine, Global TV, Ici Radio-Canada, Journal de Montréal, L'actualité, National Post, New York Times, Now Magazine, NPR, Saskatoon StarPhoenix, Telegraph Journal, Toronto Star, TVA Nouvelles, Vancouver Sun, Winnipeg Free Press and Xtra Magazine.

Our media relations included coverage around IDAHOT 2021 (data on the effects of discrimination, depression and anxiety on GBT2Q and non-binary people), the 2021 Sex Now Survey with the Test@Home component, National HIV Testing Day, conversion “therapy,” blood donation policies and poppers.

We also issued a [joint press release](#) during the 2021 federal election with 21 other organizations calling on each of the political parties to publicly state their positions on six priority issues around HIV, Hepatitis C and Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections in Canada.

Social Media

In terms of social media presence, we significantly grew our social footprint on Facebook over the year and expanded our reach across other platforms as well.

Platforms	2020-2021	2021-2022
Facebook		
# of New Page Likes	964	2,200
# of Reactions	42,717	66,944
Twitter		
# of New Followers	439	788
# of Likes	2,523	3,422
# of Retweets	1,072	1,754
Instagram		
# of New Followers	689	732
# of Likes	2,624	4,381
# of Comments	43	49
LinkedIn		
# of New Followers	278	913

The Year Ahead

Coming off of an amazing year like 2021, we aim to ride the momentum and keep making important progress on our priorities. We'll continue to develop our existing programs and projects, but to get you as excited as we are for the upcoming year here is a sneak peak into some of the big initiatives on the horizon for 2022-2023:

- CBRC has partnered with Egale, the Enchanté Network and 2 Spirits in Motion on the **Our Health** study. Led by the University of Victoria, the study will investigate the impacts of COVID-19 on 2S/LGBTQIA+ communities across Canada, and will launch in the next fiscal year. It will be the largest multi-lingual national social health survey dedicated to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, and shine a light on how the pandemic uniquely impacted our community.
- In March 2022, CBRC announced its participation in the development of the **2SLGBTQ+ Health Hub**, a unique \$2.5 million Canada-wide effort funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to advance training and mentorship in 2S/LGBTQIA+ health. As part of an interdisciplinary research team composed of principal investigators from four Canadian universities, CBRC will participate to develop an innovative hub that will tackle a major training and capacity gap in intersectional and community-informed 2S/LGBTQIA+ health and community interventions, drawing on the expertise of a network of over 50 scholars, health professionals and community leaders from across Canada.
- CBRC is also creating tutorials, Q&As and other [Our Stats](#) training materials through a grant from the federal Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) LGBT2Q Community Capacity Fund.

Thank You to our Funders

CBRC is where we are today due to the support from our funders.

Thank you to the funders that provided grants and sponsorship to CBRC in 2021-2022.

List of Funders:

- BC Gaming Commission
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
- Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation
- First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)
- Gilead Sciences Inc.
- Merck Canada Inc.
- McMaster University
- Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC)
- Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA)
- Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)
- Unity Health Toronto
- Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH)
- Viiv Healthcare Canada
- Women and Gender Equality (WAGE)

Financial Reporting

https://www.cbrc.net/financial_statements_2021_2022

For more information and to support our work, please visit **www.cbrc.net**

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