



Going the Distance

Community-Based Research Centre
2025–2026 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—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 of these lands that have been cared for by Indigenous peoples since time immemorial.

In 2016, CBRC endorsed the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 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 we 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 the delivery of our programs, as well as 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.

You can find more information on some of the actions taken this past year to support Two-Spirit and Indigenous queer and trans people on page 9.

Letter from the Executive Director and the Chair of the Board of Directors

To our communities, partners, and funders:

Over this past year, CBRC has really gone the distance. From conducting research and delivering programs across the country to expanding into new areas of health promotion, we have made significant strides in addressing the complex and diverse health needs of 2S/LGBTQIA+ people in Canada.

During the spring and summer months, CBRC staff hit the road, travelling across Canada to engage with Two-Spirit, queer, and trans community members about the issues impacting their health and wellbeing. Staff from our Two-Spirit Program visited Toronto, Lethbridge, Halifax, Whitehorse, and Yellowknife, conducting over 40 consultations to hear Indigenous perspectives on how stigma, isolation, and resilience are reflected in local realities. In addition, our Research team led over 25 data collection events across nearly every province and territory, recruiting over 6,700 2S/LGBTQIA+ participants for the [Our Bodies, Our Health](#) sexual and reproductive health survey.

In the fall, we continued our journey across Turtle Island, holding our annual knowledge exchange conference for the first time ever in Eastern Canada. [Summit 2025: Convergence & Emergence](#) took place in-person in Montreal, bringing together almost 600 researchers, educators, students, service providers, and advocates who work in Two-Spirit, queer, and trans health promotion to share insights, build connections, and mobilize knowledge and evidence. Holding Summit outside of Vancouver was a huge feat, but represented a major milestone for CBRC since adopting our national mandate in 2017.

Throughout the year, we began exploring many new areas of research and programming. In particular, we ventured into gender-based violence work through an [arts-based research project](#) and a new community health leadership program. We also launched an exciting national [tobacco and nicotine harm reduction program](#) for 2S/LGBTQIA+ people, along with a 5-year project in Vancouver to increase social inclusion among Two-Spirit, queer, and trans seniors.

Finally, to guide us as we continue to go the distance, we released [Strategy 2030](#). This new, 5-year strategic plan serves as our map forward in a time of uncertainty and change. Developed through feedback and consultation with community members, partners, staff, board members, and other valued collaborators who shape and sustain our work, Strategy 2030 will ensure that our work remains grounded in community voices and a shared vision as we continue to chart new territory in 2S/LGBTQIA+ health research and promotion.



Michael Kwag
Executive Director



Christopher Gallardo-Ganaban
Chair, Board of Directors

Major Milestones of 2025-2026



By Us, For Us: 25 Years of Community-Based Research in Action

To mark its 25th anniversary, CBRC created the short documentary “[By Us, For Us: 25 Years of Community-Based Research in Action](#),” which reflects on CBRC’s journey from a small grassroots initiative in 1999 to a leading national 2S/LGBTQIA+ health research organization in Canada. The documentary was first screened in November at the Summit 2025 conference in Montreal, and later distributed more widely in early 2026. *For more information, see page 12.*



The Community-Based Research Centre (CBRC) is launching a 3-year national project: **Building Community Responses to 2S/LGBTQIA+ Youth Dating Violence**. This initiative addresses the unique risks and barriers faced by 2S/LGBTQIA+ youth and aims to equip communities and professionals with the tools, knowledge, and strategies needed to prevent dating violence and create safer, more affirming environments.

We want organizations and professionals to help shape the path forward. We're recruiting members for a **Partner Advisory Committee (PAC)** to support knowledge mobilization, adapt resources, and amplify impact.

You're a great fit if you are:

- A professional, practitioner, or representative of an organization serving 2S/LGBTQIA+ youth and/or communities with work experience in gender based violence/dating violence prevention
- Located in Canada and able to communicate in English
- Passionate about equity, safety, and evidence-based solutions to youth dating violence

Why join the Partner Advisory Committee?

