

The CBRC update

friend,

In this month's newsletter: Stop HIV funding cuts, a new podcast on Two-Spirit health, lesbian visibility in research, and more.

THE LATEST

1. **Canada's HIV funding is on the chopping block.** Though Canada has all the tools it needs to end the HIV epidemic, the federal government has failed to turn the tide. 2S/LGBTQIA+ communities and organizations have been behind some of the greatest successes in Canada's HIV response, and cutting community-based HIV funding puts decades of progress at risk.

Now, we are asking 2S/LGBTQIA+ communities, organizations, and allies to stand beside us by joining our campaign, [End the HIV Epidemic, Not HIV Funding](#). Here's how you can help:

- **Individual community members and allies:** [Send a letter to your MP](#)
- **Community-based organizations, businesses, and institutions:** [Sign our letter to federal ministers](#)
- Spread the word using our [social media toolkit](#).

The Government of Canada's choices over these next few months will be crucial. Your help can make the difference, strengthening Canada's HIV response and helping us end Canada's HIV epidemic.

Take Action Now

2. The Two-Spirit Program team at CBRC and Knowledge 2eekerS program participants are excited to announce ***A Journey to Knowing***, a special 5-part series of the Dénht'ā podcast, hosted by Ella Lamoureux. In this series, Ella speaks to Knowledge 2eekerS participants and Two-Spirit Program staff members about our communities' health and wellbeing. Sharing data from the *Our Bodies, Our Health* survey — in which hundreds of Two-Spirit, Indigenous, Métis, Inuit, and LGBTQIA+ folks responded — we talk about the study's findings and their implications for Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQIA+ health in Canada.

Listen to [A Journey to Knowing](#) now!

3. Are you a healthcare provider working with Two-Spirit, gay, bi, trans, and queer men? **Culturally-Safe Syphilis Care for gbMSM** is our latest **free online module** that guides health care providers in managing syphilis screening and treatment among these communities. [Sign up for the module today](#) via the Rockstar Learning Platform.
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THE READ

What does sexual and reproductive health currently look like for Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer (2S/LGBTQ+) women, femme, and gender-diverse communities in Canada? In our latest blog post, Marie Geoffroy (Associate Director of Research at CBRC) and her collaborators reflect on this question, drawing on insights from past CBRC studies and community-based research projects. Read ***Increasing visibility: Insights into the sexual and reproductive health of queer women from SN25*** [here](#).

OUR COMMUNITY: Spencer Belanger

Spencer Belanger (he/she/they) is the Prairies Regional Manager at CBRC. Currently, Spencer is traveling across Alberta to bring [our latest resources on syphilis](#) to local Pride celebrations.

“These resources provide folks with the tools, skills, and knowledge to identify potential symptoms, how to access treatment, and preventative measures, like taking doxycycline as a form of post-exposure prophylaxis,” Spencer explains. Apart from information, the resources also aim to offer readers a framework for self-advocacy. “Dealing with something like syphilis can be daunting. **When we empower people with information and tools to identify risks, they can take ownership of their health and peace of mind,**” they say.

To learn more about these resources addressing syphilis in Alberta as well as CBRC’s work in the Prairies, read [Spencer’s full profile](#).



Photo: Spencer Belanger

"What we've seen historically for a wide range of health issues that impact Two-Spirit, queer, and trans communities is that we ourselves are often the ones who have to mobilize. We have to gather and present information to health authorities and governments. We have to make a case for our own wellbeing."

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- At Summit 2025, we hosted an agenda-setting gathering on issues facing 2S/ LGBTQIA+ women and gender-diverse communities. [The report from that gathering](#), designed by Harmeet Rehal, was published last month.
- In June, we hosted a webinar sharing findings from a project on how 2S/ LGBTQIA+ people define and experience gender-based violence. The [webinar recording](#) is available online.
- In last month's newsletter, we profiled [Daniella Leacock](#), a Toronto-based

member of CBRC's Summit Planning Committee.

- Health Communications students at the University of Toronto created [this infographic](#) in collaboration with CBRC staff to mobilize Sex Now data focused on long-acting HIV treatment.
- Are you family planning and part of the 2S/LGBTIQA+ community? Our [affirming guide](#) to fertility and family building in Canada was created to support you through the process. If you found the resource helpful, or have suggestions for improvement, please consider leaving us [feedback](#).

CBRC in the Media:

- Our upcoming event at the Bill Reid Gallery, Let's Hear It For 2-Spirit, was covered by [Miss604](#).
- Along with other leaders in the sector, CBRC's executive director Michael Kwag spoke to the [Vancouver Sun](#) about rising HIV rates in Canada and our letter-writing campaign.
- Michael was also [on the radio](#) to talk about the campaign.
- Brook Biggin spoke to [Uncloseted Media](#) about stagnant HIV funding levels and our aims with the campaign.

GET INVOLVED

Smoke Break has added new slots! [Sign up today](#) to connect with a peer support worker around your smoking and vaping goals — whether that's quitting, cutting back, or just thinking it through. You can also receive free nicotine replacement therapy kits.

COMING UP

On August 8, join us at the Bill Reid Gallery for **Let's Hear It for 2-Spirit!** CBRC staff will be onsite with zines, educational materials, and resources about Two-Spirit identities. Full details [here](#).

On August 11, join us in Montreal at Librairie l'Euguélionne for the launch of **Ça te dit?**, a zine by and for queer youth on violence in dating and relationships. [Register for free](#).

In the next few weeks, CBRC will continue to bring our **latest syphilis resources to Alberta**. Find CBRC staff at **Edmonton Pride** (August 21 to 23, 2026) and **Calgary Pride** (August 21-September 6).



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