

# The CBRC update

Friend,

**In this month's newsletter:** Summit 2026 info sessions, an affirming guide to family building, a new nicotine harm reduction guide, and more.

## THE LATEST

1. We're now accepting presentation and session proposals for this year's **Summit conference** on 2S/LGBTQIA+ health research, programming, and advocacy in Canada. Interested in submitting a proposal? CBRC has prepared a [one-page guide](#) to answer some of the questions you might have (deadline to apply is May 31).

We're also hosting **Virtual Drop-In Info Sessions** specifically designed for those new to submitting. 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 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.

- **Virtual Drop-In Info Session (English)**  
Thursday, May 14, 3-4 p.m. ET / 12-1 p.m. PT  
[Register here](#)
- **Virtual Drop-In Info Session (French)**  
Thursday, May 20, 2-3 p.m. ET / 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. PT  
[Register here](#)



2. Building a family is not one-size-fits-all — and for 2S/LGBTQIA+ people, the process often comes with unique joys and challenges. Our [latest guide](#) is designed to help you reflect on your goals, understand your options, navigate barriers and connect with supportive providers, communities, and resources.
3. In November 2025, we collaborated with CATIE at our annual Summit to produce a series of [10 short Vox Pop interviews](#) on the theme *Convergence & Emergence*. These videos showcase the reflections of 2S/LGBTQIA+ health leaders working across Canada. Conference presenters speak about impactful initiatives taking place across the country to improve 2S/LGBTQIA+ wellbeing, as well as the urgent need to converge across sectors so that we may emerge stronger for our communities.
4. April 20-26 was **Lesbian Visibility Week**. To mark the occasion, we [highlighted data](#) from CBRC’s 2025 Sex Now survey about how lesbian and queer women in Canada navigate their sex lives. This included insights on the types of sex queer women and femmes were having, STI and Pap testing, HPV vaccination, and community connection.
5. On March 17, we hosted **Smoke Break: Practical Strategies to Improve the Health of 2S/LGBTQIA+ People Who Smoke**. During the webinar, we launched [Time for a Smoke Break?](#), a harm reduction-focused community guide for 2S/LGBTQIA+ people who smoke, vape, or use nicotine alongside other substances and are thinking about making changes. Check out the community guide and [watch the webinar on YouTube](#) if you weren’t able to join us live.

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## THE READ

PnP (for “party ’n play,” also called chemsex) is defined as the intentional use of psychoactive substances, such as methamphetamine, GHB or ketamine, in a sexual context. Because of the strong stigma surrounding the practice, people still too often experience this in silence, shame and isolation. The **Chemstory/Chemstories** research-action project developed by the Qollab team aims to address this issue. Through podcasting, the project shares people’s authentic stories with PnP, in English and French. Patrice St-Amour, a researcher on the project, [writes about](#) the development and rollout of the podcasts, as well as episode topics in their local contexts.

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## OUR COMMUNITY: Loïs Crémier

Loïs Crémier (they/them) is a semiologist who has always loved theory, political reflection, and the human and social sciences. From an early age, their curiosity pointed them in the direction of graduate studies, and semiology seemed entirely appropriate: “the most ‘head-in-the-clouds’ discipline you can imagine.” To maintain

their passion for theory, Loïs found a balance between research, activism, community leadership, and art-based approaches.

For Loïs, research is an essential component in supporting advocacy for the rights of 2S/LGBTQIA+ people. During their doctoral studies, Loïs took an interest in “projects enabling us to leverage our research capacity in the interests of advocacy and strategic intervention.”

To learn more about Loïs’s research and advocacy, [read the full profile](#).



Photo: Loïs Crémier

**“Our activism must make room for creativity and pleasure. It’s important to bring living forms of knowledge translation into play—after all, this is also how we show who we are as queer people.”**

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## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- The [fifth video](#) in our series with Script Health answering community-sourced questions features our Executive Director, Michael Kwag. He answers the question, **“Are men who have sex with men actually at higher risk for STIs, or is that just a stigma?”**
- In collaboration with the Zetna Collective for Black Advancement and Syriah Bailey, we published [Queering Black Prairie Futures](#). This report captures the **experiences and hopes of Black 2S/LGBTQIA+ individuals in Edmonton, Alberta**. In the [accompanying blog post](#), we dive into Zetna Collective founder Dawn Carter’s journey in establishing the organization and the significance of this report for folks in the Prairies.
- Last month, we [profiled](#) **Dr. Brittany Jakubiec**, Director of Research at Egale Canada.
- March 20th was **Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQIA+ Celebration and Awareness Day**—to mark this day, CBRC’s Two-Spirit Program team released

[a documentary](#) celebrating and documenting the ongoing resurgence of Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer identity happening across Turtle Island.

- In collaboration with CATIE, we developed a **new PrEP booklet** designed to support informed decision-making and start meaningful conversations. [Click here](#) to order free copies.

### CBRC in the Media:

- The census is asking Canadian residents about their sexual orientation for the first time this year. Jad Sinno, CBRC's Research Director, [spoke to Xtra Magazine](#) on what this means for 2S/LGBTQIA+ communities.

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## COMING UP

On May 22, Marie Geoffroy, Associate Director of Research at CBRC, will be presenting at Club Sexu's [Journée d'échanges intersectoriels pour un meilleur accès au dépistage des ITSS](#) (event in French). The event invites professionals from community and clinical settings providing access to STI testing and care, and will take place in Montreal.

**June is Indigenous History Month, with June 21 being National Indigenous People's Day in Canada.** Throughout the month, we'll showcase the exciting work of our Two-Spirit Program team, including film projects, a zine, and more.

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## 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 has been extended to May 10, 2026.

We are seeking **Community Advisors** for a study on improving HIV care for sexual and gender diverse im/migrants and refugees living with HIV. [Find full details here](#). If you have any questions, write to [sgd.immigrant@cbrc.net](mailto:sgd.immigrant@cbrc.net).

**Have you heard of our other newsletter, The Community Call?** Each month, we share meaningful ways you can take action and help build a better future for 2S/LGBTQIA+ people across Canada. Looking to spread word about a recruitment effort? [Get in touch!](#)



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



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