

Summit 2026

Building Our Futures



Program Guide

October 29-November 1, 2026
Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto, ON
www.cbrcsummit.net



Community-Based Research Centre

www.cbrc.net



Land Acknowledgement

Community-Based Research Centre acknowledges that as a national organization, our work spans across the unceded, ancestral, and traditional territories of Indigenous peoples on 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 these lands that have been cared for by Indigenous peoples since time immemorial.

For this year's Summit, we are meeting in Toronto. The name of the city comes from Tsi tkarón:to, which means "trees in the water" in Kanien'kéha (Mohawk). This land is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands. This land is also covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas, and Haudenosaunee that bound them to share the territory, protect the land, and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Subsequent Indigenous Nations and peoples, Europeans, and all newcomers have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship, and respect.

We will convene in Toronto this year at the Westin Harbour Castle, overlooking Lake Ontario — Kaniatarí:io in some Haudenosaunee languages, or Niigani-gichigami (Leading Sea) in Anishnaabemowin. CBRC recognizes and respects the traditional custodians of these lands and waters on which we gather. Long before the arrival of colonizers, this land has historically been a gathering place for many Indigenous peoples as well as an important place for commerce, trade, and diplomacy. As we reflect on this year's conference theme of Building Our Futures, we must also acknowledge, honour, and learn from the past, while keeping in mind that settler-colonialism is an ongoing process, not to be relegated to history.

Summit 2026: **Building Our Futures**

As queer, trans and Two-Spirit people, we've never had the privilege of complacency. 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, based on love and shared histories. We build support networks, founding groups, like CBRC, that now have decades long histories of action. We build solutions – conducting research and developing tools that help us lead happier and healthier lives.

We've done this time and time again. In the 1960s, we formed support and advocacy groups to build solidarity and resist discrimination. In the midst of inaction around HIV, we conducted our own research and stitched together our own systems of care. We developed and promoted sexual health interventions like PrEP, PEP and doxy-PEP alongside effective and long-acting HIV treatments. Today, our communities continue to advocate for better access to care and treatment on a variety of health issues impacting 2S/LGBTQIA+ people, including sexual, reproductive, and gender-affirming care, as well as mental health and substance use services and supports. Some organizations are developing improved health information systems, while others are building networks of care and community outside of urban centres – creating bridges between people in rural and remote areas. Two-Spirit leaders are recentring Indigenous ways of knowing, restoring and elevating traditions of healing and community with generations of impact.

Building can also mean re-building. The dismantling of outdated or oppressive systems to reshape them to work for us. Many of our organizations have had to reevaluate their role and mandate within broader 2S/LGBTQIA+ communities to respond to the needs of people beyond cis gay men. At the same time, decreased funding and increasing political uncertainty challenge the sustainability of this work. In this context, we are tasked with questioning long-held assumptions, rethinking our approaches, and adapting to the realities and pressures of the present.

Doing this work has come with much pain and loss, but it also means that we're incredibly adept at finding creative ways to show up for our community's needs – even when the resources available become more limited or precarious – and defining our own measures of success and even happiness outside the confines of mainstream society.

But just as something is built, it can be undone. In recent years there have been concerted efforts to defund research and organizations involved with queer, trans and Two-Spirit people, as well as introduce discriminatory policies that sow hate and division against the trans members of our community. Just as we develop new innovations, we must stay vigilant and find ways to protect the laws, programs, research and service work we've already put in place. This is especially true for the researchers, practitioners and community workers who gather at Summit annually.

By participating in Summit 2026, you are an essential part of those efforts. The projects and insights discussed at Summit are the latest in ways to help 2S/LGBTQIA+ people live happier, healthier and longer lives despite reactionary interests pushing back against equity, inclusion and our own liberation. Whether you are working from within systems to generate change or serving people at the margins of the mainstream, you are a necessary piece of that puzzle.

This is especially relevant in Summit 2026's host city of Toronto. As Canada's largest city and a major urban center, Toronto has been at the forefront of rallying for positive change for years. From decades-old protests of the bath house raids and low HIV/AIDS investment to today's movements around harm reduction and culturally-competent care, Toronto is a crucial gathering point and now – for the first time in the event's 20-plus year history – host of Summit.

Today, people are feeling the pressure. They are worried that we can't build better ways forward in the same ways we once could. While it is true there are difficult challenges ahead, we still have the most essential ingredient: each other. Summit 2026 is our chance to remind ourselves that better is possible – that we go further together, and that together, we will build our futures.

Letter from Conference Co-Chairs

Welcome to CBRC's Summit 2026: Building Our Futures!

As co-chairs of this year's conference, we are delighted to host you for a Summit which, in many ways, is larger than ever.

We've seen a record-breaking 250+ proposal submissions – innovative ideas from across the country on how to improve the health and wellbeing of queer, trans and Two-Spirit people. We're hosting the Summit in Toronto, Canada's most-populous city, for the first time, meaning it's never been easier for many of you to attend. And we've taken a programming approach that packs a diverse, overlapping set of sessions and activities allowing everyone to pursue their interests without extending the length of the daily schedule.

Yes, Summit is bigger than ever. But at the same time, it's the little moments that we are most eager for you to enjoy.

It's bumping into someone you haven't seen in years while in line for lunch, catching up on your lives and latest projects. It's meeting someone you've followed and admired while waiting for an elevator, finally getting to express your respect – and learning that it's mutual. It's learning about a new service or organization from people you randomly sat next to. It's sharing a hug, a laugh or a story with a group of new friends and old at a reception. No matter how big the Summit gets, it's these little moments that continue to make the event special and worth attending, year after year.

Summit has been an anchor for both of us since joining CBRC in the spring of 2023. Not just as a major CBRC initiative, but as a reminder of the relevance and impact of the work we do. This year, we've each endeavored to improve on an already milestone annual gathering in our own unique ways.

For Adam, it's been about ensuring that growing into a new venue, host city and size capacity isn't followed by a decrease in quality and that, instead, we rise to the moment: offering concurrent programming and welcoming new partners, meaning there is something to learn or someone to meet at any given moment.

For Marie, it's been working with the Summit Planning Committee and CBRC staff to select presentations that speak to today's challenges and opportunities, platform underheard voices and offer tangible, relevant insights. It's also been about continuing to integrate the French language so speakers of both official languages are engaged throughout the event.

As two people originally from Ontario – Adam from Unionville, and Marie from Plantagenet – we also are keen to reconnect with local groups and collaborators, sharing the energy, culture and creativity of metropolitan and rural Ontario with all Summit attendees.

Taken together, these efforts have produced a program we're immensely proud of. Our keynote speakers alone reflect the kind of dialogues we're motivated to create. Dr. OmiSoore H. Dryden brings a Black, feminist lens to what 2S/LGBTQIA+ liberation demands in healthcare, beyond representation and inclusion. Manon Massé has been an elected member of Quebec's provincial government for more than a decade and affords us a look at community-building within and outside of government halls. CBRC's own Jad Sinno reflects on what reparative and transformative research approaches can look like, and how we can confront oppression without reducing queer life to harm. These are in addition to our keynote panels on harm reduction and cancer equity, as well as dozens of breakaway sessions on a sweeping range of topics.

We'd like to thank the Summit Planning Committee for diligently assessing hundreds of proposals to find such exemplary presentations and posters, and our core CBRC staff Summit development team for tireless efforts – since the very beginning of 2026 – to make this year's Summit one to remember.

Our ask for you is simple: take advantage of everything Summit 2026 has to offer. It is not hyperbolic to say you will spend these days surrounded by brilliance and empathy – two powerful tools in our effort to improve the lives of queer, trans and Two-Spirit people. Do not let them pass you by. Find local relevance to national research. Share contact information with people in your neighbourhood and across the country. Take a deep breath, knowing you are surrounded by people who see you.

Let's build our futures together,

Adam Jalali
Co-Chair, Summit 2026
CBRC Director of Communications



Marie Geoffroy
Co-Chair, Summit 2026
CBRC Associate Director of Research



Summit 2026 Teams

Our teams and committees have worked collaboratively over the past several months to organize Summit 2026. CBRC would like to recognize the important contributions of our members and external partners who have helped to organize this year's event.

Summit 2026 Operations Team

Many members of the CBRC team have worked hard over the past several months to support the planning and delivery of this year's Summit:

Marie Geoffroy, Summit 2026 Co-Chair, Associate Director of Research
Adam Jalali, Summit 2026 Co-Chair, Director of Communications
Michael Kwag, Executive Director
Chris DiRaddo, Associate Director of Content & Editorial
Estelle Grenier-Robillard, French Content Editor
Fowzia Huda, Associate Director of Programs
RJ Jones, Two-Spirit Health Program Coordinator
Saadia Khan, Communications Coordinator
Deanna Lennox, Digital & Visual Communications Coordinator
Luke Pereira, Web & Events Manager
Kris Reppas, Two-Spirit Health Program Manager, Engagement & Reporting
Victor Rodrigues de Carvalho, Information & Records Management Specialist
Daniela Roman Torres, Operations Coordinator
Malek Yalaoui, Research Coordinator

Summit 2026 Programming Committee

The Summit Programming Committee provides guidance and advice on the planning, delivery, and evaluation of the Summit.

Ahrthyh Arumugam, community member
Alexandre Dumont Blais, RÉZO
Maxi Gaudette, PnP & Consent Project – Qollab
Delilah Kamuhanda, Saskatoon Sexual Health
KD King, University of Alberta
Daniella Leacock, Fred Victor
Evan Matchett-Wong, Health Initiative for Men (HIM)
Roberto Ortiz Núñez, University of Ottawa
Bre O'Handley, Egale Canada
Hanako Smith, 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub
Tatyanna Watts-Burke, Sherbourne Health Centre – Supporting Our Youth (SOY)
Racheal Wu, Sexuality Education Resource Centre

Accessing Summit 2026 Programming

There are several ways for participants to access conference programming this year.

Summit 2026 Web App

New this year, CBRC has created a web-based application that allows conference attendees to easily access the most up-to-date Summit programming from their smartphones, tablets, or laptops. By visiting cbrcsummit.app on your device's web browser, you can create a personalized daily schedule by highlighting the sessions you plan to attend. The application also provides maps to help attendees navigate the hotel, options to filter the program by presentation type and language, and links to read-only presentation documents in both English and French.

Summit 2026 Program Guide PDF

The Summit 2026 Program Guide PDF, which you are viewing now, brings together the full Summit programming in a format familiar to regular conference attendees. It includes helpful information about this year's conference, and includes keynote speaker bios, complete schedules, and presentation descriptions. To help reduce our environmental impact, the guide is provided as a PDF in English and French.

Summit 2026: Road Map

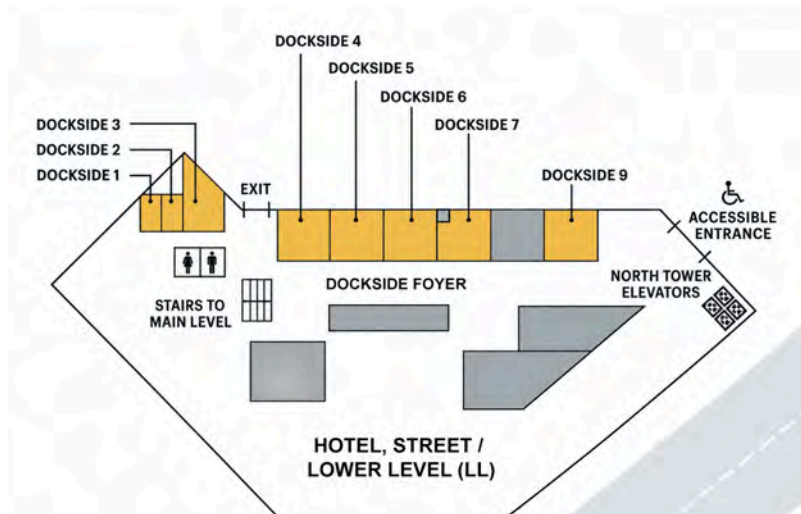
The Summit 2026 Road Map provides a convenient printed schedule-at-a-glance to help conferencegoers navigate the conference space and plan their days. The Road Map includes session titles, times, and room locations, along with maps and essential conference information.