Joining the PAC will give you the opportunity to:

- Contribute expertise to guide and adapt tools and training resources
- Strengthen your organization's capacity to support 2S/LGBTQIA+ youth
- Support the dissemination of findings and resources to a broader professional audience
- Receive an honorarium for your time and engagement

Interested in joining the Partner Advisory Committee?
Apply by May 31st: http://cbrc.net/ydv_pac



Building Community Responses to 2S/LGBTQIA+ Youth Dating Violence

This year, CBRC launched the “Building Community Responses to 2S/LGBTQIA+ Youth Dating Violence” project. This project has harnessed collaboration within and outside of CBRC to address dating violence in the 2S/LGBTQIA+ community, a new area of work for CBRC. *For more information, see pages 13 and 15.*

Our Bodies, Our Health

[Our Bodies, Our Health](#)—CBRC’s first national sexual and reproductive health survey—hit the road during the summer of 2025 to collect data at Pride events and other Two-Spirit, queer, and trans community spaces across the country. There were more than 25 data collection events held from May to September 2025, with over 6,700 2S/LGBTQIA+ people responding to the survey. *For more information, see page 20.*



Strengthening Community Leadership to Address Stigma, Isolation, and Resilience Among Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ Indigenous Peoples Across Canada

This year marked the end of the “Strengthening Community Leadership to Address Stigma, Isolation, and Resilience Among Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ Indigenous Peoples Across Canada” project. Throughout this project, Two-Spirit Program staff have gone the distance in numerous ways, including conducting secondary data analysis and engaging with Indigenous people from across Canada to better understand experiences of stigma, isolation, and resilience among Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQIA+ people. *For more information, see page 10.*



Sex Now 2025: Come Together!

Sex Now is the largest and longest-running health survey for queer and trans people in Canada, and [Sex Now 2025](#) marked the first time ever that the survey was open to 2S/LGBTQIA+ people of all genders. *For more information, see page 19.*

Everyone's smoking goals are different.

Whether you're ready (or want) to quit, cut back, or just explore – Try Smoke Break. Your Way.



mysmokebreak.ca

Smoke Break

Venturing into another new area of work, [Smoke Break](#) is a free program that offers virtual, peer-led support to help 2S/LGBTQIA+ people (aged 18+) across Canada with quitting or reducing smoking using a harm reduction approach. First piloted in July 2025 with full-scale implementation following in October 2025, the Smoke Break program received 843 participants in its first year. *For more information, see page 14.*



Community-Based Research Centre **Strategy 2030**

Then. Now. Next.

CBRC's roadmap to sustain and enrich the work we do, 25+ years in the making.



Strategy 2030

Finalized this year, Strategy 2030 is CBRC's map forward in a time of uncertainty and change, but also a promise and opportunity for the 2S/LGBTQIA+ community. Grounded in community voices and a shared vision, this strategy was built on feedback and consultation with community members, partners, staff, board members, and other valued collaborators who shape and sustain our work. Click [here](#) for more information and to access the strategy.



Summit 2025: Convergence & Emergence

Our annual knowledge exchange conference was transported thousands of miles this year: [Summit 2025: Convergence & Emergence](#) took place in-person in Montreal from November 22-25, 2025, showcasing research, programs, and initiatives that underscore the importance of 2S/LGBTQIA+ people mobilizing together for their health and wellbeing. With almost 600 attendees, the Summit was a huge success. To learn more about the conference, check out the [Summit 2025 Report](#) and the [Summit 2025 Vox Pop video series](#).



Sustaining Impact: Increasing CBRC's Capacity to Support 2S/LGBTQIA+ Health Leadership and Mobilization in Canada

Funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada since 2023, this project has been geared towards strengthening CBRC's internal infrastructure in order to better respond to the health needs of 2S/LGBTQIA+ people in Canada. This year, a number of project deliverables were finalized including our new strategic plan, several major human resources management systems improvements, and a suite of skills development modules for people working in 2S/LGBTQIA+ community organizations. *For more information, see page 17.*



We Belong: 2S/LGBTQIA+ Senior-Led Responses to Build Social Inclusion

Going further into new areas of programming, CBRC launched the "We Belong: 2S/LGBTQIA+ Senior-Led Responses to Build Social Inclusion" project funded by Employment and Social Development Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program. Putting 2S/LGBTQIA+ seniors at the forefront, this project will continue to 2030. *For information on the first year of activities, see page 13.*

Two-Spirit Program

Program Highlights:

