

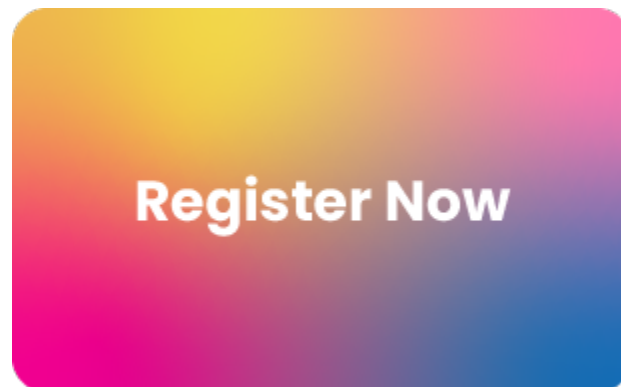
The CBRC update

friend,

In this month's newsletter: Summit 2026 early bird rates, Two-Spirit videos and a magazine, chlamydia care community reports, and more.

THE LATEST

1. **Early-bird registration is now open for [Summit 2026: Building Our Futures](#).** Join us in Toronto from October 29–November 1 for CBRC's annual Summit — Canada's leading knowledge exchange and capacity-building conference focused on 2S/LGBTQIA+ health research, programming, and advocacy. **Early-bird rates are available until September 12.** [Click here](#) to register and [here](#) for more info about Summit 2026.



2. Last summer, the Two-Spirit Program team at CBRC connected with Two-Spirit people across the country to understand their experiences with stigma, isolation, and resilience. Now, as part of Indigenous History Month, we are excited to share the release of two new community resources:
 - [Firepit Sharing Circle](#) is a 45-minute filmed dialogue with members from the Two-Spirit Program reflecting candidly on the themes and hopes that emerged from this project, speaking directly to the nuance of **stigma, isolation, and resilience of Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQIA+ people.**
 - The second resource, [Fires Light the Way](#) is a fifty-six page magazine that includes photos, original artwork, and reflections from the Program's summer on the road. The resources explore **Two-Spirit specific findings from Our Health 2022 and 2023**, as well as community perspectives on Two-Spirit experiences with a **focus on rural and remote communities.**

Both resources are part of the WAGE-funded Strengthening Community Leadership to Address Stigma, Isolation, and Resilience Among Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ Indigenous Peoples Across Canada project.

The Two-Spirit Team has also launched [Starting Home Fires](#), an **Indigenous-led HIV awareness campaign**, in collaboration with CATIE and CANFAR. Featuring stories inspired by Indigenous people living with HIV, Starting Home Fires offers lessons of supporting loved ones with HIV and provides information on common misconceptions about the virus, testing, and the importance of HIV medication, with humour and heart.

3. [We Deserve Chlamydia Care](#) was one of the first community-based studies in Canada to explore how disabled, IBPOC, and 2S/LBTQ+ women and gender-diverse communities experience access to chlamydia testing and care in Ontario. We are now excited to share findings from the study through three complementary community reports:
 - The [main report](#) presents findings from **all participant interviews**, highlighting experiences of accessing chlamydia testing and care across Ontario, along with key recommendations for improving services.
 - A [second report](#) presents methods and findings **specific to Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer participants**, centering culturally grounded and community-led approaches to sexual healthcare.
 - A [third report](#) highlights participants' **experiences of self-advocacy and shares community-informed strategies** for navigating care.

OUR COMMUNITY: Ella Dufault

Ella Dufault (she/he/they) is CBRC's new Two-Spirit Program Knowledge Translation Coordinator. She is a member of the Kaska Dena First Nation. Ella has also been a drag entertainer for over 15 years, and uses her platform to advocate for Two-Spirit folks.

Growing up in the '90s in the Yukon, Ella shares that "being queer or being a boy and presenting feminine was very shameful. You were told you couldn't present that way because it was 'weak.'" Later in life, at a friend's drag party, she decided to try drag. "I thought, 'I'm going to do this. I'm going to have a good time.'" I dressed up and had such an amazing time feeling free with my friends, being able to express gender, identity, and my femininity."

Around the same time Ella started doing drag in 2008, she also started reconnecting with her culture. "Learning what Two-Spirit meant, things in my life just started to click," she recalls. That's when anti-colonialism began to show up as a central theme in her drag performances. Now, she focuses on what she can bring back to community through drag.

Read Ella's full profile [here](#).



Photo: Ella Dufault

" For the longest time, research has been very extractive for Indigenous communities. As an artist, every time I go into a scene, I never want to feel like I am taking—I always want to add to the community. "

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- Last month, we released [What you want and how to get there](#), an affirming guide to fertility and family building in Canada.
- May 17 was the **International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia, and Transphobia**. We [shared some actions](#) that community members, allies, and healthcare providers can take to combat discrimination.
- While census collection was underway, [we shared our thoughts](#) regarding the significance of the **newly-added question on sexual orientation**.
- Our profile for May was researcher and semiologist [Lois Crémier](#), whose work incorporates queer, feminist, and trans language practices.
- For Lesbian Awareness Week at the end of April, we [highlighted data](#) from CBRC's 2025 Sex Now survey about **how lesbian and queer women in**

Canada navigate their sex lives.

- 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*.
- The **Chemstory/Chemstories research-action project** aims to address stigma and isolation related to PnP/chemsex through podcasting. For last month's featured blog post, researcher Patrice St-Amour [wrote about](#) developing this podcast project.

CBRC in the Media:

- The launch Starting Home Fires was covered in the [Winnipeg Sun](#) and [The Kenora Miner and News](#).
- Queering Black Prairie Futures, our collaborative report with the Zetna Collective, was [covered by CBC](#). The report focuses on the lives and experiences of Black 2S/LGBTQIA+ individuals in Edmonton.

COMING UP

On June 24, join us for a [webinar](#) sharing key findings from a two-year community-based project exploring **how 2S/LGBTQIA+ communities in the Fraser Health Region of British Columbia define and experience gender-based violence**.

GET INVOLVED

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, please write to 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](#).



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.