Any conference information not included in these guides, including registration details, can be accessed directly on our [Summit 2026 webpage](#).

Your Conference Experience

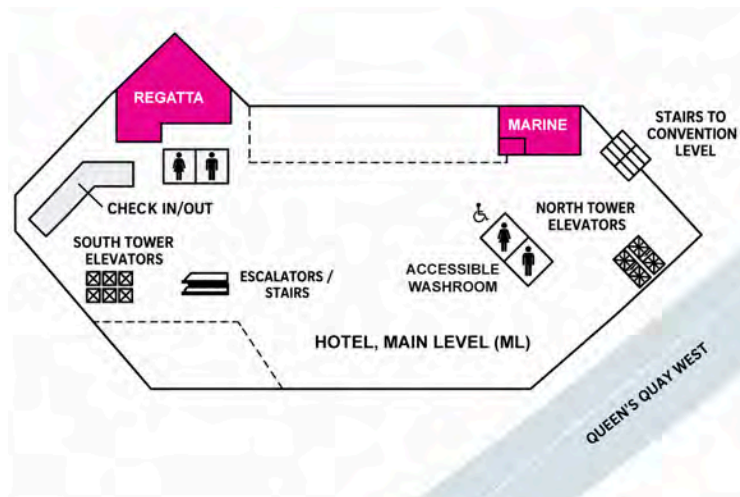
Hotel Maps

Summit 2026 takes place at the Westin Harbour Castle located at 1 Harbour Square in downtown Toronto. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the venue.



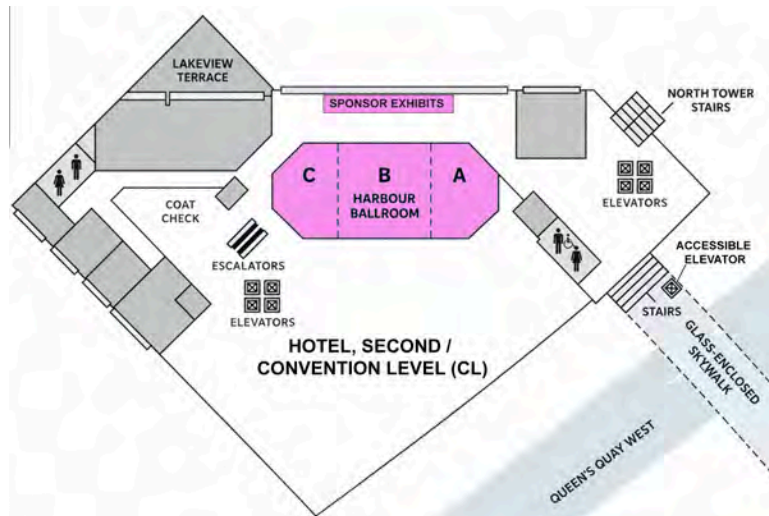
Hotel, Street / Lower Level (LL) Map Information

Dockside 1-7 and 9: Ancillary events, CBRC Board Retreat, and early registration (Thursday only)



Hotel, Main Level (ML) Map Information

Marine: Two-Spirit concurrent sessions (Friday and Saturday), CBRC Board Retreat (Sunday). Regatta: Community Hall (Saturday and Sunday), special exhibit (Saturday)



Hotel, Second / Convention Level (CL) Map Information

Harbour A: Concurrent sessions (with English/French interpretation)

Harbour B: Concurrent sessions, networking breakfasts and lunches

Harbour C: Concurrent sessions



Conference Centre, Street Level (CC)

Map Information

Frontenac Foyer: Registration

Frontenac Ballroom: Plenary sessions (with English/French interpretation)

Bay & Queens Quay: Poster presentations (Friday and Saturday), special exhibits (Sunday)

Wellington: Two-Spirit Lounge

Yonge: Staff room

Richmond: Media room

Registration

Registration to attend Summit 2026 is required. To register in advance, please visit cbrcsummit.net.

Attendees can pick up their registration packages and nametags at the registration desk during the following hours:

Thursday, October 29: 8:00 AM–4:00 PM (Dockside 7)
Thursday, October 29: 5:00 PM–8:00 PM (Frontenac Foyer)
Friday, October 30: 8:00 AM–4:00 PM (Frontenac Foyer)
Saturday, October 31: 8:00 AM–4:00 PM (Frontenac Foyer)
Sunday, November 1: 8:00 AM–12:00 PM (Frontenac Foyer)

Community Guidelines

Our shared commitment to queer and trans health is part of what brings us together at Summit each year. In response to feedback from participants, we have introduced community guidelines to help us build a safer, supportive, and inclusive space. These guidelines include our expectations for how we treat each other within this space. We ask that you please:

Respect personal experiences. In many cases, presenters, moderators, facilitators, and participants share their personal experiences as part of the Summit. We know these personal experiences are powerful in shaping our understanding of the world around us. The experiences, and the words that the person uses to describe them, are not up for debate or disagreement.

Follow guidelines from presenters, moderators, and facilitators. Summit welcomes many presenters and guests each year, and there are a variety of session types, each with different possibilities for participation. Throughout Summit, follow the specific guidelines for each presentation about confidentiality and participation.

Share the space. Many of us have lots to say about the topics we will be considering. During questions and conversations, our team will prioritize first-time attendees, those who have not yet spoken, and people who identify as a peer to the topic being discussed. We will do our best to ensure as many people as possible join the discussion.

Participate from a place of learning and with an open mind. We all have something to learn at the Summit, including things we can teach others. As a participant, you will play a key role in pushing discussions forward, asking questions, and building your capacity to enact change in your own local community

We will work with participants to ensure that all community guidelines are upheld and will follow up directly with those who do not respect them. If an attendee is unable to participate in the Summit in a way that creates a supportive environment for everyone, they will be removed. Should you have a concern about someone's behaviour, please let us know at summit@cbrc.net.

Racism, transphobia, biphobia, sexism, homophobia, ableism, antisemitism, classism, fatphobia, Islamophobia, and other forms of discrimination or hate speech, as well as intimidation and personal attacks, are not permitted. Our team will address any of these instances immediately and will remove any participant who behaves in this way.

Language of the Conference

Since 2017, CBRC has strived to make the conference more accessible for our Francophone participants, presenters, and stakeholders, as well as people who have other accessibility needs. While English remains the primary language used at the Summit, we are pleased to provide live simultaneous interpretation in English or French for all plenary sessions held in the Frontenac Ballroom, as well as all concurrent sessions held in Harbour A. Summit attendees can borrow simultaneous interpretation headset devices outside the aforementioned rooms. Attendees who borrow a device are kindly requested to return it to the technician at the simultaneous interpretation table at the end of the session.

Also, translated slides for presentations (in English and French) can be digitally accessed as read-only files at cbrc.net/summit2026slides.

Accessibility

CBRC is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible Summit to support participation for everyone. This commitment includes providing full and partial scholarships for the conference, enabling simultaneous interpretation for all plenary and select concurrent sessions, offering support to potential Summit 2026 proposal submission authors, and ensuring that conference proceedings and ancillary/social events are accessible for people with physical disabilities (e.g. wheelchair access, reserved front row seating).

Though we do our best to enable everyone's participation at Summit, we recognize that some needs may not be met through these measures. If you have other accessibility needs which may not have been addressed, please let us know when completing your registration.

If you have questions or comments, please contact summit@cbrc.net.

Mental Health Peer Support

Every year, Summit covers a range of topics, including many that may bring up harmful, traumatic, violent, or isolating experiences. These topics include racism, transphobia, anti-Black violence, sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts, criminalization of people living with HIV, suicide, addiction, sexualized violence, cissexism, and colonization.

We recognize that these kinds of presentations may be emotionally taxing and encourage all participants to reach out to the peer support and mental health professionals that have partnered with Summit to process any of the content, feelings, or experiences it brings up. We also encourage participants to choose whether or not to attend sessions based on their content.

Staff from CBRC and RÉZO will be present at Summit to offer low-barrier emotional and/or mental health peer support. Services are available in English (via CBRC peer support workers) and in French (via RÉZO counsellors). To access mental health peer support in English, please text 778-800-7894, and a CBRC staff member will connect you to a peer support worker. To access mental health support in French, please text 514-829-2256, and a RÉZO staff member will connect you to a peer support worker.

Please note that this support is available only during scheduled programming hours, and is not necessarily a formal, documented professional counselling service. It is intended to provide attendees with informal, timely counselling, active listening, or peer support in a safe and confidential setting.

For more information, contact summit@cbrc.net.

Session Room Protocols

Timing: CBRC will work to ensure that all sessions start and end on time. We ask presenters and participants to help us achieve that and keep the Summit on schedule, including any prerecorded presentations.

Scent-free/healthy environment policy: Summit is promoting a scent-free environment. Many people are extremely sensitive to perfumes, colognes, aftershaves, and other scented products. Please refrain from wearing them while attending Summit.

Photography and video recording: Photography and videography will occur at Summit 2026, and attendees may appear in materials shared through CBRC's channels. We recognize that some attendees may prefer not to appear in conference photographs or videos. Attendees who do not wish to be featured in official CBRC media may opt out by **visibly wearing a designated yellow lanyard**, available at the registration table. The yellow lanyard signals to photographers, videographers, and other attendees that the wearer does not wish to be captured in photos or videos. Guests wearing a yellow lanyard will be omitted from photos and videos, or blurred in post-production.

Harm Reduction

As some of our conference programming this year reflects, harm reduction is an essential part of queer life. We keep each other safe. Please visit the [Summit 2026 page](#) for the latest information to help orient yourself in Toronto in relation to safer drug use and overdose response.

Other Resources

For additional information on registration, travel and accommodations, refunds, and other event details, please visit the [Summit 2026 page](#) on our website.

Evaluation

CBRC's goal is to ensure that Summit is an enjoyable and educational conference experience for everyone. Throughout the conference, you can share feedback in-person using the Comments Box at the registration desk, or online using the [this link](#) or the following QR code:



After the conference, all participants will receive an email invitation to complete an evaluation survey on their Summit experience overall.

Conference Highlights

Plenary Speakers

This year's plenary sessions include 2S/LGBTQIA+ leaders working at the intersection of health, equity, and community. Combining professional and lived experience, they bring critical perspectives on public health, community-based solutions, and systems transformation.

Indigenous Opening and Welcome



Tanya Judge

Aniin Boozhoo! My name is Tanya Judge. My spirit name is First Evening Star. I am Turtle and Hummingbird Clan. I am Two-Spirit and my pronouns are she/her. I am Anishinaabeg from Wasauksing FN. I live in Bomanville and am a part of the communities in both Durham Region and Tkaronto. I carry teachings from many different nations and try to always walk a good path. I love to drum and to bring people together to share and heal. I look forward to meeting everyone and supporting this gathering in a good way. Chi-Miigwech!



Cris McDermott

Shé:kon! My name is Cris McDermott. My spirit name is Sky Hawk. I am Bear Clan. I am Two-Spirit and my pronouns are she/him. I am mixed Irish and Kanien'kehá:ka from the Six Nations of the Grand River. I live in Tkaronto. I am a queer, genderfluid person that is active in many communities in the GTA area. I carry teachings from many different nations, as many urban Indigenous do. I strive to live with a good mind and walk a path of sharing and connecting. I look forward to meeting everyone and for us all to learn from each other. Niá:wen'kowa!