Hosted the fifth annual Two-Spirit Symposium to provide a space for Two-Spirit people to gather and exchange knowledge, stories, and teachings	→ 91 symposium participants → 88% of participants surveyed reported that the symposium increased their ability to respond to the health needs of Two-Spirit and Indigenous people
Collaborated with CATIE and CANFAR to develop and launch the Starting Home Fires campaign , an Indigenous knowledge mobilization project using videos and other resources designed to ignite conversations around HIV transmission, prevention, and treatment	→ 8 public service announcement videos available in English and French → 3 radio ads → Nationwide reach through this television, radio, and social media campaign, with additional targeted promotion in the provinces of Ontario and Manitoba → Increased HIV-related knowledge and decreased HIV stigma in Indigenous communities
With funding from CANFAR and the Canadian Institutes for Health Research, continued relationship-building and project planning activities to support local adaptations of the Medicine Bundle to meet the needs of up to 5 specific Indigenous communities across Canada	→ Formalized partnerships with 5 sites and submitted a research ethics application for the project → Laid the foundation for the development, delivery, and evaluation of 5 new Medicine Bundle programs
Co-facilitated an art show to share findings from an arts-based research project on gender-based violence	→ Approximately 140 art show attendees → Increased awareness of the unique experiences of gender-based violence among 2S/LGBTQIA+ people
Completed a scoping review and environmental scan for a research project conducted in partnership with McMaster University to address dementia and promote brain health among Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ Indigenous people	→ Increased understanding of existing knowledge and supports, as well as gaps and barriers, with regard to addressing dementia among Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ Indigenous people



Project Spotlight: Strengthening Community Leadership to Address Stigma, Isolation, and Resilience Among Two-Spirit and LGBTQQIA+ Indigenous Peoples Across Canada

This year marked the end of the “Strengthening Community Leadership to Address Stigma, Isolation, and Resilience Among Two-Spirit and LGBTQQIA+ Indigenous Peoples Across Canada” project. Throughout this project, Two-Spirit Program staff have gone the distance in numerous ways, including conducting secondary data analysis (in 2024-2025) of quantitative data from CBRC’s Our Health 2022 and 2023 surveys, to engaging with Indigenous people from across Canada, including in Toronto, Lethbridge, Halifax, Whitehorse, and Yellowknife, to understand Two-Spirit experiences of stigma, isolation, and resilience across the country. During these encounters, which took place in the summer of 2025, there were more than 40 consultations completed, and traditional medicine was exchanged as a sign of gratitude and reciprocity for those who chose to speak with the team. The Two-Spirit Program also compiled field notes from all of the events, coding the notes to identify emerging themes that represented the challenges, barriers, facilitators, and recommendations identified by members of the communities visited. Two community-facing resources were then developed, along with a detailed report for the project’s funder (Women and Gender Equality Canada), to translate results in accessible and engaging ways. One of the community-facing 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 and speaking directly to the nuanced experiences of stigma, isolation, and resilience among Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQQIA+ people. The second resource, [Fires Light the Way](#), is a magazine with photos and original artwork for those who prefer accessing information through print. Both resources complement the other, offering plain-language, in-depth reflection on the project outcomes in different formats. The resources developed from this project focus on barriers, challenges, facilitators, and recommendations to inform research, policy, and practice.

Through this project, the Two-Spirit Program has been able to deepen relationships with Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQQIA+ community leaders, members, organizations, and other stakeholders in rural, remote, and Northern communities, including increasing capacity with partners in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. It is the intention of everyone involved in the project that the resources and connections developed through the project will continue to inspire, encourage, and evoke the advocacy and change needed to improve mental health outcomes, lessen feelings of stigma and isolation, and encourage and strengthen community networks for Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQQIA+ people in Canada.

