

The CBRC update

Friend,

In this month's newsletter: Summit 2026 Call for proposals, Queering Black Prairie Futures report, Senior Editor job posting.

THE LATEST

1. We're excited to announce that we are now accepting proposals for **Summit 2026**. The theme this year is **Building Our Futures**. As queer, trans and Two-Spirit people, when our health, personhood and relationships are threatened, we've always done what we must – rally around each other to create better futures for ourselves. How do we do that? We build. We build bonds, support networks and solutions, including conducting research and developing tools that help us lead happier and healthier lives. **This year, Summit is taking place in Toronto, also known as Tkaronto, on Treaty 13 territory, from October 29-November 1.** To learn more about the theme and how to submit a proposal, [please click here](#). And to see highlights from last year's conference, check out our recent [Summit 2025 recap report](#).
2. In collaboration with the [Zetna Collective for Black Advancement](#), and Syriah Bailey, we have co-published a new report, [Queering Black Prairie Futures](#). This report captures the experiences and hopes of Black 2S/LGBTQIA+ individuals in Edmonton, Alberta. It is based on the lived realities of people who have spent years, some over a decade, building lives in Canada, yet still face systemic racism and queerphobia in a city that prides itself on diversity. Above all, this report amplifies a critical truth: **Black 2S/LGBTQIA+ people in Edmonton are here. They deserve more than tolerance. They deserve belonging, safety, and joy.**
3. **Friday, March 20th was Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQIA+ Celebration and Awareness Day**, and CBRC's Two-Spirit Program team celebrated the day in different locations in various ways. Program Manager Kris Reppas attended the Wabanaki Two-Spirit Alliance's Spring Equinox gathering, while the team's Research Coordinator, Jaylene McRae, [was a keynote speaker](#) at the Bridging 7 Generations Gathering hosted by Edmonton Two-Spirit Society and tapahtâyimôkamik (the Humble Lodge). Program Coordinator RJ Jones co-hosted a [Twitch livestream](#) with fellow Indigenous streamer AngeeNoel, where they talked about Two-Spirit knowledge and stories. In the spirit of relationality, Research Assistant Skye Wilson spent the day at the All Native Hockey Tournament in Prince George. "Showing up for our newest generation's hockey tournaments is important to me in reciprocating all the support that has gotten me here today – the support that has empowered me to find culture, queerness, and community that Two-Spirit day is intended to celebrate," Skye says. To mark this day, CBRC's Two-Spirit

Program also officially released the [Two-Spirit Resurgence documentary](#) that features interviews with Elders, community leaders, and Two-Spirit team staff members.



Photo (from left to right): Cassidy Bernard, Rain Ward, Robin Ward, Kris Reppas, Julianna Peter-Paul

THE READ

[The Queering Black Prairie Futures report](#) arrives at a moment shaped by recent attacks on trans children in Alberta, and racism in multiple spheres such as the medical system, the legal system, and housing. “Alberta is a hard place to live as a Black person,” shares Dawn Carter, the founder and president of the Zetna Collective for Black Advancement in this month’s feature. “Getting our own evidence on a local level was very important to us. The needs assessment gave folks the opportunity to pour their hearts out.”

For [our latest Read](#), we spoke to Dawn about her journey in founding the Zetna Collective, how the team incorporated the Ubuntu framework in building the assessment, and the overall significance of this report for Black 2S/LGBTQIA+ folks in the Prairies.

OUR COMMUNITY: Dr. Brittany Jakubiec

Dr. Brittany Jakubiec (they/them) is the Director of Research at [Egale Canada](#). A qualitative researcher based in Epekwitk (Prince Edward Island), their work focuses broadly on issues facing queer and trans people in Canada. They are currently leading a research project called ***Against the Current: A mixed-methods study of 2SLGBTQI people's experiences of hate and violence in Canada***. The project is currently in its second phase and conducting a [national online survey](#).

“This survey looks at 2S/LGBTQI people's experiences of harassment and violence, as well as their concerns about the rise in hate that could lead to increased violence in Canada,” Brittany says. As the rights of and protections for queer and trans people deteriorate in the country and beyond, they say that “it's more important than ever to document what's happening. We're seeing folks experiencing a rise in hate and violence, and greater feelings of unsafety or lack of safety.”

For more about *Against the Current* and Brittany's role, [read their full profile](#).



Photo: Dr. Brittany Jakubiec

“Our communities are really strong. We're all trying to dismantle systems and better meet each other's needs to have a world that is more just, for everyone.”

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- On March 17, we hosted Smoke Break: Practical Strategies to Improve the Health of 2S/LGBTQIA+ People Who Smoke. [Watch the webinar on YouTube](#) if you weren't able to join us live!
- In partnership with CATIE, we hosted a webinar on **HPV and anal cancer screening for people living with HIV** — the recording is available [here](#).

- For **Trans Day of Visibility** on March 31, we compiled [some resources](#) focusing on transphobia's effects on health and wellbeing, as well as the importance of research in documenting trans stories and experiences.
- We [collaborated](#) with **Saltina Shaker**, Canada's Drag Race Season 6 participant, to promote our Smoke Break program. Make sure to follow Smoke Break on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) for tips, tools, and program updates.
- [Episode 4](#) of our collaboration with Script Health for their Ask a Sexpert series features Caen Squires, CBRC's Sexual Health Specialist, who answers the question, "**How do gender-affirming hormones like testosterone or estrogen affect things like sexual desire, lubrication, or STI risk?**"

CBRC in the Media:

- *In My Day* is a play based on HIV oral history research conducted at the University of Victoria, and for years has been co-led by Ben Klassen, Associate Director of Research at CBRC. It opened at UVic's Phoenix Theatre last month, and playwright Rick Waines and actor Elliot Baskin Smith talked about the production in an [interview on All Points West](#).
- Smoke Break community advisors went on radio to talk to local news stations about the program — Hear [Phawan Bhardwaj on Yukon Morning](#) and [Rhiannon Makohoniuk on CBC Newfoundland Morning](#).
- Former CBRC staff member Francesco MacAllister-Caruso co-authored an [op-ed in The Conversation](#), breaking down how trans people are systematically undercounted or obscured in data that shapes public decision-making. The article cites CBRC's research practices as a compelling example of data disaggregation to identify distinct barriers facing trans people.

COMING UP

Keep an eye out for our annual **Vox Pop collaboration with CATIE** covering Summit 2025!

GET INVOLVED

CBRC is hiring! We are looking for a **Senior Editor, Knowledge Mobilization** to serve as the editorial backbone for our knowledge products. For full details, please view [the job posting](#). The deadline to apply is May 3, 2026.



*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 · [Unsubscribe](#)

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