Jaylene McRae

Jaylene Tyme (Jaylene McRae) is a celebrated Two-Spirit Indigenous sober trans woman, Vancouver drag legend, and *Canada's Drag Race Season 5* Miss Congeniality. In August 2026, she was crowned Queen Mother II of All Canada, using her platform to champion sobriety, community, advocacy, and empowerment. A Sixties Scoop survivor, Jaylene was raised by settlers and has ancestral roots in Treaty 4. She is registered with Zagime Anishinabek First Nation with maternal roots in Kawacatoose First Nation, and Métis Nation of Green Lake, Saskatchewan. Jaylene is the Community Engagement Lead with the Two-Spirit Program at the

Community-Based Research Centre (CBRC), where she works to make research more accessible, inclusive, and meaningful. For Jaylene, accessible research means creating space for people-especially those historically excluded-to have a voice, advocate for what they need, and help shape the knowledge and decisions that affect their lives. She believes in the power of community and in creating change through passion, integrity, positivity, and the celebration of identities that are beautifully diverse and wonderfully unique.



Sheila Nyman

Sheila Nyman is a Two-Spirit, mixed Syilx (Okanogan Salish) member of the Lower Similkameen Indian band. She has spent 13 years working with women, addictions, mental health, HIV/AIDS and well-being in and around Vancouver's DTES, and another five years providing emotional and cultural support to survivors of Indian residential schools. Along with completing an MSW, Sheila has been involved in numerous arts-based research projects, and her work now focuses on sharing her experience, wisdom and providing Indigenous guidance to various projects. Through her

training and initiations she has earned permission to share many traditional healing ceremonies



Wayne Seward

Wayne Seward is Coast Salish from Snuneymuxw Territory, Nanaimo, British Columbia, and is involved in Longhouse culture on the island, mainland, and the coast of Washington State. For more than twenty years, Wayne has been working as an Indigenous Liaison Officer and volunteering as a Cultural Support Worker for Indian Residential School Survivors, doing cedar brushing and washing tears.

Black 2SLGBTQI+ Liberation Is a Practice: Knowledge, Health, Power, and the Futures We Build



Dr. OmiSoore H. Dryden

Dr. OmiSoore H. Dryden is a Black queer femme scholar and Tier 1 Canada Research Chair (CIHR) in Black Health Studies at Dalhousie University, shaped by Toronto's Black and queer diasporic communities and activism. Grounded in Black queer feminist thought and critical race theory, her transdisciplinary research centres community knowledge co-creation, examining how blood donation policies, health governance, and data practices reproduce anti-Black (homophobic) racism. She founded Dalhousie's Black Studies Research Institute (STEMM) and co-leads the Black Health Education Collaborative. Her

award-winning book, *Got Blood to Give: Anti-Black Homophobia in Blood Donation*, received the 2025 George Borden Writing for Change Award.

“Are We All Seeing This? They’ll Never Get Us”



Manon Massé

Manon Massé has served as the Member of the National Assembly of Quebec (MNA) for Sainte-Marie–Saint-Jacques since 2014 and was co-spokesperson for Québec solidaire from 2017 to 2023. A long-time advocate for social justice, she serves as the Second Opposition Group Critic for issues affecting 2S/LGBTQIA+ communities, as well as relations with First Nations and Inuit communities.

She has become a leading voice on social justice, community issues, and human rights, notably contributing to the historic recognition of Montréal's Gay Village as a place of emancipation for 2S/LGBTQIA+ communities. Her career has been defined by leadership, advocacy, and a steadfast commitment to the values of inclusion, justice, solidarity, and reconciliation. She will conclude her term as an MNA in October 2026.

When Systems Fail, Communities Build: Queer Harm Reduction and Collective Care



Mskwaasin Agnew

Mskwaasin Agnew (she/her) is Dene and a member of Salt River First Nation. Mskwaasin is a harm reductionist with Toronto Indigenous Harm Reduction and works at a local overdose prevention site. She is an abolitionist which serves as a foundation for her labour as an organizer. Mskwaasin fights for a Free Palestine, Land Back, housing, and people who use drugs.

Steph Massey

Steph Massey (they/them) started volunteering in harm reduction a very long time ago at a 2-for-1 needle exchange in Victoria, B.C. Over the years, they've participated in community-based sexual health education, food security, and community organizing around food sovereignty, poverty, and harm reduction. For more than twenty years, they've done paid work around the interlocking issues of HIV, harm reduction, homelessness, substance use, sex work, and incarceration with a focus on queer and trans communities. Steph also has an interest in supporting employment for folks with lived experience and challenging the growing credentialism in harm reduction. Steph currently works at The 519 in Toronto as Manager, Peer and Community Programs. They are open to seeing your unsolicited dog pics.



Ahmed Muslimani

Ahmed Muslimani (they/them) is a community health worker whose practice is shaped by their experiences as a queer Lebanese immigrant and a person living with HIV. As Director of Community Programs at MAX Ottawa, they lead community-based health and wellness programming for 2S/LGBTQIA+ people in the National Capital Region, with a particular focus on harm reduction, HIV and sexual health, and peer-led approaches to care. Ahmed's work in harm reduction includes safer partying initiatives, nightlife outreach, and programming that responds to the realities of substance use within queer communities, including PnP/Chemsex. They also bring years of experience working alongside LGBTQ+ refugees and newcomers. Ahmed serves on the Board of Directors of the Ontario HIV Treatment Network and sits on the Prevention Subgroup of its Methamphetamine Think Tank.



Nanky Rai

Nanky Rai (she/they) is a migrant settler from India-occupied Kashmir who is formally trained in public health and family medicine. She is committed to providing anti-oppressive health care that is rooted in health justice, harm reduction, and abolition. They are a member of the Toronto Street Medics and was a volunteer with the Toronto Overdose Prevention Society which ran the first (unsanctioned) Overdose Prevention Site in Ontario.



Nick Boyce

Nick Boyce is a settler living on unceded and unsundered Algonquin Anishinaabe territory in Ottawa, Canada. As a person who uses drugs and independent consultant, he brings more than 25 years of experience in harm reduction and drug policy, spanning frontline practice, provincial and national leadership, research, parliamentary processes, and international diplomacy. From being a co-organizer of Toronto's Moss Park overdose prevention site to sitting on the Canadian delegation to the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Nick supports communities, governments, organizations, and researchers navigating complex drug policy challenges.

Building Cancer Equity for 2S/LGBTQ+ Communities



Dr. Amanda Bolderston

Dr. Amanda Bolderston (she/her) is a queer radiation therapist, educator and researcher who has worked nationally and internationally in oncology clinical, leadership and educational roles. Amanda is a Fellow, Life Member, and past President of the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists and Emeritus Editor-in-Chief of the Canadian Journal of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences. Her doctoral and post-doctoral research investigated the experiences of sexual and gender diverse oncology healthcare professionals and how their

interactions with similarly positioned patients may improve care.

Over the past decade, she has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications on affirming cancer care and contributed to the development of national and international guidelines advancing health equity. Amanda has also led the creation of interprofessional education initiatives across undergraduate, graduate, and continuing professional development programs focused on improving care for sexual and gender diverse patients. She is co-lead of the Canadian non-profit organization Queering Cancer (QC), Canada's national organization dedicated to supporting sexual and gender diverse people affected by cancer. Amanda lives and works in Nova Scotia, which is Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.



Lane Bonertz

Lane Bonertz (he/him) is Blackfoot and a proud member of Piikani Nation, using his lived experience to contribute to health research and resource development that centres Indigenous identities, cultures, and experiences. As the Associate Director of Two-Spirit Health at Community-Based Research Centre, he leads a number of initiatives around cultural revitalization and storytelling, ensuring that the stories of our ancestors exist for future generations. Lane has worked and volunteered in various roles in 2S/LGBTQIA+ advocacy, as well as HIV, HPV, and sexually transmitted and

blood borne infection treatment and prevention. He has been at the helm of a number of initiatives concerning HPV and related cancers in Indigenous communities, spurring conversation around vaccination and cancer screening. Growing up in rural Alberta, Lane's approach to advocacy is influenced by his background in ranching, agriculture, and smalltown life. Lane is currently based in Montréal / Tiohtià:ke.



Dr. Jean-Marc Bourque

Dr. Jean-Marc Bourque (he/him) is a radiation oncologist and clinician-scientist at the CHUM in Montréal, where he is an Associate Professor. His research focuses on breast cancer, clinical trials, health equity, and improving cancer outcomes across populations and health systems. He is the founder of OncoDiversité, a non-profit advancing equity in cancer care and research for 2S/LGBTQIA+ communities, and Immediate Past

President of the Canadian Global Oncology Network. He is a Commissioner on the Lancet Commission on Omics and Health Equity, Co-Chair of the Spectrum Working Group of the Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network, and Co-Principal Investigator of an EORTC Quality of Life Group project on culturally sensitive quality-of-life measurement. He has extensive experience working in low- and middle-income countries, including through the International Atomic Energy Agency, a United Nations agency, bringing a global health and health-systems perspective to his work.



Thanh Nguyen

Thanh, pronounced "tun" like the sun, (she/they), is an amateur zookeeper (with two cats and a dog), an avid foodie, and a lover of sharks. There's not much difference between their moon sign and their thyroid: both cancer, by the way. Since March 2025, they have had no evidence of disease! Now, they advocate for adolescent and young adult cancer patients, supporters, and survivors, especially those who are 2S/LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC. Additionally, they must acknowledge Queering Cancer for providing them with a platform and for being an exceptional

organization to be a part of.



Michael Kwag

Michael Kwag is the Executive Director of Community-Based Research Centre, where he has held senior leadership roles since 2017. He has over 20 years of community-based research and health promotion experience in HIV and sexually transmitted and blood borne infections (STBBI) prevention and in a variety of 2S/LGBTQIA+ health promotion areas, including mental health, substance use, blood donation policy, and conversion practices. He is an applied researcher dedicated to improving 2S/LGBTQIA+ participation in knowledge mobilization, health promotion, and

systems improvement, and has extensive experience working collaboratively with academia, public health, community, civil society, and government leaders.

The Worlds We Have Yet to Make: Critical Hope, Reparative Research, and Queer Futures



Jad Sinno

Jad Sinno, PhD, is the Director of Research at Community-Based Research Centre and an Assistant Professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. They are a queer, non-binary, and Shami Arab bringing over a decade of community organizing and lived experience to their research. Jad is a social epidemiologist and critical mixed methodologist with research interests including the social and cultural determinants of health for multiply marginalized queer populations, including mental and sexual health care and human-computer interactions.

Ancillary Events (Thursday and Sunday)

In addition to core programming, Summit 2026 will feature ancillary events, meetings, and consultations hosted by partner organizations. Open to all participants, these will take place throughout the day Thursday and Sunday afternoon, and require separate registration.

For more information on ancillary events, including how to register, please visit:
https://www.cbrc.net/summit_2026_ancillary.