Communications

Program Highlights:

Improved CBRC’s email communications strategy, including sending more targeted email blasts and launching The Community Call for sharing engagement opportunities from CBRC and external partner organizations	→ 985 email subscribers	
	→ 42 email blasts	
	→ Increased visibility of CBRC’s initiatives, knowledge products, partners, and community	
Developed 3 knowledge mobilization campaigns—with partners including Script, CATIE, Canadian Blood Services, and Wisdom2Action—on sexual health , research , and blood donation	→ 15,824 views across 5 new knowledge products	
	→ Strengthened collaboration and innovative knowledge mobilization to reach new audience members	
Completed 25 media engagements	→ 16 news outlets sharing our work	→ Increased awareness of CBRC and our initiatives to advance the health of 2S/LGBTQIA+ people
Launched several health-related strategic communications campaigns, including one for the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia and one for Black History Month	→ 37,670 views across 7 new knowledge products	
	→ Increased advocacy and awareness of the needs of 2S/LGBTQIA+ people in general as well as specific subgroups of 2S/LGBTQIA+ people, including Black queer and trans people	
Enhanced The Update (CBRC’s newsletter), including new editorial approaches, such as publishing French-first content and more in-depth, perspective-driven The Read blogs and community profiles	→ 6,904 newsletter subscribers (6,346 English, 558 French)	
	→ Increased exposure for leaders in our community	
	→ Strengthened engagement with Francophone audiences	

Project Spotlight: By Us, For Us: 25 Years of Community-Based Research in Action

To mark its 25th anniversary, CBRC created a [short documentary](#) reflecting on its journey from a small grass-roots initiative in 1999 to a leading national 2S/LGBTQIA+ health research organization in Canada. Titled “By Us, For Us: 25 Years of Community-Based Research in Action,” the documentary includes interviews with founders, staff, board members, and program participants who explore the organization’s early response to the lack of HIV research and resources for gay men in BC (including the groundbreaking Sex Now study) and its evolution into a national organization promoting the health and wellness of people of diverse sexualities and genders. The documentary was first screened in November at the Summit 2025 conference in Montreal with almost 600 people in attendance. A second screening was held in February 2026 in Vancouver to initiate the broader dissemination of the documentary; 50 people attended this “family and friends” screening—including the organization’s very own founders, Rick Marchand and Terry Trussler. By the end of March 2026, the documentary had already received 552 views online.



Education, Knowledge Mobilization, and Policy Development

Program Highlights:

Developed a suite of resources to respond to rising syphilis infections among 2S/GBTQ+ people in Alberta:

- [Congenital Syphilis: A Guide for Sexual and Gender Diverse Communities](#)
- [Let's Be Clear, Syphilis is Here](#)
- [DoxyPEP Self-Advocacy Guide](#)
- [Online Module: Syphilis and 2S/GBTQ+ People](#)
- [Practice Update: Use of Lidocaine and Non-Pharmacological Strategies for Pain Management in Syphilis Treatment](#)
- [Report: Alberta Action Plan for Addressing Syphilis among 2S/GBTQ+ Populations](#)
- [Policy Brief: Syphilis Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment among 2S/GBTQ+ People in Alberta](#)

→ 7 targeted knowledge mobilization resources produced (for dissemination in 2026-2027)

→ Increased knowledge and capacity among healthcare providers and 2S/GBTQ+ community members to prevent and treat syphilis infections in Alberta

Collaborated with CATIE to deliver a [webinar](#) on "HPV and anal cancer screening for people living with HIV" as part of the "Confronting HPV-related Cancer Care Challenges for 2S/LGBTQIA+ People" project, which is leveraging champion networks of service providers and 2S/LGBTQIA+ communities to develop and disseminate knowledge mobilization products and activities on HPV-related cancer prevention, screening, treatment and support

→ 242 webinar participants

→ 98% of webinar participants surveyed reported increased knowledge of the webinar topic

Launched the "We Belong: 2S/LGBTQIA+ Senior-Led Responses to Build Social Inclusion" project, collaborating with 15 collective impact network partners and 20 community advisory committee members to adapt and deliver the first of three community health leadership programs aimed at increasing social inclusion among 2S/LGBTQIA+ seniors

→ 20 2S/LGBTQIA+ senior participants in the first community health leadership program (Queer, Wise, and Inquisitive Collective)

→ 92% of program participants said they met new people through the program and made meaningful connections with them

Launched the "Building Community Responses to 2S/LGBTQIA+ Youth Dating Violence" project, collaborating with Wisdom2Action, 12 partner advisory committee members, and 15 youth advisory committee members to design and deliver the Do You Mind?: Safer Dating for 2S/LGBTQIA+ Youth (DYM) program aimed at addressing dating violence in the 2S/LGBTQIA+ community

→ 64 DYM program participants aged 18-29

→ 100% of program participants surveyed reported learning more about youth dating violence during the program, and 95% indicated that they will use what they learned from the program by practicing behaviours that foster healthy relationships



Project Spotlight: Smoke Break

Launched this past year, [Smoke Break](#) is a new program that offers free, virtual, peer-led support to help 2S/LGBTQIA+ people (aged 18+) across Canada with quitting or reducing smoking using a harm reduction approach.

