

# The CBRC update

Friend,

**In this month's newsletter:** our new survey on sexual and reproductive health, Summit 2025 proposal info sessions, reflections on Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQQIA+ Celebration and Awareness Day, and more.

## THE LATEST

1. We're excited to let you know that our new community-based survey, **Our Bodies, Our Health**, is available both online and in-person at a Pride festival or event near you this summer! The survey explores different aspects of our communities' sexual and reproductive health, such as gender-affirming care, sexual behaviour & health, sex & pleasure, family planning, abortion, cancer prevention, and sexual violence. You can complete the survey at home now at [cbrc.net/ourbodiesourhealth](https://cbrc.net/ourbodiesourhealth), or in-person at different events this summer. You can also receive a small honorarium for completing the survey as a thank you for your time!



## Take the Survey

2. **We are now accepting proposals for Summit 2025: Convergence and Emergence!** Learn about this year's theme and how to submit a proposal [here](#).

**Are you considering presenting at Summit 2025?** We are hosting **Virtual Drop-In Info Sessions** specifically designed for those new to submitting proposals for this year's Summit:

- o **Virtual Drop-In Info Session (English)**  
Thursday, June 05, 4:30pm–5:30pm EST  
[Register here](#)
- o **Virtual Drop-In Info Session (French)**  
**Date:** Thursday, June 12, 2025, 4:30pm to 5:30pm EST  
[Register here](#)

This is your opportunity to ask questions, learn about the submission process and get tips on shaping your proposal, all in a welcoming and low-pressure environment. Please note that the sessions are not workshops or 1:1 feedback sessions. Instead, they will provide a general overview of the proposal process to help you get started with confidence.

3. **What's next in the fight against conversion practices in Canada?** Though these practices have been banned in Canada, they still take place across the country. On **June 19 from 12pm-1:30pm EST**, join us for a webinar that will foster awareness and critical discussions on strengthening protections, ensuring accountability, and building a nationwide movement to prevent and end conversion practices.  
[Register here](#) (English only).
4. In January 2025, [Black Pride YYC](#) in collaboration with CBRC hosted a **“Cocktails & Conversation” community health consultation and social event in Calgary, Alberta**. This event was created by Black Pride YYC specifically for Black 2S/LGBTQIA+ people in the Calgary area to connect, socialize among the community, and discuss important health issues in a safe and welcoming environment. The event concluded with a survey to gather participant input and their reflections on the topics presented, with **a total of 33 responses** collected. [This report](#) captures their experiences in accessing healthcare in Calgary as Black 2S/LGBTQIA+ folks, as well as perceptions of gender and sexual identity.

---

## THE READ

**June is Indigenous History Month!** This month, CBRC is reflecting on the

achievements of our incredible Two-Spirit Program team, who are making history in their own ways. For example, since 2021, the team has led efforts to proclaim and recognize the spring equinox as **Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQQIA+ Celebration and Awareness Day**.

This year, events were once again held in mid-March across various communities on Turtle Island, with members of the Two-Spirit Program team participating in or leading several of these gatherings. They were asked to reflect on the events and share what the experience meant to them: “These celebrations by our kin were important to me because they reminded us of the importance of accessibility and the reasons we do this work,” says Skye Wilson, Two-Spirit Research Assistant. “I am grateful to be involved with creating space for Two-Spirit, Indigiqueer and LGBTQQIA+ Indigenous folks, because it was what I needed when I was younger.” Read the full blog post [here](#).

---

## OUR COMMUNITY: Mariam Mannai

Mariam Mannai (they/them) is a member of CBRC’s Coalition Advisory Committee, as part of our [Intersectoral Action Fund project](#) to establish a national coalition to end conversion practices in Canada. Originally from Tunisia, they are an Amazigh, Muslim, and non-binary activist, and have been advocating for LGBTQI+ rights across the Southwest Asian and North African (SWANA) region since 2006. They are also a board member of [Agir Montreal](#), an organization dedicated to supporting LGBTQI+ refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants.

Since relocating to Montreal in 2017, Mariam has co-founded the organizations Without Restriction in Tunis and [Mubaadarat](#) in Montreal. “My journey is deeply personal. I came to this work through lived experience and through the community support I’ve been doing for over a decade.” Mariam shares. “As a trans and non-binary Muslim, and survivor of various forms of coercion, I have witnessed how conversion practices are often disguised as care.” These practices can show up as attempts for spiritual “healing” or pressure from one’s cultural and religious community to conform to heteronormativity. Mariam finds it important to mention that Mubadaraat has been on hiatus because of capacity issues. As a refugee-led organization, many of its members have turned their focus to supporting Palestinian refugees.