Thursday, October 29

2S/LGBTQ+ Health Hub Trainee Showcase

9:00 AM–4:30 PM | Dockside 2

[Click here to register](#)

Black Queer Symposium

9:00 AM–5:00 PM | Dockside 3

[Click here to register](#)

Come Together: Enhancing Our Collective Capacity to Address HIV and STBBIs Among GBT2Q Communities / GMSH Meeting

12:00–4:00 PM | Dockside 1

[Click here to register](#)

2S/LGBTQIA+ Sexual and Reproductive Justice Forum

1:00–5:00 PM | Dockside 6 and 9

[Click here to register](#)

Sunday, November 1

Community Brain Health and Homelessness Symposium

1:00–5:00 PM | Harbour A

[Click here to register](#)

[Click here for up-to-date information on all ancillary events.](#)

Community Hall in Regatta

On Saturday and Sunday, connect with community organizations in **Regatta** and discover programs, services, resources, and opportunities available to our communities. Visit information tables, network with organization representatives, ask questions, and make valuable connections. Organizations that will be present include:

- Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention
- Black Queer Canada
- CAAN Communities, Alliances & Networks
- CATIE

- Community-Based Research Centre
- Egale Canada
- Engage Toronto
- Fierté Canada Pride
- Friends of Ruby
- Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance (GMSH)
- Investigaytors
 - CRUISElab (University of Toronto)
 - Health Initiative for Men
 - SHaG Lab (Dalhousie University)
 - Queer and Trans Health Collective
 - Village Lab (University of Manitoba)
- Knowledge ZeekerS (CBRC)
- LetsStopAIDS
- Open Digital Literacy and Access Network
- PFLAG Canada
- RÉZO

Special Saturday program – Special Exhibit (2:15 PM to 6 PM):

2S/LGBTQIA+ Sexual and Reproductive Health Data Fair: Community Engagement with Key Findings from Investigaytors, Knowledge ZeekerS, and “Our Bodies, Our Health” with Eric J. Van Giessen, Bryan Quinones, David J. Brennan, Mikayla Hunter, Jeremy Webster, Rafael Braga, JP Armstrong, Sammy Lowe, and Dylan Wall

Posters and Special Exhibits in Queens Quay and Bay

Throughout **Friday and Saturday**, explore more than **80 poster presentations** in **Queens Quay and Bay** offering a visual, interactive way for researchers, community organizations, and healthcare practitioners to share projects, findings, programs, and ideas. Special poster viewing times on Friday and Saturday from 4 PM to 4:45 PM. Check the list of poster presentations in this guide for more information.

On **Sunday**, the room becomes home to the following **special exhibits and alternative formats**. You can visit the following anytime from **10 AM to 2 PM**:

Middle Eastern and North African Trans Photovoice Art Exhibition: Building Our Futures Through Care, Creativity and Solidarity with Roula Kteily-Hawa, Yousef Alhammedi, Cléo Chiata, Khalil Rantissi

Imagining Community-Led Care with 2S/LGBTQIA+ Survivors of Gender-Based Violence with Mattie Walker, Jaylene McRae, Katie O'Brien

Migrant LGBTQIA+ College/University Students' Sense of Belonging and Well-Being: A Photovoice Exhibition with Christina Arayata, Ayse Irem Karabag, Inés Ait Abdelmalek, Orçun Turan, Zedric Jimenez, Edward Ou Jin Lee, Nigel Mantou Lou, Nancy Clark, Roya Haghiri-Vijeh

Out/Side with Perry Rath

Networking Lunches

We are happy to be able to offer specific networking spaces during breakfast and lunch hours at Summit 2026. These are our space offerings this year:

Friday, October 30

Let's Do Breakfast! Atlantic Canada Networking Event

8:00–9:00 AM | Harbour B

Making Space: A Networking Lunch for 2S/LBTQ+ Women and Gender-Diverse People

12:00–1:00 PM | Harbour B

Saturday, October 31

IBPOC Networking Breakfast

8:00–9:00 AM | Harbour B

Two-Spirit, Trans, & Gender Diverse Networking Lunch

12:00–1:00 PM | Harbour B

If you are part of these communities, join us in these spaces to connect with other Summit attendees over morning coffee or an afternoon meal. Find more information on each of these networking opportunities below in the “Complete Schedule.”

Complete Schedule

Thursday, October 29

Opening Ceremony

OPENING PLENARY

Indigenous Opening and Welcome / Opening Reception

6:30–9:00 PM | Frontenac Ballroom |

Tanya Judge (Anishinaabeg, Wasauksing); **Cris McDermott** (Kanien'kehá:ka, Six Nations of the Grand River); **Jaylene McRae** (Métis, Zagimē Anishinabek First Nation, Kawacatoose First Nation, Green Lake, Saskatchewan); **Sheila Nyman** (Sylx, Lower Similkameen); **Wayne Seward** (Snuneymuxw First Nation, Nanaimo) | *In English, with French interpretation*

Summit 2026 will begin with an Indigenous Opening and Welcome, guided by the Indigenous protocols of the lands on which we will gather and learn. We will be welcomed by local Knowledge Keeper Tanya Judge and Knowledge Keeper Assistant Cris McDermott, along with Elders Sheila Nyman and Wayne Seward, longtime collaborators who have guided us through several Summits. They will be joined by Jaylene McRae, Two-Spirit Research Coordinator at CBRC.

A cocktail and networking reception will follow.

Friday, October 30

Let's Do Breakfast! Atlantic Canada Networking Event

8:00–9:00 AM | Harbour B

Start the first day of Summit by joining others from Atlantic Canada for a free networking breakfast. This is your chance to connect with others, share resources, and check in with partners you don't get to see in person very often. Open to all Summit attendees who work in 2S/LGBTQIA+ health and are based in Atlantic Canada.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Black 2SLGBTQI+ Liberation Is a Practice: Knowledge, Health, Power, and the Futures We Build

9:00–10:15 AM | Frontenac Ballroom | Dr. OmiSoore H. Dryden (Dalhousie University) | *In English, with French interpretation*

Black 2SLGBTQI+ communities have always created the knowledge, care, political strategies, and relationships needed to sustain our lives and imagine more liberatory futures. The plenary considers what Black 2SLGBTQI+ liberation demands beyond representation and inclusion. Moving between research, community praxis, and institution-building, it confronts the limits of mainstream LGBTQ+ politics and considers what it means to build structures accountable to Black 2SLGBTQI+ people. It asks how health systems, health education, research agendas, and funding priorities might be transformed when Black queer/trans knowledge is treated as foundational rather than peripheral. It also examines who decides which questions are asked, which communities are resourced, and which forms of evidence are valued. Grounded in Black queer/trans thought and experience, the plenary draws a distinction between gaining access to existing systems and creating the conditions for Black 2SLGBTQI+ people to live, lead, and thrive on our own terms, without reproducing the structures we oppose.

CONCURRENT SESSION A

A1. SHORT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Understanding Community Needs in Mental Health, Chronic Health and Cancer

10:45 AM–12:00 PM | Harbour A | *Presentations in English, with French interpretation*

SHAPE+: Understanding Chronic Pain in 2S/LGBTQIA+ Communities Through Citizen Science

Codie Primeau (Western University)

Human Papillomavirus & Anal Cancer Screening in People Living with HIV

Devan Nambiar (Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance)

Building Inclusive Gynecologic Cancer Care with Trans and Gender Diverse Communities

Kim Meeking (Queering Cancer)

From Crisis to Continuity: Building Affirming Futures in Acute Mental Health Care With and For Transgender and Gender Diverse People

June Sing Hong Lam (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health)

A2. SHORT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Advancing PrEP and PEP in Our Communities

10:45 AM–12:00 PM | Harbour B | Presentations in English

Long-Acting Injectable PrEP Values and Preferences: Systematic Review Evidence to Guide Canadian HIV PrEP and PEP Guidelines

Meredith Ryce, Monica Rudd, Darrell Tan (St. Michael's Hospital)

Knowledge and Preference for Long-Acting PrEP Across 2S/LGBTQIA+ Communities: Findings from Sex Now 2025

Monica Rudd (St. Michael's Hospital), **Ben Klassen** (Community-Based Research Centre)

Planning for Long-Acting Antiretrovirals as HIV Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PLAN-PEP)

Yaa Duopah (St. Michael's Hospital)

Supportive Friction: Sustaining Emotional Momentum in PrEP Retention

Christina Politis (Freddie)

A3. WORKSHOP

Capacity, Communication, Connection: Patient-Centered Sexual Reproductive Healthcare and Gender Affirming Care (SRGA)

10:45 AM–12:00 PM | Harbour C | Anna Balagtas (Pocket Doula), **Laine Halpern Zisman** (Birth Mark), **Gabrielle Griffith** (Ontario Black Doula Society) | *In English*

This workshop focuses on strengthening patient-centered care for 2S/LGBTQI+ people within sexual and reproductive healthcare and gender-affirming care (SRGA) settings. The session aims to enhance providers' capacity, i.e., anyone involved in SRGA care, whether in a clinical, administrative, navigational, or support role, to deliver inclusive, affirming, and SRGA-specific care that improves access to care and supports positive health outcomes. Attendees will deepen their understanding of the unique barriers and inequities that 2S/LGBTQI+ individuals may encounter when seeking care. A strong emphasis is placed on culturally safer, respectful, and affirming interactions, particularly communication strategies that foster trust, collaboration, and shared decision-making. By the end of the workshop, attendees will develop practical skills

for engaging patients in conversations about their sexual and reproductive health and gender-affirming care goals in ways that recognize and respect diverse identities, experiences, and needs. Overall, this session equips providers, from frontline clinicians to those who provide support indirectly, with the knowledge and tools to integrate affirming, patient-centered practices into SRGA care settings, thus creating healthcare environments that are welcoming and responsive to the needs of 2S/LGBTQI+ patients as they work toward their individual health goals and outcomes.

A4. SHORT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Laying Pathways for Im/migrant and Newcomer Health

10:45 AM–12:00 PM | Frontenac Ballroom | *Presentations in English and French, with interpretation to the other language*

Enhancing HIV Care and Support for Sexual and Gender Diverse Im/migrants and Refugees Living with HIV Across Canada: Findings from Qualitative Interviews with Community Members and Service Providers

Ryosuke Takamatsu (Community-Based Research Centre), **Sertach Ataman**

Building Trust Before Services: Supporting Newcomer 2SLGBTQIA+ Communities Through Systems Navigation

Furqan Waleed, Syed Mustafa Jamal (Community Alliance for Accessible Treatment)

“I Actually Love That I’m Trans”: Arts-Based Insights into Kinship, Belonging, and Joy Among Newcomer LGBTQIA+ Youth

Thomas Tri (York University)

Beyond Integration: Cultural Navigation, Sense of Belonging, and Collective Well-Being Among LGBTQIA+ Migrants and Refugees

Andrés Quirós (AGIR Montréal)

A5. CURATED PANEL

Rekindling Our Fires: Honouring and Working with Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Our Communities

10:45 AM–12:00 PM | Marine Room | *In English*

Decolonizing HIV & STBBI Education in Northern BC: Centering Indigenous Knowledge and Lived Experience in Community Practice | Jufil Boquecosa, Julie Sam (Positive Living North)

Health education in Northern British Columbia demands an understanding of unique geographic, social, and colonial realities. Moving beyond Western-centric "risk" models,

this interactive 90-minute workshop showcases Positive Living North's (PLN) "Curriculum of Care," developed through years of community-based practice across Prince George, Fort St. John, and Smithers. Participants will explore how PLN integrates the lived experiences of Indigenous 2S/LGBTQIA+ peers and community health educators into professional health promotion. By centering "relationality"—the understanding that health is inextricably tied to land, culture, family, and history—this session demonstrates how Indigenous-led pedagogy and peer-driven leadership can dismantle barriers to care and foster community-led systemic change.

Resurgence, Queering, and Reclaiming Ceremony: Implementing Indigenous Methodologies for Two-Spirit Health Futures | Dr. Percy Lezard (Wilfrid Laurier University), **Min Kaur** (Toronto Metropolitan University)

This presentation outlines the methodological design, implementation, and preliminary findings of Resurgence, Queering, and Reclaiming Ceremony, a community-engaged research project examining how Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer peoples reclaim, adapt, and mobilize ceremony as a culturally grounded determinant of health, governance practice, and site of resurgence. Grounded in Indigenous methodologies, community-based participatory research (CBPR), and an Indigenous-informed SGBA+ framework, the project centres relational accountability, Indigenous data sovereignty, and OCAP® principles across all stages of research design, implementation, analysis, and knowledge mobilization. The study employs a multi-modal qualitative design including sharing circles, land-based gatherings, semi-structured interviews, and arts-based visual mapping methods.