As 2S/LGBTQIA+ communities often face barriers to accessing culturally safe and informed support to quit or reduce smoking, programs by and for us are rare, making it hard to find trustworthy help. Smoke Break aims to change that. Funded by Health Canada, this national initiative aims to provide 2S/LGBTQIA+ people with the knowledge, skills, tools, and supports needed to stop or reduce smoking.

First piloted in July 2025 with full-scale implementation following in October 2025, the Smoke Break program received 843 participants in its first year. Of these participants, 711 have accessed brief intervention support (e.g., information and resource sharing), and 132 have accessed more in-depth support services, including one-on-one peer support sessions, group support, and mailed nicotine replacement therapy, Fum products, and/or care packages. Services are offered in English and French using a trauma-informed approach by Smoke Break peer support workers, all of whom are 2S/LGBTQIA+ people with experience smoking tobacco themselves.

Among those Smoke Break participants who have accessed more in-depth support services and who were surveyed, 100% reported that participating in the program increased their knowledge about quitting smoking/vaping or adopting harm reduction strategies, and 87% indicated that they have made progress towards achieving their harm reduction goals since they began accessing the program.

In addition to offering support services, staff have engaged in knowledge mobilization efforts to share smoking harm reduction information along with program learnings. To this end, a [microsite](#) and [guide](#) were created to support 2S/LGBTQIA+ people who are thinking about making changes to their tobacco/nicotine use, and a [video](#) was created in collaboration with Canada's Drag Race superstar Saltina Shaker to share information about the Smoke Break Program. In addition, a [webinar](#) was delivered to service providers to share program learnings from the first year of program delivery. Through these activities, we reached 48,176 community members and 187 service providers in 2025-2026.

Evaluation and Reporting

Program Highlights:

Completed evaluation planning and tool development for 9 CBRC-led projects	→ Evaluation strategies and tools that are tailored to projects’ specific needs while remaining aligned with evaluation standards at CBRC
Led formative research activities for the “Building Community Responses to 2S/LGBTQIA+ Youth Dating Violence” project, collaborating with Research team members to complete a literature review, environmental scan, and youth and partner advisory committee consultations, compiling findings from these activities into a comprehensive formative research summary to guide program development	→ Strong evidence base to support the development of the Do You Mind?: Safer Dating for 2S/LGBTQIA+ Youth program
Developed a new system and corresponding tools to facilitate organization-wide project monitoring	→ More centralized, complete, and consistent tracking of project information
Completed foundational work to expand the fee-for-service evaluation program, including drafting a consultant agreement and a webpage to showcase the Evaluation and Reporting team’s work on the new CBRC website	→ Better positioned to solicit more fee-for-service evaluation work in future years
Hired an Evaluation and Reporting Coordinator	→ Increased staffing capacity to support the Evaluation and Reporting team’s expanding portfolio



Project Spotlight: External Evaluation of Community-Based Contingency Management Programs

This year, the CBRC Evaluation and Reporting team worked towards wrapping up the second phase of a 4-year collaboration with Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) to evaluate community-based contingency management programs for people who use stimulants in British Columbia. This collaboration embedded a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework from the very start of project planning and implementation. Here's how the process unfolded:

Early and Collaborative Evaluation Planning:

Proactive Conversations: VCH, as the funder, engaged with CBRC and other community partners early during the first year (2024–2025) of the second phase of the project. Together, they defined core reporting indicators and agreed on culturally sensitive ways to track substance use and harm reduction outcomes.

Iterative Process: The evaluation tools were refined based on the first phase of the project (2022–2024) and as new insights from partners emerged during phase two (2024–2026). This ensured that the data collection methods remained effective and community-friendly.

