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TRANS YOUTH CANADA

**CURRENT, PRE- AND  
POST-COVID IMPACT ON  
COMMUNITY & SOCIAL  
SERVICES REPORT**

**INCLUDING PRELIMINARY  
FINDINGS FROM OUR YOUTH AND  
SERVICE PROVIDER SURVEYS**



*[transyouthcanada.com](http://transyouthcanada.com)*

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*TransYouthCanada.com* is a youth-led website and resource. This site features trans, Two-Spirit, gender diverse, and/or gender non-conforming youth-led research, resources for youth across Canada, a podcast series, artistic endeavours and creations, and frameworks of action for healthcare, schools, and social service to utilize in policy and practice.

*This report's research is being led by a team of young trans people: Keegan Prempeh, Priya "Pree" Rehal, Kaeden Seburn, Lachina Tycho Mckenzie. The work is also funded by Ryerson University and is supported by assistant professor Julie James. This report offers preliminary findings on the social and community service specific data on three surveys aimed at better understanding the healthcare, education, and community/social service needs of trans, Two-Spirit, and/or gender diverse youth (16-24) in Canada.*

*These surveys include:*

- A pre-COVID-19 trans youth survey with data collected from Feb 2019 to July 2019 (n=190),*
- A COVID-19 impact trans youth survey that started data collection on May 4th, 2020 (n=176)*
- A service provider survey that also started data collection on May 4th, 2020 (n=106).*

## **FINDINGS FROM BOTH THE PRE AND POST COVID YOUTH SURVEYS**

The following themes were the most frequently reported on by youth from both of the surveys (n=366) regarding experiences with social & community services:

- Recommendations for employees to not assume names or pronouns and introduce their own
- The importance of ensuring that there is a gender-neutral bathroom available
- The importance of ensuring that resources are documented in gender-neutral ways
- Education for all parents and caregivers, including new ones, on gender diversity
- Demand for gender-diverse social service employees
- The importance of having policies that affirm the existence of trans people
- Zero-tolerance policy for discrimination against trans/GNC/2-spirit people
- The need for social events that are sober and/or not centered around partying

- The need for more accessible services in all areas – urban, suburban, rural, and remote
- The need for more services and programs for BIPOC trans, Two-Spirit, and/or gender diverse young people, and more staff from these groups
- The need to make it easier to change one’s name and gender on agency documents and on personal identification documents
- The need for trans-specific expertise within agencies.

## COVID-19 IMPACT TRANS YOUTH SURVEY

22%

reported that one of the places they learned about gender diversity was through social or community services

22%

reported that one of the places they feel safe and supported to talk about their gender identities was through a trans-specific youth group

42%

reported that one of the places they feel safe and support to talk about their gender identities was through a LGBTQ2S+ youth group

The following themes were the most frequently reported items on the service provider survey with respect to community and social services: Access to supportive services – the most frequent response was that youth respondents did not have access to supportive services before COVID-19 hit, and the second most frequent response was that some supportive services have moved online. Youth expressed gratitude for the social, community, and healthcare workers that continue to provide care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Only

11%

reported that one of the places they feel safe and supported to talk about their gender identities was through a community group

# SERVICE PROVIDER SURVEY

Respondents to the service provider survey, indicated the following priorities for future training:

**62%**

reported wanting advanced education and training specific to their profession on how to support trans, Two-Spirit, and/or gender diverse youth

**64%**

reported wanting specific education and training on how to support racialized trans, Two-Spirit, and/or gender diverse youth

**74%**

reported wanting specific education and training on how to support Indigenous gender diverse and/or Two-Spirit youth



**64%**

reported wanting specific education and training on how to support disabled trans youth

**52%**

reported wanting specific education and training on advocacy work with trans, Two-Spirit, and/or gender diverse youth

The following were the most frequently occurring themes found in the service provider survey with respect to community and social services in particular:

- More training on how to support young trans, Two-Spirit, and/or gender diverse youth is needed
- The importance of consulting young trans people directly on their needs from service providers

- Many providers reported that they had engaged in self-directed initiatives to support young trans, Two-Spirit, and/or gender diverse young people in their places of work.
- Most respondents reported that there were no known policies in their place of work with respect to supporting young trans, Two-Spirit, and/or gender diverse people.
- Several respondents reported that within the trans-specific policies that do exist, these policies did not address disabled folks and/or Two-Spirit folks.

## COVID-19 Provisions

Several respondents reported that they had taken the initiative to move their services online during COVID-19 to continue their work with trans youth. No respondents reported any organizational efforts to modify service delivery during COVID-19 so that support to trans, Two-Spirit, and/or gender diverse youth can continue.

## WHAT CAN BE DONE? CHECKLIST ITEMS:

- Do you have a policy for all levels of staff to introduce themselves with their pronouns?
- What can you do to make sure your youth-facing staff is properly trauma-informed?
- What are 3 ways you are unlearning biases?
- How many of your youth-facing, and executive, staff look like the youth you serve?
- How can youth leave reviews, feedback and receive follow ups about transphobic staff?