“The queer and trans Muslim community in Canada often faces a double bind,” Mariam says. “On one hand, they are navigating Islamophobia from the general public and in mainstream LGBTQI+ spaces. On the other, they are navigating homophobia and transphobia within their cultural or religious communities.” For refugees and immigrants, Mariam says that this can be worsened by isolation. In the case of asylum seekers, there is also a burden to “prove” one’s queer or trans identity to access either protection or support services. While barriers exist, “just existing as queer and trans Muslim survivors of conversion practices is proof of resilience,” Mariam shares. “It is proof that we can survive violence and continue to

be who we are.”

Mariam feels hopeful about the possibilities that a coalition for stopping conversion practices can offer. “The coalition brings together survivors, researchers, advocates and frontline workers to collectively end conversion practices in Canada,” Mariam says. “What makes the coalition significant is that it centres survivors of conversion practices, especially those most impacted—BIPOC, trans, immigrant, and faith-based communities.” **To hear more about Mariam and other survivors’ perspectives, please join us on June 19 at our upcoming webinar, *What’s New in the Fight Against Conversion Practices in Canada?* [Register here.](#)**



Photo: Mariam Mannai

**"It excites me to see survivors becoming leaders in this work. Coming together to create tools rooted in our realities is incredibly powerful."**

---

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- We collaborated with **Kendall Gender**, Canadian drag icon and competitor on Canada’s Drag Race, to promote our Sex Now survey! Watch [here](#). Complete
- the Sex Now survey today at [sexnowsurvey.com](https://sexnowsurvey.com).  
**What’s new with queer and trans Health in Manitoba?** In last month’s blog post, we sat down with Jared Star, a researcher and community organizer in Winnipeg, about the latest and greatest in 2S/LGBTQIA+ health in his area. Read all about developments in queer and trans health research and programming in the [Manitoba Regional Update](#).

## CBRC in the Media:

- [IN Magazine](#) covered the Sex Now survey, breaking it down into things readers should know about the 2025 survey.
  - The Two-Spirit Program at CBRC is partnering with Laurentian University on a research initiative focused on improving brain health assessment for Indigenous people across Canada and internationally. Learn more about the project [here](#).
  - Jessy Dame, CBRC's Director of Two-Spirit Health, was featured on CBC's [Unreserved](#) podcast. Listen to the episode, [Celebrating Difference: Indigenous Perspectives in Health](#), and subscribe to Unreserved wherever you get your podcasts!
- 

## COMING UP

**The Our Bodies, Our Health survey is on the road and coming to a Pride festival near you!** Follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) to know when we will be in your area.

Keep your eyes peeled for details on **registering for Summit 2025!**

**On June 27 at 11am EST, join us for our webinar, HIV Self-Testing: Reflections and Wrap-Up.** Following the conclusion of federal funding for free HIV self-testing distribution programs, hear from CBRC and its partner organizations as they reflect on the successes and challenges of running these nation-wide initiatives. Register [here](#).

---

## GET INVOLVED

**Our Two-Spirit Program team is hiring!** These roles are full-time and remote within Canada. Check out both postings below:

- [Program Manager, Community Engagement & Reporting](#)
- [Program Coordinator, Community Engagement & Reporting](#)

The deadline to apply for both roles is June 27 at 4pm Pacific Time.

**We are inviting Two-Spirit, gay, bisexual, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual (2S/GBTQQIA+) men and masc folks to participate in a groundbreaking research study exploring the importance and impact of intergenerational social connections for our community!** By participating, you will contribute valuable insights into how these connections can foster mutual understanding, support, and community resilience. Learn more [here](#).

CBRC partnered with the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians (CAEP) to develop the online course, **2S/LGBTQIA+ Health and Cultural Humility in**

**Emergency Medicine.** This comprehensive course is designed to enhance healthcare providers' ability to support 2S/LGBTQIA+ community members effectively. [Register now.](#)



*Note: If you prefer to receive communication in either English or French, [please change your preferences.](#)*



Community Based Research Centre · 808 Nelson St, 1007, Vancouver, BC V6Z2H2, Canada  
This email was sent to [luke.pereira@cbrc.net](mailto:luke.pereira@cbrc.net) · [Unsubscribe](#)

Created with [NationBuilder](#). Build the Future.