Rich Data Collection for Advocacy and Improvement:

Quantitative & Qualitative Data: By collecting survey data on measurable outcomes (like changes in substance use) and as well as personal stories from one-on-one interviews completed in 2025–2026, the evaluation provided a comprehensive picture of the program's impact on the 110 participants surveyed and the 14 participants interviewed.

Beyond Numbers: Participants highlighted the importance of connecting with peers and the value of ongoing support—insights that went beyond the typical clinical metrics.

Long-Term Impact:

The strong M&E framework developed for this project served as a vital tool for accountability and advocacy. By generating robust evidence of success, CBRC helped provide VCH with the information they needed to inform ongoing and future investments in contingency management services.

This example illustrates that when M&E is integrated from the beginning—and tailored to the community's context with the help of skilled, community-based evaluators—it not only measures program success, but also becomes a powerful instrument for advocacy and sustained program improvement.

Operations

Program Highlights:

Finalized and released Strategy 2030, CBRC's new 5-year strategic plan

(Part of the "Sustaining Impact: Increasing CBRC's Capacity to Support 2S/LGBTQIA+ Health Leadership and Mobilization in Canada" project)

→ Concrete priorities to guide CBRC's work over the next 5 years with the goals of investing in our team and operations, strengthening our collaborative work, and improving storytelling about our work and impact

Finalized human resources management systems updates in 3 key areas:

- recruitment, selection, and onboarding
- compensation
- performance management

(Part of the "Sustaining Impact: Increasing CBRC's Capacity to Support 2S/LGBTQIA+ Health Leadership and Mobilization in Canada" project)

→ Enhanced tools and practices to support employee recruitment, retention, and development

Finalized 4 skills development modules for staff and volunteers working in 2S/LGBTQIA+ community organizations:

- Module 1: Introduction to Grant Writing
- Module 2: Foundations of Project Management
- Module 3: Neurodiversity in the Workplace
- Module 4: Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression In 2S/LGBTQIA+ Workplaces

(Part of the "Sustaining Impact: Increasing CBRC's Capacity to Support 2S/LGBTQIA+ Health Leadership and Mobilization in Canada" project)

→ New resources for strengthening the capacity of people working in 2S/LGBTQIA+ community organizations

Improved finance tools and systems, including introducing a per diem policy for travel expenses

→ Streamlined workflows for managing and processing the organization's financial information

Engaged in further efforts to address the increased cost of living faced by employees, including expanding our remote work assistance program and issuing corresponding T2200 slips

→ Strengthened remote work accommodations

Project Spotlight: Staff Engagement

This year, we developed several new mechanisms for increasing staff engagement at CBRC, including setting up a social committee (called the Community Connections Committee) and a workplace accommodations working group.

Struck at the end of 2025, the Community Connections Committee aims to mobilize staff leadership around new and recurring opportunities to build connections among members of the CBRC community (primarily staff). This year, 11 staff participated in the committee and worked towards developing several CBRC community-building initiatives, including a French discussion group, a book club, a coordinators social space, lunch-and-learns, and in-person regional socials. Through these initiatives, staff have helped reduce some of the isolation experienced in CBRC's remote-first work environment.

The workplace accommodations working group was started towards the end of 2025, bringing staff from across the organization together to support the development of workplace accommodations policies and practices at CBRC. There were 15 staff, including representatives from each department, who participated in the working group this year, with the first meetings focused on capacity-building through, for example, completion of mandated training as well as the delivery of a presentation on disability justice frameworks. With these foundations in place, the working group is well-positioned to begin working on a workplace accommodations policy in 2026–2027.



Research

Program Highlights:

Completed data collection for Sex Now 2025: Come Together! —the first-ever Sex Now survey open to 2S/LGBTQIA+ people of all genders	→ 2,072 survey responses → Creation of a new data set that offers a more comprehensive view of our community's health needs
Held a second production of the <i>In My Day</i> , a verbatim play by Rick Waines, at the Phoenix Theatre in Victoria, BC, in March 2026	→ 1,874 tickets sold → Further dissemination of findings from the HIV in My Day oral history project (on which the play is based)
Completed the first phase of the RISE (Reach Into Self Expression) project , a community- and arts-based research project that aims to understand gender-based violence (GBV) in 2S/LGBTQIA+ communities with a focus on improving access to support for 2S/LGBTQIA+ people who have experienced GBV	→ 28 research participants → Over 140 art exhibit attendees → Emergence of new research findings on GBV in 2S/LGBTQIA+ communities, with these findings disseminated creatively through an art exhibit in Vancouver in March 2026
Held the first-ever 2S/LBTQ+ Women and Gender-Diverse Communities Research Agenda Setting Gathering at Summit 2025	→ Over 40 attendees → Identification of emerging issues, priorities, and research questions for future community-based research to address 2S/LBTQ+ women and gender-diverse communities' concerns
Hired a new Research Director with the goal of having this role situated in-house and full-time at CBRC	→ Increased leadership support for CBRC's large and growing research portfolio

Project Spotlight: Our Bodies, Our Health

Our Bodies, Our Health—CBRC’s first national sexual and reproductive health survey—hit the road during the summer of 2025 to collect data at Pride events and other Two-Spirit, queer, and trans community spaces across the country. With the help of Investigaytors, Jeunes chercheur.e.s queers, and Knowledge 2eekersS participants from 6 collaborating sites (see below), we led over 25 data collection events from May to September in every province and territory, except Nunavut. And to provide greater accessibility, the survey was also available to complete online. Over 6,700 2S/LGBTQ+ people across Canada responded to the survey, and we are excited to continue national and local analyses and knowledge-sharing activities in 2026 and into 2027.

With this community survey, we aimed to better understand 2S/LGBTQIA+ community priorities for sexual and reproductive health care across Canada. As such, the survey explored different aspects of our communities’ sexual and reproductive health, such as gender-affirming care, sexual behaviour and health, sex and pleasure, family planning, abortion, cancer prevention, sexual violence, discrimination, and community health. The results of this survey will help us work towards addressing barriers and gaps in sexual and reproductive health. We know that accessing sexual and reproductive health care can be challenging for many of us, particularly for 2S/LGBTQIA+ people who are: Indigenous, Black, and People Of Colour (IBPOC); immigrants, newcomers, refugees, and people with precarious immigration status; disabled persons/people living with a disability; youth/young people; sex workers; people living in rural and remote areas; people who are on the asexual spectrum; and trans, non-binary, and other gender-expansive people. Barriers to accessing safe and appropriate care have also increased due to recent policies in some provinces.

The Our Bodies, Our Health survey was done in close collaboration with a large team of community and academics across Canada, including participants from Investigaytors, Jeunes chercheur.e.s queers, and Knowledge 2eekersS, which are community-based research capacity-building programs. These programs are run across the country by partners in Vancouver (Health Initiative for Men), Edmonton (Queer and Trans Health Collective), Winnipeg (Village Lab, University of Manitoba, Rusty Souleymanov), Toronto (CRUISELab, University of Toronto, David Brennan), Montreal (Qollab, Université de Montréal, Olivier Ferlatte), and Halifax (SHaG Lab, Dalhousie University, Matthew Numer). Investigaytors, Jeunes chercheur.e.s queers, and Knowledge 2eekersS participants were involved with the development of the survey, such as identifying community priorities in sexual and reproductive health. They also played a key role throughout in-person data collection last summer, leading multiple data collection sites. They are now leading their own analyses and knowledge mobilization activities.

CBRC will also analyze the data to better understand sexual and reproductive health gaps and needs among 2S/LGBTQIA+ people. We are looking to assess the sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing of 2S/LGBTQIA+ people in Canada based on community-led priorities, and mobilize these data to improve access to care, policies, and interventions for 2S/LGBTQIA+ communities. Preliminary findings on some of these topics were explored at Summit 2025 through a community workshop and a panel.



Thank You

CBRC continues to strengthen the health and wellbeing of 2S/LGBTQIA+ people because of the hard work and care of our staff, partners, and communities—thank you all!

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List of Funders

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- Canadian Blood Services (CBS)
- Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research (CANFAR)
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
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- First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)
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- McMaster University
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- University of Victoria (UVic)
- Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH)
- Vancouver Foundation
- ViiV Healthcare Canada
- Women and Gender Equality (WAGE)
- Wilfrid Laurier University

Financial Report

Our financial reporting information is available at cbrc.net/annual_and_financial_reports.

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