Preliminary findings suggest ceremonial resurgence functions as a protective factor for Two-Spirit wellbeing, fostering belonging, cultural continuity, kinship, intergenerational knowledge transmission, and collective resilience. Participants describe queering ceremony as restoration—reclaiming roles, responsibilities, and relational systems disrupted through colonialism, heteropatriarchy, and gender-based violence.

Making Space: A Networking Lunch for 2S/LBTQ+ Women and Gender-Diverse People

12:00–1:00 PM | Harbour B

This is a networking space for Two-Spirit, lesbian, bisexual, trans, and queer women, and non-binary and gender-diverse people attending the CBRC Summit. Join us for lunch, conversation, and connection with others working in and around 2S/LBTQ+ research and community organizing. We will engage in short reflections from guest speakers followed by table conversations on community priorities, moments of pride and challenges in the work, etc. An optional QR-code internal directory will let attendees share their contact info and areas of interest with others in the room, for anyone who would like to stay in touch afterward. Separate registration is not required.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

“Are We All Seeing This? They’ll Never Get Us”

1:00–2:15 PM | Frontenac Ballroom | Manon Massé (Outgoing Member of the National Assembly of Quebec) | *In French, with English interpretation*

Leaders and decision-makers seem to forget that we're not just queer and trans people — we're also citizens, and every day of our lives, we experience the consequences of their political and economic decisions. Marginalization isn't something that happens by chance. It is constructed and maintained. All too often, our communities' health is directly tied to political decisions. These decisions have negative impacts on a fundamental aspect of our lives: determinants of health. How can we enjoy good health if the odds are stacked against us? If there's no support from our public services? If political leaders are openly targeting us?

As members of 2S/LGBTQIA+ communities, we are all too aware that the right wing is gaining ground on a daily basis, crushing everything in its path. Nothing is spared. There is no victory we have won in recent years that cannot be rolled back or reversed. Our response to this threat must involve building alliances of resistance where each individual has a role to play in Building our Futures. There must be space to value the knowledge and skills that each person has to contribute. For us to succeed, we must share how we understand the situation, nurture a common desire for social justice for all, and we must want to work together to build a healthy future for all members of our communities.

Not only can we take action — we must.

CONCURRENT SESSION B

B1. SHORT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Strengthening Healthcare & Capacities

2:45–4:00 PM | Harbour A | *Presentations in English and French, with interpretation to the other language*

Helping Hands: Two Lay Health Interventions to Improve Outcomes for Patients Receiving Gender-Affirming Surgery Out-of-Province

Rónán Martel (Memorial University)

Innovative Methods of Teaching Nursing Students to Provide Inclusive Care for 2S/LGBTQIA+ Communities – Globally Networked Learning and Virtual Simulation

Samantha Colafella (Hospital for Sick Children), **Roya Haghiri-Vijeh** (York University)

Professional and Legal Perspectives on Trans Health in Quebec: Findings from TransEstrée's ACQUIS Project

Charlie Lapierre-Léonard and **Sam Vaillancourt** (TransEstrée)

“He Kept Giving Me Misinformation”: Exploring the Contexts and Consequences of Clinician-Provided Health Misinformation of Two-Spirit, Transgender, and Gender-Expansive Healthcare Experiences

Rits Mulder

B2. SHORT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Fostering Resilience Amid Rising Hate & Discrimination

2:45–4:00 PM | Harbour B | *Presentations in English*

Challenging Anti-Trans Legislation in Alberta: Findings from a Mixed-Methods Longitudinal Project with Parents of Trans and Gender Diverse Youth

Corinne Mason and Leah Hamilton (Mount Royal University)

Supports in Transition: How Alberta's Non-Profits Fill Gaps for Trans Youth

Jonah Elke (PolicyWise for Children & Families)

"There's Always an Extra Layer of Awareness": Trans Albertans' Experiences of Sport in the Wake of Bill 29

Kayde DePestel and Celeste Pang (Mount Royal University)

"I Need the Hate to Stop So That I Can Live Again": Findings From a Mixed-Methods Study of 2SLGBTQI People's Experiences of Hate and Violence

Andrea Sterling and Bre O'Handley (Egale Canada)

B3. PANEL

Smoke Break: Harm Reduction Through 2S/LGBTQIA+ Peer Power in Action

2:45–4:00 PM | Harbour C | Julia Falco, Ionnes Ieloup, Carlisle Kfoury and Kate Fish

(Smoke Break program, Community-Based Research Centre) | *In English*

Research shows that 2S/LGBTQIA+ people smoke more, not because of who we are, but what we face. Smoking and vaping rates are disproportionately high in 2S/LGBTQIA+ communities due to stress, discrimination, trauma, and barriers to affirming health care. Traditional smoking cessation approaches often overlook these realities, reinforcing shame and limiting access to meaningful support.

This session will kick off with an overview of CBRC's Smoke Break program, followed by a panel discussion with the Smoke Break Peer Support team, and Q&A. In this session, you will explore the interconnections between stress, violence, trauma, and smoking/vaping, and deepen the understanding of why traditional smoking cessation approaches don't work for many 2S/LGBTQIA+ people. The session will also offer practical strategies for trauma-informed and non-judgmental 2S/LGBTQIA+ care, an introduction to the benefits of a harm reduction approach and how to apply it, and information about the Smoke Break program and how to refer clients, community members, or loved ones into it.

B4. SHORT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Improving 2S/LGBTQ+ Sexual and Reproductive Health and Wellbeing

2:45–4:00 PM | Frontenac Ballroom | *Presentations in English, with French interpretation*

Key Findings from the “Our Bodies, Our Health” Survey – Canada’s Largest 2S/LGBTQIA+ Sexual and Reproductive Health Study

Nathan Lachowsky (University of Northern British Columbia) and **Kimia Rohani** (Community-Based Research Centre)

Building Queer Understandings of Consent in Chemsex/PNP Contexts

Maxi Gaudette (Université de Montréal)

Barriers and Facilitators of Gender-Affirming Care Among Trans Men and Transmasculine People Who Have Sex With Men: Longitudinal Findings from the Engage Cohort

Nathan Lachowsky (University of Northern British Columbia), **Terri Zhang** (Engage)

Making Space for Every Body’s Well-being: Body Liberation-Centred Health Education in Support of Safer 2S/LGBTQIA+ Embodiment

Sookie Bardwell

B5. WORKSHOP

HPV-Related Cancers and Care: Centering Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer Voices

2:45–4:00 PM | Marine Room | Ella Dufault (Community-Based Research Centre) | *In English*

This session is an Indigenous focused workshop intended for Two-Spirit and Indigenous community members. Allies are welcome to join us in learning, listening, and engaging in meaningful conversation. The workshop expands on Indigenous and Two-Spirit peoples’ knowledge and understanding of HPV and HPV-related cancers during HPV prevention and screening. Grounded in a relational, culturally safer, and community-centered approach developed with CBRC’s Two-Spirit Program, it explores how HPV-related health is shaped not only by identity and access to care, but also by relationships, community, and lived experience. Through a facilitated sharing circle, participants will engage in reflective dialogue that encourages respectful listening and recognition of diverse Indigenous experiences and perspectives. The session will deepen the understanding of HPV and HPV-related cancer needs and care while supporting empowerment, self-advocacy, and collective reflection for the attendees.

Poster Presentations (authors present)

4:00–4:45 PM | Bay & Queens Quay | *In English and French*

Join us to check out the posters at this year's Summit, chat up the authors, and network with your fellow conference attendees. For the complete list of posters and presenters, please see page 44.

PLENARY PANEL PRESENTATION

When Systems Fail, Communities Build: Queer Harm Reduction and Collective Care

4:45–6:00 PM | Frontenac Ballroom | Mskwaasin Agnew (Toronto Indigenous Harm Reduction), **Steph Massey** (The 519), **Nanky Rai** (Toronto Street Medics), **Ahmed Muslimani** (MAX Ottawa), **Nick Boyce** | *In English, with French interpretation*

As queer, trans, and Two-Spirit communities have done throughout history, when systems fail to meet our needs, we build our own responses. This plenary panel explores how substance use, harm reduction, sexual wellbeing, and collective care are deeply intertwined in community life, and how we have created innovative, peer-led solutions, from drug checking and overdose prevention to mutual aid and community support, to keep one another safe.

With a focus on Ontario and lessons that resonate across geographies, panelists will examine the role of drugs in queer culture and community, challenge pathologizing narratives, and reflect on both the possibilities and limitations of public health approaches. Centering lived experience, the discussion will highlight how community-led harm reduction is not only about responding to crisis, but also about building healthier, more connected futures.

This conversation will showcase how queer, trans, and Two-Spirit communities continue to create new models of care, advocate for one another, and imagine futures rooted in dignity, safety, pleasure, and collective wellbeing. Participants will leave with broader understanding of current issues, as well as practical strategies and concrete ideas for strengthening harm reduction and community care.

Saturday, October 31

IBPOC Networking Breakfast

8:00–9:00 AM | Harbour B

Indigenous, Black, and other people of colour attending the Summit are invited to join this networking space and connect over morning coffee. This casual drop-in space is by and for IBPOC folks, including mixed race people, at Summit 2026. This breakfast is exclusively for IBPOC attendees.

PLENARY PANEL PRESENTATION

Building Cancer Equity for 2S/LGBTQ+ Communities

9:00–10:15 AM | Frontenac Ballroom | Dr. Amanda Bolderston (Queering Cancer), **Lane Bonertz** (Community-Based Research Centre), **Dr. Jean-Marc Bourque** (Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal), **Thanh Nguyen, Michael Kwag** (Community-Based Research Centre) | *In English, with French interpretation*

As HIV increasingly becomes a manageable chronic condition, cancer is emerging as a leading cause of morbidity and mortality among 2S/LGBTQ+ populations, particularly as these communities age. Yet cancer care systems, screening pathways, and data infrastructure have been slow to catch up, and 2S/LGBTQ+ people continue to face significant barriers across the cancer care continuum, from screening and diagnosis through treatment and survivorship. Over decades, our sectors in research, advocacy, clinical care, and community-based programming have built deep competency in queer and trans health through the HIV response. Community-engaged research methods, peer support models, culturally safe clinical practice, and trusted relationships between health systems and community organizations were all forged in that work. Very little of that has yet been applied to cancer.

This session brings together perspectives from population health, Indigenous and Two-Spirit health, community organizing, and lived experience to lay out why this gap matters now, and what our sectors already know how to do about it. Speakers will set the epidemiological and clinical context, describe examples of adapted care already emerging in Canada, and explore how strategies that worked for HIV could be extended to cancer.

The session is a moderated series of short presentations followed by a closing panel discussion and audience question and answer period, leaving space for dialogue across the range of expertise in the room.

