

A vibrant, stylized illustration of a woman and a man lying on a blue surface. The woman, on the left, is wearing a red and black striped dress and a black headscarf. She is holding a large, patterned bag with a green and white geometric design. The man, on the right, is wearing a blue suit and a white shirt. He is holding a red bag. Various items are scattered around them, including a red shoe, a green bag, and a red bag. The background is a solid blue color.

Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ Youth Across Ontario Assert Needs and Experiences

How Indigenous youth take care of their mental health

- #1 Talking to friends
- #2 Self-care

"They don't teach about queer and trans people in school. They forget about us."

40% of participants say their mental health needs are not being met

"I am my own person who is unique and the creator gifted me this to help other people like myself."

Changes that Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ youth would like to make in their community

- #1 Spaces and events
where Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ youth can meet one another and build connections
- #2 Specific programming
including spaces that respect cultural identities
- #3 Health resources
including mental health, access to doctors, and substance use support
- #4 Educating community
awareness and acceptance by the broader community

144 participants identify as
which includes Métis and

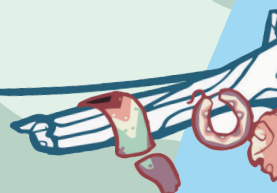
58% of participants say they do not feel a sense of community

"I love that I can be me everyday"

What Indigenous youth love about being part of the 2SLGBTQ+ community

- #1 Sense of community
- #2 Cultural identity

"Nothing, it sucks"



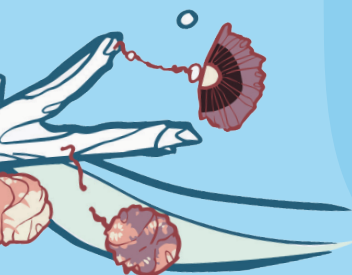
“What future do we have?”

“Make my home community safer and more welcoming for the lgbt people where I live”

Participants Indigenous

s First Nations,
Inuit youth

“I feel so defeated regarding our political climate”



Top needs when accessing services and resources

- #1 Low to no financial costs
- #2 Staff knowledge of 2SLGBTQ+ identities and experiences
- #3 Confidentiality

Top needs for 2SLGBTQ+ dedicated spaces

- #1 Low to no financial costs
- #2 Accessible
- #3 Close in distance
- #4 Youth-based services

51% of Indigenous youth have not accessed a dedicated space

“Being in a 2S space, I get to connect all of my identities”

What Indigenous 2SLGBTQ+ youth would say to people who are making decisions about their lived reality

- #1 “Listen to us”
- #2 “We need real systemic change”
- #3 “We need free, safe, sober, Indigenous-only community spaces”

“Indigenous people matter and we deserve access to clean water, mental health services and education.”

“Listen to activist groups and engage in meaningful dialogue with them about policy rather than just memorizing LGBTQ + talking points.”

“You need to have diverse representation when you are making decisions that will directly affect people who aren’t like you. Have some integrity and make decisions based on how it will benefit the most vulnerable amongst us and not what will line your pockets.”

“[You] need to do more to help find Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) and Two Spirit people.”

LGBT YouthLine’s Provincial Youth Ambassador Project (PYAP) brought together 18 2SLGBTQ+ Youth Ambassadors from across Ontario to lead an assessment about the experiences and needs of 2SLGBTQ+ youth (29 and under) in Ontario, while also amplifying their resilience.

This Snapshot exclusively explores the responses from 144 Indigenous youth from across Ontario, which includes First Nations, Métis, and Inuit youth.

LGBT YouthLine is a 2SLGBTQ+ youth-led organization that affirms and supports the experiences of youth (29 and under) across Ontario.

Access other snapshot reports, and long form report at youthline.ca