

2SLGBTQ people face disproportionately high rates of gender-based violence (GBV) at interpersonal, social, and structural levels, and such violence often results in considerable mental and physical health disparities. GBV rooted in homophobia and transphobia remains under-recognized in current models of practice, resulting in significant gaps in service provision and an increase in barriers for 2SLGBTQ survivors seeking support.

OUTSaskatoon is working to better understand and support 2SLGBTQ survivors of GBV and improve their access to care at all levels, including within healthcare systems, in schools, and within our social service sectors. With the support of two federal departments, OUTSaskatoon is embarking on a five-year initiative to provide trauma- and survivor-informed, feminist, intersectional, and anti-oppressive support services to 2SLGBTQ survivors of GBV. These services will be provided in an integrated, community based setting in order to increase accessibility and safety, complement activities with wrap-around services, and to increase collaborations between community based organizations, legal bodies, and healthcare.

1. Transformative Care for LGBTQ2S Survivors of Gender-Based Violence: A Prevention and Intervention Action Plan

Supported by: The Department of Women and Gender Equality

Summary: OUTSaskatoon will develop a model for transformative care for 2SLGBTQ survivors of GBV that will include three pillars of intervention and prevention: Counselling and Support, Intervention and Case Management, and Advocacy and Education. These pillars will be supported by extensive partnerships, community-driven governance, and capacity building initiatives and will be tested and validated through a developmental and evidence-based evaluation strategy.

Objectives:

1. Improved overall health outcomes for 2SLGBTQ survivors of GBV and their ability to navigate and manage GBV situations.
2. Increased capacity and knowledge of healthcare and service providers regarding 2SLGBTQ survivors' needs, and a reduction of GBV rates in 2SLGBTQ populations.
3. Improved access to care at intersecting and multiple levels (mental health, physical and medical health, education, housing, and social supports) for 2SLGBTQ survivors of GBV.

2. Understanding Gender-Based Violence in LGBTQ2S Communities: A Model of Responsible Engagement for Health and Social Service Providers

Supported by: Public Health Agency of Canada

OUTSaskatoon's Gender-Based Violence Initiatives



Summary: To improve the quality of care for 2SLGBTQ people in Saskatoon and throughout the Prairies by training and mentoring educators, healthcare, and service providers on how to recognize, prevent, and respond safely to gender-based violence as it impacts and effects 2SLGBTQ people of all ages and backgrounds.

Objectives:

1. To increase the prevalence of research and data on GBV in 2SLGBTQ communities (as it occurs through intimate partner violence and by way of structural transphobia and homophobia).
2. To develop and deliver comprehensive 2SLGBTQ GBV curriculum to educators, health, and social service professionals in Saskatchewan (specifically elementary and high-school teachers and school guidance counsellors, professional counsellors, healthcare providers, social workers, and psychology students specializing in counselling) with the goal of improving their ability to recognize, prevent, and respond safely to GBV as it impacts 2SLGBTQ people.
3. To provide resources, guidance, and tools to healthcare and service providers which will enable greater engagement with 2SLGBTQ survivors.
4. To improve the healthcare experiences and outcomes for 2SLGBTQ survivors of GBV by connecting them with healthcare and service providers that have been trained through the project.
5. To mobilize training capacity across the prairies through a train-the-trainer model delivered to educators in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba.
6. To support models of healing and resiliency through a strengths-based and culturally-informed model.