CONCURRENT SESSION C

C1. SHORT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Fostering Community and Belonging in Sexual Health

10:45 AM–12:00 PM | Harbour A | Presentations in English, with French interpretation

Building Our Futures Through Multilingual HIV Education: Community-Led Outreach for South Asian, MENA, and Queer Muslim Communities in Canada

Yasir Ali Khan (HIV Buddies Canada)

Improving Access to HIV Prevention and Treatment Services Among 2SLGBTQ+ Youth Experiencing Homelessness Through Peer Navigators

Dorothy Apedaile (Dalla Lana School of Public Health)

Utilizing an Organizational Stigma Assessment Tool to Promote More Supportive and Inclusive Sexual Health and Harm Reduction Services

Kelsey McIntosh (Canadian Public Health Association), **Nathan Flaig** (Centre for Sexuality in Calgary), **Srinath Maddur** (Nine Circles Community Health Centre)

Advance Alliance: Building National Collaborative Approaches to GBT2Q+ Men's Health

Spencer Belanger (Community-Based Research Centre), **Dylan Wall** (Health Initiative for Men)

C2. SHORT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Building Futures Outside Large Urban Areas

10:45 AM–12:00 PM | Harbour B | Presentations in English

Check-Up on 2SLGBTQIA+ Healthcare in Newfoundland and Labrador: Findings from Community Members, Healthcare Providers, and Students

Jian Fu and **Ailsa Craig** (Memorial University)

Research-Informed Youth Sexual Health Workshops for Newcomer Parents and Caregivers

Julia Vokey and **Yeshvi Mehta** (SARAVYC)

Understanding 2SLGBTQ+ Health and Data Gaps: Findings and Methods from Government-Administered Survey Analyses in Oxford and Elgin Counties, Ontario

Todd Coleman and **Samson Tse** (Wilfrid Laurier University)

Creating Training Spaces Around Mental Wellness and Community Building

Jonny McColl (Northern Mosaic Network)

C3. ROUNDTABLE

Advancing Community-Centered Gender-Affirming Care: A Roundtable Discussion on Mobilizing Key Findings from the Our Bodies, Our Health Survey

10:45 AM–12:00 PM | Harbour C | Malhar Shah (Community-Based Research Centre), **Leo Rutherford** (Community-Based Research Centre), **Monica Rudd** (St. Michael's Hospital) | *In English*

Gender-affirming health care (GAHC) in Canada is characterized by surging demand on strained infrastructure, political precarity, and diverse, evolving community needs. Our Bodies, Our Health (OBOH), a 2025 Canada-wide 2S/LGBTQIA+ health survey provides rich data that details the GAHC needs, access, and experiences of over 1900 trans and gender-diverse (TGD) participants.

The roundtable will comprise three presentations of OBOH data that will prompt discussions between TGD community members, organizations, researchers, and providers. First, we will share outcomes related to GAHC access among participants, including: the proportion of desired care received; access to hormones, surgeries and non-medical products and services; and satisfaction with provider knowledge, resources and support networks. Findings will be stratified by age, gender, racialization, immigration status, education, financial situation, province, and disability. Roundtable participants will then reflect on the potential causes of and solutions to identified inequities. We will continue by reporting associations between GAHC access and reasons for denial of care, participant-reported barriers, and putative facilitators of access. Facilitators include access and outness to a primary care provider, provider knowledge, provincial political climate, and community and familial support. Attendees will work together to identify strategies for actioning this knowledge to improve policy and care delivery. Lastly, we will present participant preferences for care initiation, delivery, and goals, highlighting where preferences differ from mainstream, cisnormative care models of transition. The final discussion will encourage attendees to imagine models of care rooted in TGD people's wants and needs, rather than societal assumptions.

C4. SHORT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Laying 2S/LGBTQ+ Health Groundwork Through Social Determinants of Health

10:45 AM–12:00 PM | Frontenac Ballroom | Presentations in English and French, with interpretation to the other language

When Everything Feeds Everything: A Syndemic Photovoice Study of Gambling Among LGBTQ+ Adults

Olivier Ferlatte (Université de Montréal)

2SLGBTQ+ Poverty in Canada: Survey Methodology and Preliminary Findings from a National Study

Todd Coleman (Wilfrid Laurier University), **JP Armstrong** (NorQuest College)

Community Strengths as a Framework for Understanding Alcohol Use Among LGBTQ+ Youth

Anthea Dalle and **Gui Tardif** (Université du Québec à Montréal)

The Social Participation of LGBTQIA+ People with Disabilities in Quebec

Alexander Moreno (Université de Montréal)

C5. WORKSHOP

Where the Rivers Meet: Creating a Culture of Respect for Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer Communities

10:45 AM–12:00 PM | Marine Room | Marshall Vielle (Centre for Sexuality) | *In English*

This workshop aims to increase participant capacity to create safer, more inclusive environments for Two-Spirit and queer Indigenous clients and communities. This interactive workshop defines and examines the differences between sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation/attraction from a Treaty 7, Indigenous perspective. Participants will explore the unique impacts of homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, and colonization on the lives of Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer individuals and the impact this can have on clients and coworkers. Participants will leave this training with enhanced awareness, knowledge, and skills to support Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer clients and communities.

Two-Spirit, Trans, & Gender Diverse Networking Lunch

12:00–1:00 PM | Harbour B

Trans and non-binary conference participants attending Summit 2026 are invited to join this space to network and connect over lunch. This space is exclusively for trans and non-binary attendees.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

The Worlds We Have Yet to Make: Critical Hope, Reparative Research, and Queer Futures

1:00–2:15 PM | Frontenac Ballroom | Jad Sinno (Community-Based Research Centre) | *In English, with French interpretation*

At a time of intensifying attacks on queer, trans, and Two-Spirit lives across the globe, imagining a different future is a necessary practice of resistance. Drawing on critical hope, queer joy, and fantasy, Dr. Jad Sinno (they/them) asks what research must repair, what it can transform, and what worlds it might help make possible. They present a reparative and transformative research approach that confronts oppression without reducing queer life to harm, instead attending to resistance, pleasure, care, imagination, and possibility. Looking to CBRC's future, this keynote explores how community-led research can become a practice of world-making that helps build healthier, more just, and liberatory futures.

CONCURRENT SESSION D

D1. PANEL

Queering Research and Knowledge Translation Through Arts, Technology, and Community-Based Work

2:45–4:00 PM | Harbour A | Rodrigo Sierra-Rosales (University of British Columbia), **Thomas Tri** (York University), **Maxe Giguère** (Collectif LGBTQ* du Manitoba), **Winter Kraemer** (University of Toronto), **Azka Ahmed** | *In English and French, with interpretation to the other language*

Queerness, art, and technology hold an intimate relationship. Numerous research studies have examined how 2S/LGBTQIA+ people utilize technology in affirming and transgressive ways,

whether it is accessing sex education online that wouldn't otherwise be offered in school settings or connecting with fellow 2S/LGBTQIA+ people on social media. Similarly, 2S/LGBTQIA+ people have expressed sharp social commentary through drag, fashion, and music alike. 2S/LGBTQIA+ people have mobilized art and technology through subversive means: resisting the status quo, building community in the face of erasure, and insisting on joy.

Our panel will present five research and knowledge translation projects that explore how technology and art can be used to advance social change. We look at how technology and art can "queer" research and knowledge translation, offering alternative approaches that reimagine research beyond its academic constraints and knowledge translation beyond mere policy informing. Our projects explore how technology addresses several service gaps, such as creating training modules for healthcare professionals working with the French-speaking 2S/LGBTQIA+ community in Manitoba and developing a website that visualizes resources and information for transmasculine people. Similarly, we examine how art can facilitate innovative forms of knowledge translation. We provide examples such as a portrait series and an art exhibit where LGBTQ+ participants reclaim visibility, self-representation, and joy, as well as poetry work with gender-affirming care providers to build resilience in the current political climate.

D2. SHORT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Framing Futures for All Ages

2:45–4:00 PM | Harbour B | *Presentations in English*

"Nobody Gets Their Sh*t Together by 30!": Queer Temporality and Service Use

Michael Butac (Toronto Metropolitan University)

Meet Us at The Steps: Reimagining Ageing in Place for 2SLGBTQI+ Older Adults

Prof. Victor Perez-Amado, Dr. Samantha Biglieri, Raphaella Valeri, Brian Ogryzlo
(Toronto Metropolitan University)

Impact of an Online Intergenerational Befriending Program for Two-Spirit, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Queer Men and Nonbinary People on Mental Wellbeing: Results from a Pilot Study

Katie O'Brien (Community-Based Research Centre)

"They Can't Stop Us from Having Fun": Lessons Learned from Strength-Based Research Priority Setting with Gender and Sexual Minority Youth in Waterloo Region

Chris Wang and Tin Vo (University of Toronto)

D3. ALT FORMAT

A Reading and Talk-Back of the Verbatim Theatre Play "In My Day": Community Input to Shape Future Arts-Based HIV Work in Toronto

2:45–4:00 PM | Harbour C | Rick Waines, Ben Klassen (Community-Based Research Centre)
| *In English*

Arts-based storytelling and oral history are important methodologies for documenting, preserving, and sharing lived experiences from the early years of HIV/AIDS. These methods can centre diverse 2S/LGBTQIA+ communities, explore inequities across different social

groups, and mobilize learnings about HIV across generations and communities to improve our contemporary responses to the HIV pandemic and structural violence (e.g., settler colonialism and systemic homophobia, transphobia, racism, and misogyny). Since 2017, "HIV in My Day", a community-based oral history project, has collected and preserved the stories of over 120 long-term survivors and caregivers across British Columbia. We intentionally mobilized key research findings through art, including a verbatim theatre piece called "In My Day" by playwright Rick Waines, which will be performed in Toronto in 2027. This session will explore impacts, successes, and challenges of arts-based HIV knowledge mobilization through a reading from the "In My Day" script and a panel discussion and talk-back with team members. Attendees will learn about arts-based approaches to HIV knowledge mobilization and how to utilize similar approaches in their research, programming, and interventions. We will share learnings about the impact of arts-based approaches – specifically, theatre's role in increasing knowledge about the historic and ongoing HIV/AIDS pandemic in Canada across generations – and the importance of centering diverse communities directly impacted by HIV throughout this work. We will explore how stories about the early years of HIV in British Columbia resonate across different places and eras of the pandemic.

D4. SHORT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Bringing Our Strengths and Care to Work for Our Communities

2:45–4:00 PM | Frontenac Ballroom | Presentations in English and French, with interpretation to the other language

The Feu-follet Committee: The Importance of Experiential Knowledge in Developing a Project Aimed at Preventing Transactional Sexual Violence

Charline Côté (CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal), **Nathan Depeyre** (En Marge 12-17)

More Than One Hat: Navigating Intersectional Lived Experience as "Insider" LGBTQ Health Researchers

David Kinitz (The Ohio State University), **Zafiro Andrade-Romo** (University of Toronto), **John Segui** (University of Toronto)

Working Within One's Own Community: Ethical and Practice-Based Challenges in Queer Intra-Community Care

Marc-Anciel Gaudette

Research as Care: Queer Ethics and Community Knowledge

Bradley Hampton-Wallis (University of Victoria), **Mikiki**

D5. TALKING CIRCLE

Visiting with Our Kin: Community Sharing Circle with the Two-Spirit Team

2:45–4:00 PM | Marine Room | Lane Bonertz (Blackfoot, Piikani Nation); **Jessy Dame** (Métis Nation, Treaty 1 and 2 Territories); **Kris Reppas** (Kanien'kehá:ka, Kenhtè:ke); **Quinton Delorme** (Cree, Treaty 4 and 5); **William Flett** (Haida, Haida Nation); **Jaylene McRae** (Zagimē Anishinabek First Nation, Kawacatoose First Nation, Metis Nation Saskatchewan); **Skye Wilson** (Gitxsan, Kispiox); **Ella Dufault** (Kaska Dena, Ross River Dena Council) | *In English, for Two-Spirit and Indigenous attendees only.*

Visiting with our Kin: Community Sharing Circle with the Two-Spirit Team is a closed session for Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQIA+ community members. Led by CBRC's Two-Spirit Team, the sharing circle will create space to reflect on projects and activities from the past year, share experiences from participants' own communities, and identify emerging health priorities. Discussion may include cognitive health, gender-based violence, HPV, HIV prevention and treatment, as well as other areas participants would like to see prioritized. Feedback from the circle will help inform year-end reflection and planning for the Two-Spirit Team's work in the coming year.

