

# Finding Home

Pride Home Pilot Evaluation  
Summary Document

"This place is like a family...  
unconditional love is what it is."

- Youth living in Pride Home



Pride Home:  
A place for 2SLGBTQ  
Youth to find Housing,  
Support, and  
Community

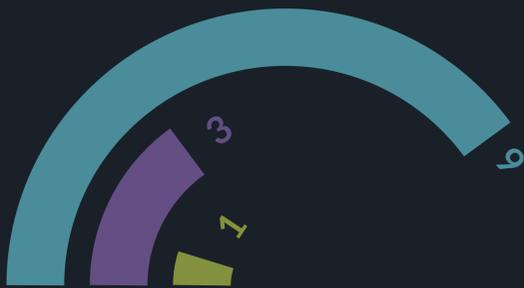


## 2SLGBTQ YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

# 12

2SLGBTQ Youth  
have lived  
in Pride Home  
since January  
2017

### Culture



Indigenous Settler Asian

### Gender



7 had experience with the justice system prior to moving in

4 have found employment while living at Pride Home

3 have returned to school and have graduated or are on track to graduate

2 are attending post-secondary in the fall

Two Spirit, transgender, and queer youth are at a greater risk of homelessness compared to their cisgender, heterosexual peers. A recent street-based needs assessment in Toronto identified that 24% of youth respondents identified as 2SLGBTQ, and local surveys showed that 30% of youth in OUTSaskatoon's youth program had been homeless or without secure housing at some point in their lives.

While 2SLGBTQ youth can access the same general housing supports as their non-2SLGBTQ peers, these spaces are often unsafe for them and result in negative experiences. Many youth say that living on the streets feels safer than places where they face homophobia and transphobia.

### Reasons for 2SLGBTQ Homelessness

Presumed parental attitudes towards queer identity

Family issues & abuse at home

Forced out by parents for 2SLGBTQ identity

Fleeing unsafe living situations

Arguments with parents

Gender-based violence at school

## WHAT DO 2SLGBTQ YOUTH NEED?

OUTSaskatoon's research and evaluation found that the need for 2SLGBTQ housing in Saskatoon was primarily due to 'parental impact' and 'no place to go'. Youth also didn't feel comfortable being themselves in other youth housing options, supporting the need for 2SLGBTQ-specific services.

Outside of direct housing needs, additional needs emerged for 2SLGBTQ youth struggling with homelessness. The pilot evaluation found that Pride Home is addressing the majority of youths' needs within the home.



## WHAT IS PRIDE HOME?

Pride Home opened in January of 2017 as the first long-term group home for 2SLGBTQ youth in Canada. Offering safe and supportive housing to youth between the ages of 16 and 21, Pride Home provides wrap-around supports including counselling, life skills, community programming, and healthcare navigation. Pride Home is founded on a youth-centred model, recognizing youth as agents of their own lives and supporting and celebrating them as 2SLGBTQ people.

Pride Home's mission is to equip 2SLGBTQ youth for adulthood so that they can continue to grow and live independently.

"These youth have been surviving for so long, I don't need to teach them how to survive. I need to teach them how to heal. I can't do that by myself, I need everyone to buy in for that and create that community."

- Pride Home Staff

## FACILITIES

"It's something that a lot of us have never experienced before and to be able to call them [the staff and their roommates] a family is a really unique and awesome experience"

- Youth living in Pride Home

Pride Home is a six-bedroom home, with shared communal spaces. Each bedroom has a private bathroom, mini-fridge, and workspace, and shared spaces include the kitchen, living room space, and an art and recreation space in the basement. The home also includes a suite for the live-in mentor who provides onsite evening and weekend support. Pride Home is located on the west side of Saskatoon, a 20-minute walk to OUTSaskatoon, so that youth can access counselling, support groups, and other services through OUTSaskatoon's regular programming. Pride Home is also located near schools enabling youth to upgrade their education.

## PRIDE HOME CARE APPROACH



Safe Housing



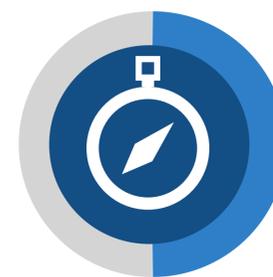
Crisis & Emotional Support



Programming



Service Through Relationships



Case Management & System Navigation

## EVALUATION RESULTS

The pilot evaluation of Pride Home found that most short and intermediate outcomes are being achieved. This means:

- Youth living in Pride Home experience greater feelings of stability and belonging, and increased support for their 2SLGBTQ identities.
- Youth talked about really appreciating the Pride Home staff and other youth who provided them with family-like relationships.

Interpersonal connection was especially important for youth who had become estranged from their own families.



# PRIDE HOME'S THEORY OF CHANGE

## Short-term Outcomes

↑ capacity for system navigation  
 ↑ goal setting  
 Enhanced life skills

2SLGBTQ identities are normalized  
 ↑ sense of belonging

↑ feelings of stability  
 ↑ capacity to work through past trauma

"It's a place for people to stabilize and there's so much instability for queer youth. I find that it's really like a safe haven for youth that need a place to stay and it's just it's a place to call home..."  
 - Youth Living in Pride Home

"It's a safe space for queers in general to be whoever they want to be... to explore ... gender diversity... You can just be you and that's really cool because there's no expectations ... other than to be who you want to be"  
 - Youth Living in Pride Home

## Intermediate Outcomes

↑ self-worth  
 ↑ affirmation with 2SLGBTQ identity  
 ↑ 2SLGBTQ community

↑ access to social supports  
 ↓ substance abuse

↑ steps towards education & employment goals  
 ↑ agency

"I think we ... excel at creating an environment where people can start for the first time dreaming a different future for themselves. ... we have two youth now who are on track to graduate High School."  
 - Pride Home Staff

"... it's really doing a good job of meeting its goal of ... providing flexible supports for the residence. Everyone has their own individual plan for what their goals are while they're at Pride home."  
 - Pride Home Staff

## Long-term Outcomes

↑ well-being and health outcomes  
 ↑ employment and educational attainment  
 ↑ resiliency

## Ultimate Outcome

Two Spirit, transgender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer youth grow and live independently

Adapted from:

A. Hartman & K. Lawson. (2019). Finding Home: A Pilot Evaluation of OUTSaskatoon's Pride Home.

Available at: [outsaskatoon.ca/research](https://outsaskatoon.ca/research)



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