



LGBT YouthLine launches report “Do Better: 2SLGBTQ+ Youth Recommendations for Change in Ontario”

Ontario, March 4, 2021 – Exactly one year after the launch of their Needs Assessment Report, [We’re Here: 2SLGBTQ+ Youth Assert Needs and Experiences](#), LGBT YouthLine launches [Do Better](#), a report outlining seven recommendations for change in Ontario. The youth-led recommendations are targeted at those in decision-making roles, including elected officials, service providers, school boards, community stakeholders, and youth-serving groups. If put into action, the recommendations will directly support the wellbeing and survival of 2SLGBTQ+ youth. The report is accompanied by a virtual launch tour and resources to support immediate action.

Do Better is a continuation of work that started in summer 2019 with a provincial needs assessment led by 18 2SLGBTQ+ Youth Ambassadors (YAs); this included ensuring dedicated Snapshot Reports were created highlighting unique needs for Indigenous youth, Racialized youth, Northern Ontario youth, Trans and Nonbinary youth, and youth under 18. In February 2020, LGBT YouthLine launched the assessment results through an 11-city tour where attendees provided their dreams for futures that prioritized 2SLGBTQ+ youth.

The seven recommendations in *Do Better* have been shaped by Youth Ambassadors, utilizing insight from hundreds of youths from across Ontario; the report also includes a dedicated section on the impact of COVID-19 on 2SLGBTQ+ youth. Though this report captures two years of research, youth leadership and 1,200+ 2SLGBTQ+ youth voices, it is a continuation of work that has been happening for generations. As we launch these recommendations, we know that they strongly align with other reports and research, continuing the urgency and need to take these longstanding youth concerns seriously.

“Throughout our process, 2SLGBTQ+ youth were asked to share their hopes and dreams. I feel disheartened that the hopes of 2SLGBTQ+ youth continue to be focused on survival, safety, and basic needs that continue to be unmet,” said Hayley Moody, Manager of Engagement and Partnerships. “The recommendations in these reports provide clear ways forward; they are what youth and 2SLGBTQ+ communities have been demanding for a long time.”

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This report comes on the heels of the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) removing YouthLine from its resources list, which sparked a larger conversation around the major gaps in support for 2SLGBTQ+ youth in schools; our research identified that only 14% of Catholic School Boards and 50% of Public School Boards in Ontario have any publicly listed resources for 2SLGBTQ+ youth on their websites. Historically and presently, 2SLGBTQ+ youth continue to be invisibilized and isolated, often forced to navigate homo/bi/transphobic environments on their own. “With TCDSB, we saw how quickly change can happen when community members and those with decision making power feel the urgency to act,” said Berkha Gupta, Executive Director of LGBT YouthLine. “In this report, 2SLGBTQ+ youth have done the work to tell us what changes they need; it is now up those in decision-making roles to #DoBetter!”

Do Better: 2SLGBTQ+ Youth Recommendations for Change in Ontario can be found at dobetter.youthline.ca. LGBT YouthLine is grateful for youth leaders, artists, researchers, and community members who graciously extended their support, time, energy, and labour into ensuring that the needs and experiences of 2SLGBTQ+ youth are reflected in this report.

For inquiries or to setup an interview, please contact Berkha Gupta at 416.962.2232 x224 or berkhag@youthline.ca.

About LGBT YouthLine: LGBT YouthLine is a Queer, Trans, Two-Spirit youth-led organization that affirms and supports the experiences of youth (29 and under) across Ontario. We do this by:

- Providing anonymous peer support through our HelpLine and referrals;
- Training youth to provide support to other youth; and
- Providing resources so youth can make informed decisions.

For over twenty-five years, LGBT YouthLine has been working with 2SLGBTQ+ youth in Ontario with a vision of having youth of all sexual and gender identities be celebrated and supported. YouthLine is the only organization dedicated to supporting 2SLGBTQ+ youth across Ontario through peer support and leadership opportunities.



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