Poster Presentations (authors present)

4:00–4:45 PM | Bay & Queens Quay | *In English and French*

Join us to check out the posters at this year's Summit, chat up the authors, and network with your fellow conference attendees. For the complete list of posters and presenters, please see page 44.

CONCURRENT SESSION E

E1. PANEL

2S/LGBTQIA+ Housing: Diverse Realities, Creative Possibilities

4:45–6:00 PM | Harbour A | Julia Menezes (University of Toronto), **Celeste Pang** (Mount Royal University), **Bre O'Handley** (Egale Canada), **B. Jakubiec** (Egale Canada), **Malhar Shah** (Community-Based Research Centre), **Anthony Amato** (University of Northern British Columbia), **Élisabeth Bruins** (FrancoQueer), **Alex Abramovich** (University of Toronto) | *Presentations in English and French, with interpretation to the other language*

What housing challenges and barriers do 2S/LGBTQIA+ individuals and households face in Canada? What creative strategies have 2S/LGBTQIA+ individuals and households used to secure safe, affordable, and desirable housing situations?

This panel features findings from four original research studies examining 2S/LGBTQIA+ housing issues. "Queering Home" was a photovoice study examining shared housing among 2S/LGBTQIA+ adults aged 30+ in Ontario and Alberta, living together in combinations including friend groups, couples and best friends, with children, animals, and various economic situations, family backgrounds, and neurodiversities. CBRC will present a descriptive secondary analysis of data from Our Health 2022, examining outcomes related to housing situation, affordability, precarity, and neighborhood satisfaction in the overall survey population and stratified by demographics (e.g., age, trans identity, racialized status). Egale Canada will present findings from a national mixed methods study focused on the barriers and facilitators to 2S/LGBTQIA+ peoples' access to safe, affordable, and adequate housing. FrancoQueer will share findings from a qualitative study on 2S/LGBTQIA+ Francophone seniors, examining how historical religious influence and linguistic barriers, among other factors, intersect to shape perceptions of inclusivity and influence how seniors navigate access to retirement homes and assisted living facilities. Finally, the paper "Informing Inclusive Responses: What Point-in-Time Count Data Reveal About 2SLGBTQ+ Youth Experiencing Homelessness," using data from Toronto's 2024

Street Needs Assessment, will explore the prevalence and experiences of 2S/LGBTQIA+ youth revealing, for instance, elevated rates of child welfare involvement and co-occurring mental health and substance use challenges.

E2. SHORT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Building Futures with Racialized Communities

4:45–6:00 PM | Harbour B | *Presentations in English*

Skin Hunger: Black Queer Men and Epidemic Intimacies

Cornel Grey (Western University)

Accessing Community and Clinical Mental Health Supports in Canada: Racialized Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (GBTQ) Men's Experiences and Perspectives

Calvin Christopher Fernandez (University of British Columbia)

Building Safer Futures Through Community-Led Approaches: Experiences from the YSMENA Trans Photovoice and Queer WANA Projects

Yousef Alhammedi, Cléo Chiata (Western University), **nashwa lina khan** (Habibti Please)

History Lesson: Sociocultural Context of Learning, Care, and Belonging in First Generation Black Queer Third Spaces in Canada and the United States

Dr. Lance T. McCready (University of Toronto)

E3. ROUNDTABLE

Being With People in Crisis: Care, Advocacy, and Collective Meaning-Making in Community-Led Crisis Response

4:45–6:00 PM | Harbour C | Galo F. Ginocchio (University of Toronto), **Malachi Croy** (University of Toronto), **Chelsea King** (Toronto Community Crisis Service), **Allanna Storrington** (Crisis Response Specialist) | *In English*

2S/LGBTQIA+ community crisis response takes place at the intersection of urgency, relationship, and systemic failure. While trauma-informed care is widely referenced across health and social systems, it does not always fully reflect what community-based responders do when they are present with people in crisis, particularly in contexts shaped by overdose risk, violence, discrimination, and housing instability.

This roundtable brings together 2S/LGBTQIA+ crisis responders, community workers, and people with lived and living experience to collectively define what trauma-transformed community crisis response looks like in practice. Rather than treating trauma-informed care as a fixed model, the session explores how it is adapted, extended, and at times exceeded in real-world frontline work.

A central focus is how crisis response is not only about immediate intervention, but about being present with people in contexts where systems often misrecognize harm as individual pathology rather than as the outcome of structural conditions. In these moments, care involves accompaniment, advocacy, and shared sense-making. Participants will explore how responders

navigate relational care alongside structural realities in real time, including overdose prevention contexts, crisis escalation, and service exclusion. Through facilitated dialogue, the session will surface shared principles, tensions, and practice definitions that more accurately reflect 2S/LGBTQIA+ community crisis response. The goal is to articulate trauma-transformed practice as something grounded in relational accountability, collective survival, and the ways 2S/LGBTQIA+ communities create care and meaning where systems frequently fail to recognize them.

E4. SHORT ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Advancing Equity in Health

4:45–6:00 PM | Frontenac Ballroom | *Presentations in English and French, with interpretation to the other language*

Transgender Access and the Myth of "Anyone": Whiteness, Madness, and Passing in Canadian Trans Healthcare

Max Ferguson (Toronto Metropolitan University)

Listening to Intersex Community's Needs: Rethinking Medical Authority and Epistemic Injustice in Healthcare

Janille Giambattista (Intersex Canada)

Medicine Bundle for Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer Peoples: Expanding and Adapting an Indigenous-Led Health Program

Kris Reppas, Quinton Delorme, William Flett (Community-Based Research Centre)

Training Nurses to Become Allies of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) in Healthcare Settings – A Realist Synthesis of Interventions

Jérôme Pelletier (Université du Québec à Rimouski)

E5. CURATED PANEL

Strengthening Our Circles: Indigenous Approaches to Working with Our Communities

4:45–6:00 PM | Marine Room | *In English*

Intersections of Being Two-Spirit and Disabled | Kispesaq Bernard, Julianna Peter-Paul

Julianna Peter-Paul and Kispesaq Bernard will provide a short presentation on the Intersection of Being Two-Spirit and Disabled, followed by an interactive portion with the audience. They will speak from lived experience, including how this impacts their identities, social and professional lives, and their perspectives.

Queer at the Intersection of Black and Indigenous | Sarah Martineau

A challenge facing many caregivers and clinicians today is how to give holistic and inclusive care to racialized and other minority populations. This problem is conflated when individuals belong to more than one minority population. In the queer community, the issue of racism and the double minority experience is one that continues to be

flagged as pervasive. There is obviously not a one-size-fits-all solution; however, the issues still need to be brought to the forefront and navigated.

In a storytelling and autobiographical format, Sarah Martineau will demonstrate how various racial identities intersect with gender and sexuality and how we can endeavour to see ourselves and those we support as complex and complicated beings. Sarah identifies as an Indigenous, Black, and Queer cis woman. Sarah has worked in Toronto/Tkaronto as a primary care paramedic, a registered midwife, a sexual health counsellor, and an emergency services dispatcher. In all settings, she has been challenged to find systems and practices that incorporate the complex intersections of identity. She is hoping that through relaying her experiences, the audience will be able to incorporate an inclusive and holistic approach into their own practices.

Sunday, November 1

CONCURRENT SESSION F

F1. WORKSHOP

Trauma-Informed Facilitation in 2SLGBTQ+ and Black Community Spaces

10:00–11:15 AM | Harbour A | Prudence Ndiweni | *In English, with French interpretation*

Trauma is not a personal failure. It is often the result of collective wounds shaped by racism, homophobia, transphobia, displacement, exclusion, and systems that have repeatedly failed the people they were meant to serve. For Black and 2SLGBTQ+ communities, health and social service spaces can become another place where harm happens, especially when staff, facilitators, or service providers do not recognize trauma or do not know how to respond in affirming and grounded ways.

This workshop introduces participants to the foundations of trauma-informed facilitation, with a focus on Black and 2SLGBTQ+ contexts. Drawing on her facilitation, education, and community work, Prudence Ndiweni will guide participants through practical ways to create psychological safety, understand nervous system responses, and hold inclusive spaces with more care and intention. Participants will learn how trauma can show up in group settings, how to respond without escalating shame or fear, and how to use communication strategies that reduce the risk of re-traumatization. The workshop will also explore how race, gender, sexuality, disability, migration, and other lived experiences shape what safety can mean for different people in the same room.

This session is practical, accessible, and grounded in real-life community work. Participants will leave with tools they can use in workshops, support groups, clinical intakes, team meetings, and everyday service delivery. This workshop is designed for frontline workers, service providers, facilitators, and community members with lived experience. No prior knowledge of trauma theory is required, only a willingness to learn, reflect, and unlearn.

F2. ALT FORMAT

Fires Light the Way – Strengthening Community Leadership to Address Stigma, Isolation, and Resilience Among Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ Indigenous Peoples

10:00–11:15 AM | | Harbour B | Lane Bonertz (Blackfoot, Piikani Nation); **Jessy Dame** (Métis Nation, Treaty 1 and 2 Territories); **Kris Reppas** (Kanien'kehá:ka, Kenhtè:ke); **Quinton Delorme** (Cree, Treaty 4 and 5); **William Flett** (Haida, Haida Nation); **Jaylene McRae** (Zagimē Anishinabek First Nation, Kawacatoose First Nation, Metis Nation Saskatchewan); **Skye Wilson** (Gitxsan, Kispiox); **Ella Dufault** (Kaska Dena, Ross River Dena Council) | *In English*

Though there is a growing movement of Two-Spirit representation and advocacy, marginalization of Two-Spirit people persists. Colonization and racism alienates Two-Spirit people from LGBTQIA+ spaces on the basis of Indigeneity, while homophobia and transphobia alienates Two-Spirit people from Indigenous spaces on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Challenges and barriers exist as Two-Spirit people strive for connection, support, and access to resources despite experiences of exclusion.

The resilience of Two-Spirit people experiencing feelings and circumstances of stigma and isolation continues to be underexplored within the larger LGBTQIA+ context. Incorporating Indigenous knowledge, perspectives, and experiences within the context of our research, data analysis, and knowledge mobilization activities, the Two-Spirit Program (1) co-developed and implemented Indigenous research methodologies, including Two-Eyed Seeing and sharing circle activities to complete a national consultation series in 2025; (2) conducted secondary data analyses of quantitative data from CBRC's Our Health 2022 & 2023 surveys on relevant indicators and outcomes on stigma, isolation, and resilience; and (3) created two Indigenous-led knowledge translation outputs and resources to address stigma, isolation, and resilience to communicate these results.

Community perspectives served in contextualizing the results of the Our Health data, then used to establish recommendations to improve experiences of loneliness and isolation for Two-Spirit people. In this session, we will present the findings that emerged, while facilitating a community dialogue based on the resources created to explore the current context of Two-Spirit connection and wellbeing.

F3. WORKSHOP

Developing Ethical Strategies to Address Fraudulent Enrollment in Online Research with 2SLGBTQI Communities

10:00–11:15 AM | | Harbour C | Kim Seida and Bre O'Handley (Egale Canada) | *In English*

Researchers are increasingly conducting research online. Online platforms are more likely to reach under-researched and under-represented groups, including 2SLGBTQI people. However, online research is susceptible to fraudulent enrollment: survey farmers may program bots to repeatedly take surveys, fraudulent responders may pretend to be eligible for projects, and malicious actors may participate in a project to undermine researchers' goals. Fraudulent enrollment poses a risk to data integrity by misrepresenting the experiences of 2SLGBTQI communities, which can lead to advocacy and interventions that do not address their needs.

This workshop (co-led by the two presenters) is an opportunity to share tools for ethical fraud mitigation and identification. We will first explain the importance of data integrity in reflecting the needs of and protecting against pathologization of 2SLGBTQI people. We will then outline the

scope of the problem and finally discuss ethical fraud mitigation strategies with fellow participants using guiding questions.

F4. ROUNDTABLE

Characterizing Substance Use Experiences Among Sexually and Gender-Diverse Populations

10:00–11:15 AM | Frontenac Ballroom | Dr. Trevor Hart, Benjamin Nguyen, Adhm Zahran, Sarah Kowall, Dr. Sarah Dermody (Toronto Metropolitan University), **Terri Zhang** (Engage Cohort Study), **Carl Bremner** | *In English, with French interpretation*

Sexually and gender diverse (SGD) people are disproportionately affected by substance use and related harms, with risk further compounded by intersecting marginalized identities such as race, ethnicity, and immigration status. Despite growing recognition, the underlying mechanisms remain poorly understood. This roundtable discussion brings together scholars, trainees, and community members to highlight innovations in research on SGD people using intersectional frameworks.

Using data from the Engage Cohort Study, a longitudinal study of 2449 Canadian gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBM), Dr. Hart will demonstrate the prevalence and correlates of poppers use and poppers-use-related risks, including psychosocial characteristics, other substance use, and sexual contexts. Nguyen will discuss how sexualized substance use moderates the association between sexual position discordance and sexual satisfaction among GBM. Zahran will then discuss disparities in substance use at the intersections of race/ethnicity and immigration status, and the associations of multiple stressors with substance use among GBM. Kowall will discuss the association between minority stress and substance-related risks, with harm reduction engagement and perceived social support as moderators among GBM. Finally, drawing from a separate cohort, Dr. Dermody will provide an overview of risk and protective factors related to gender diverse adults' alcohol use and related harms. Following the presentations, a queer community member of colour with lived experience of substance use will co-lead a structured roundtable discussion, grounding the research findings within the realities of the communities most affected while fostering dialogue between researchers and the community.

CLOSING PLENARY

11:30 AM–1:00 PM | Frontenac Ballroom | *In English, with French interpretation*

Summit 2026: Building Our Futures comes to an end with our closing plenary where we reflect on some of what we have learned at this year's event, and where we need to go next.

Scholarships

As part of CBRC's commitment to making Summit more accessible, CBRC is proud to have been able to offer over 25 full and partial scholarships to Summit 2026 participants and presenters. Scholarships assist first-time or early career presenters with registration fees, transportation, and accommodation expenses.

Poster Presentations

Discover a wide array of posters highlighting groundbreaking research, community-led health initiatives, and evidence-based programs. This exhibit offers a chance to engage with presenters, explore current trends, and gain insights into the evolving landscape of 2S/LGBTQIA+ health and wellness.

For a full list of posters, please see below (poster titles are listed in the language in which they are presented):

“Being Trans Has Put Me Where I Am in My Life, and the Life Situations Have Led to Drinking as a Coping Mechanism”: Common Drinking Motives of Trans and Gender Diverse Adults

Theodore Forest Quinn, Argo Basembe

“I Have No Fight Left”: Centering the Voices of 2SLGBTQI Veterans in Canada

Gazel Manuel, Kim Seida

“It’s About What Is Possible Outside What Society Has Given Us”: A Qualitative Exploration of Belonging for Queer and Trans South Asians in Canada

Palak Desai

“My Voice Is Silenced, and I Rail Against That”: Situated Resilience amid Multi-Level Stigma in the Mpox Vaccination Efforts in Canada

Jefferson Pacis

“We Do Things to Try to Help Them Help Themselves”: Exploring How Youth-Serving Adults Support 2S/LGBTQIA+ Youth Navigating Close Relationships

Yas Botelho

Access, Safety, and Belonging: Qualitative Insights from SOGIE Diverse Community Members across Ontario

Todd A. Coleman, Tin D. Vo

A Priority Agenda for Research and Knowledge Translation on the Health and Wellbeing of Trans, Two-Spirit, and Nonbinary Adults in Canada

Kai Jacobsen, Celeste Macevicius, Monica Rudd

A Provincial Think Tank to Improve Care for 2SGBTQIA+ Who Use Methamphetamine in Ontario

Maria Sunil, Roger Prasad

Affirming Resistance: The Needs & Challenges of Teachers Delivering SOGI Education in Western Canada’s Changing Legal Landscape

Dylan Murray

Alternative Avenues to Pleasure: Exploring the Sexual Change Experiences of Trans* and Gender-Diverse Adults

H. I. Bryan

Assessing the Impact of a Core Family Medicine Residency Experience in Gender Affirming Care

Kamaldeep Randhawa, Dr. Ashifa Jiwa

Atlas : Naviguer le système de santé québécois à travers ses soins de santé sexuelle, reproductive et d'affirmation de genre

Tania Deshaies

Before, During, After: The PNP pocket guide for M4M sex workers

Jonathan Valelly

Beyond Access: Bridging the Gap Between Gender-Affirming Care and Embodied Living

Zita Dubé-Lockhart

Beyond Inclusion: Centering Queer Youth in Low-Barrier Program Design

Tori Martin, Jess Freitas Cordeiro

Bridging HIV Care Access Gaps for Structurally Excluded Patients in New Brunswick

Heather Ibbetson, Linda Thompson-Brown

Building Bridges to PrEP: Findings from an Ontario STI-Testing-to-Virtual-PrEP Referral Partnership

Natasha Meadus, Patrick O'Bryne

Building Confidence and Connection: An Evaluation of a Gender-Affirming Voice and Communication Training Program

Alyssa Janes, Taslim Moosa

Building Evidence Together: Participatory and Psychometric Approaches in Trans Health Education

Sofia I. Melendez Ron, Argo Basembe, Matt Bruno, Fides Arguelles

Building HIV Care Together: A Community-Based Partnership for Newcomers, Racialized, and Marginalized Communities in Toronto

Natasha Meadus, Suzanne Paddock, Ower Oberto, Walter Sernaque

Building our Future: Creating an Affirming Healthcare System for 2SLGBTQIA+ People in Nova Scotia

Jennifer Wheeldon, Julien Davis, Mackenzie Dean

Building Queer Space: Participatory Storytelling for Community Belonging and Resilience

Simon Liao, Tristan Coolman

Building Reciprocity and Community into the Research Process Through the Incorporation of Art Therapy Groups

Samuel Romero, Aleja Guadron

Building Self-Determination: A Post-Occupational Evaluation of the Friends of Ruby Home

Quan Thai, Sonia Blank, Carolyne Grimard

Coconstruire nos avenir au-delà d'une consultation symbolique : démocratie participative dans le projet de recherche communautaire Phénix Numérique
Elena Fredes

Developing Capacity for Future Leadership in Racialized 2S/LGBTQIA+ Communities
David Soomarie, Syed Mustafa Jamal, Zainab Soje

Développement de la pratique auprès des jeunes issus de la diversité de genre : prévenir les violences sexuelles au sein d'une sexualité transactionnelle
Philémon Julien

Differences in Access to Sexual Health Vaccines Among Migrant and Non-Migrant South Asian Gay, Bisexual, and Queer Men in Canada
Joshun Dulai

Exploring Community Connection as an Avenue for Mental Health and Well-Being Related Support for Early-Adult Gay and Same Sex Attracted Men
Lazaro De Francesca

Exploring Meaningful Aging in 2S/LGBTQIA+ Older Adults
Max J. Marshall

Exploring the Experiences of Sexual Racism Among Young Asian Men Who Have Sex with Men (YAMSM) on Dating Apps
John Segui

From Invisible to Visible: Substance Use as a Way of Expressing Bisexuality
Anthea Dalle

From Reflection to Action: Cultural Humility and Health Equity in 2SLGBTQI+ Care
Tyler Glass

From Shame to Belonging: Community-Based Responses to Homophobia and Transphobia
Anurag Khunger, Bashir Sekayita, Ifeanyi Orazulike

Habiter les marges : cohabitation sociale et itinérance 2S/LGBTQIA+ dans le Quartier latin de Montréal
Gui Tardif

HIV Testing and Human Rights
Ahmad Ezzeddine, Sandra Ka Hon Chu, Benoit Racette, Ryan Peck

How Do Researchers who Conduct 2S/LGBTQIA+ Systematic Reviews and Scoping Reviews Report on Ethnicity?: A Case Study from The Knowsy Dataset
Chi Dinh

How Sex- and Gender-Based Scoring Affects Measures of Physiological Stress
Ryan Hogan

If It Doesn't Feed Us, We're Doing It Wrong: A Case Study Exploring 'Community Profit' as Emancipatory Entrepreneurship

Colt Politte, Dr. Ailsa Craig

Improving Gender-Inclusive Healthcare Practices in Newfoundland & Labrador: Trans Support NL's Gender-Affirming Care Toolkit

Sydney Knapman

In Living Colour: A Community-Informed Thematic Analysis of Healthcare Barriers and Facilitators Among African, Caribbean, and Black Sexual Minority Men in Toronto

Kenyatta Barnaby, Jamieson Edward, Shayna Skakoon-Sparling

Intervenir, rassembler, diffuser et co-construire : Chez Manu, la plateforme de référence pour les communautés 2S/LGBTQIA+ consommant des SPA

Elena Fredes

Journeys of Self-Discovery and Becoming at the Intersections of Gender, Sexuality, and Autism

Adeleine Perkins, Elizabeth Straus

My F*cking Package: Building Sexy Combination Prevention Toolkits — A 'Back-to-Basics' Community Health Campaign for GBT2Q Men

Dylan Wall, Eduardo Rosales

Navigating Care at the Intersections: HIV, HCV, and Sexual Health Access for LGBTQIA+ Immigrants, Refugees and Newcomers

Wania Amir Khan, Syed Mustafa Jamal

Offre active inclusive : vers une défragmentation des services

Élisabeth Bruins, Taeyeoung Jung

Peer Consultation, Collaboration, and Community: A Model for Trans Healthcare Worker Sustenance and Wellbeing

Jimmy Chokmeesuk

Peer Parity: Building Inclusive Peer Programming in PnP Services

Sebastian Westerlund

Portraits of Queer Living: Self-Determination and the Shaping of Queer Home

Quan Thai

Predictors of Loneliness Among Queer People with a Disability or Chronic Illness

Anthony Theodore Amato

Re-centring Black Feminist Thought in Quantitative Intersectionality: A Scoping Review in Transgender Mental Health

Sofia I. Melendez Ron, Fides Arguelles, Alexandra Isabella Galvao Manriquez

Redefining Resilience: Rebuilding Queer & Trans Asian Youth Spaces from the Ground Up

Maple Xiang, Dany Ko

Reflections on Community-Based Research Alongside Unhoused 2S/LGBTQIA+ People in a Northern Climate

Landon Turlock, Juliana Kaneda, JP Armstrong

Road to Equity! Empowered by 2SLGTBQIA+ Community Digital Storytelling

Juan Ugalde

Safeguarding Rainbow Seniors from Online Dating Scams

Evan Vipond, Vivian Lee

Satisfaction et usage de substances chez les jeunes adultes trans et non-binaires : le rôle du statut de transition médicale

Marc-Antoine Tourville

Sexual and Gender Identity Disclosure and Loneliness in a National Sample of 2S/LGBTQ+ Canadians: Findings from the Sex Now 2025 Survey

Jordan Heeney

Sexual Health Education and Resource Needs of 2S/LGBTQINA+ Newcomer Youth to Canada

Arlette Ibrahim

Sexual Minority Stress, Mental Health, and Nicotine Use Among Plurisexual Women

Lucas Calcano

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