



Annual Report 2025/2026

Land Acknowledgement

LGBT YouthLine works in the place often referred to as Ontario, which continues to be colonized land, and is home to many Indigenous communities. Our head office, located in the city colonially known as Toronto, is the territory of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, these lands remain home to many Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island. YouthLine works in this community, in this context, on this territory.

Our Mission

LGBT YouthLine is an anti-racist, youth-led organization that connects 2SLGBTQ+ youth (29 and under) across Ontario to resources and community through peer support, training, advocacy, and referrals.



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A Letter from our Board Co-Chair

It's hard to believe that another year of peer support has passed! As we look back on the past twelve months, I am once again reminded of the resilience and power of our community, as well as the tireless effort and enduring support that make the work of LGBT YouthLine possible. At a time when the rights of 2SLGBTQ+ youth continue to face attacks through harmful legislation and cuts to essential funding, LGBT YouthLine continued to show up to support youth through much-needed programming rooted in advocacy, outreach, and peer support. Together, we created spaces for community care and, most importantly, hope.

As always, our peer support line remained a steady lifeline for 2SLGBTQ+ youth across Ontario, providing a valuable free, anonymous space for youth to talk to someone who really gets it. We are proud to remain youth-led and know that this work would not be possible without the passion and dedication of our peer support volunteers, staff, and donors, who help ensure that youth never have to feel alone.

Our values were at the heart of the work we accomplished during the 2025-2026 fiscal year. We held several Advocacy Teach-Ins on topics ranging from Eco-Racism and Environmental Activism to Combating Gentrification and Building Solidarity with Queer and Trans Prisoners. By creating spaces for important conversations and coming together to promote youth-led leadership, we not only looked toward the future but also toward one another for solidarity, uplifting the causes that matter most to youth.

As part of our commitment to community building, we also held a range of in-person and virtual events designed to foster connection, belonging, and joy. This included TRANScendTO, a day-long gathering in Toronto for Two-Spirit, trans, and nonbinary youth, featuring engaging workshops, social spaces and services, a community resource fair, and, of course, the annual Kiki Ball. We also held a Trans Day of Visibility virtual panel in collaboration with EverSick! Consulting, creating space for reflection, remembrance, and connection.

I am especially proud to share that this year we also hosted drop-in spaces for Northern 2SLGBTQ+ youth as part of our Northern, Rural, Remote, and Indigenous programming. These spaces gave youth opportunities to connect, share, and experience moments of joy and fun both online and face-to-face. And that's not all! We reached 2SLGBTQ+ youth across Ontario, visiting several cities to celebrate Pride season in 2025. From Thunder Bay to Ottawa, we were reminded that no matter where you are in Ontario, LGBT YouthLine is here to support you.

None of this would be possible without the fabulous support of our donors and supporters, who had resounding success in raising essential funds to sustain our work. From swimming across Lake Ontario (we see you, Lev!) to hosting a Great Gay Bakeoff, assembling a Pride of Lions, and taking part in our Holiday Auction, (and much, much more!) we are continually in awe of the creativity, generosity, and spirit of our supporters who keep our proverbial lights on. We could not do this work without all of you, and for your time, support, and care, we are endlessly grateful. Here's to another amazing year of peer support, community, and youth-led action, and to all the exciting things still to come!

Yours in Solidarity,



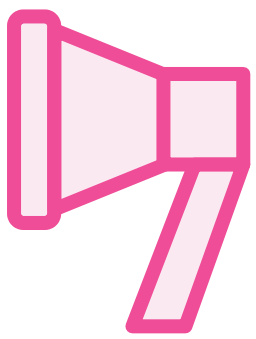
Sophie Kuhn
Co-Chair of the Board of Directors
LGBT Youthline

Peer Support HelpLine

In 2025-2026, we returned to in-person socials and launched a series of regional meetups for volunteers in Toronto, Halton, and Ottawa.

30% of our volunteers were able to join in some sort of in-person social event, with many of them meeting one another for the first time after volunteering together for multiple years. Volunteers reported a greater sense of connection with one another and satisfaction in their role.

We also focused renewed efforts on updating our core training curriculum to better reflect the changing trends and emerging needs we saw on the helpline, particularly as they related to gender identity and youth anxiety around labels.



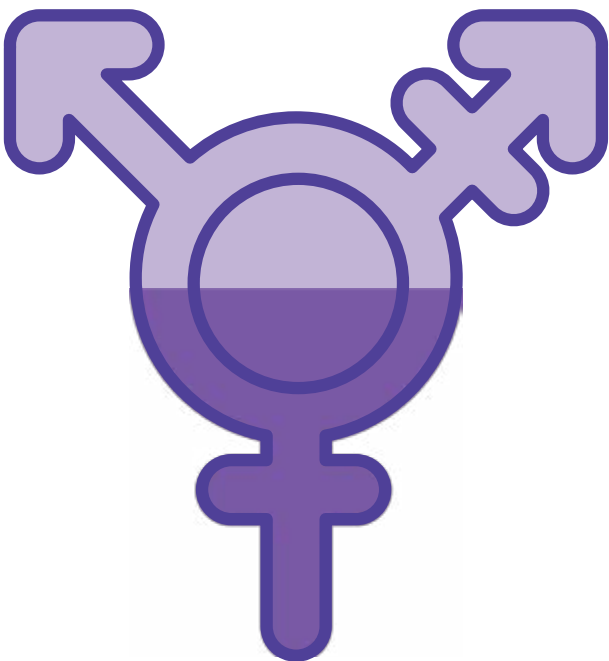
“Volunteering for YouthLine and being able to meet other queer and trans youth who are also passionate about supporting our community has been inspiring and gives me hope that despite the world being a really scary place to be, community spaces like this still exist and can flourish.” - **Volunteer**



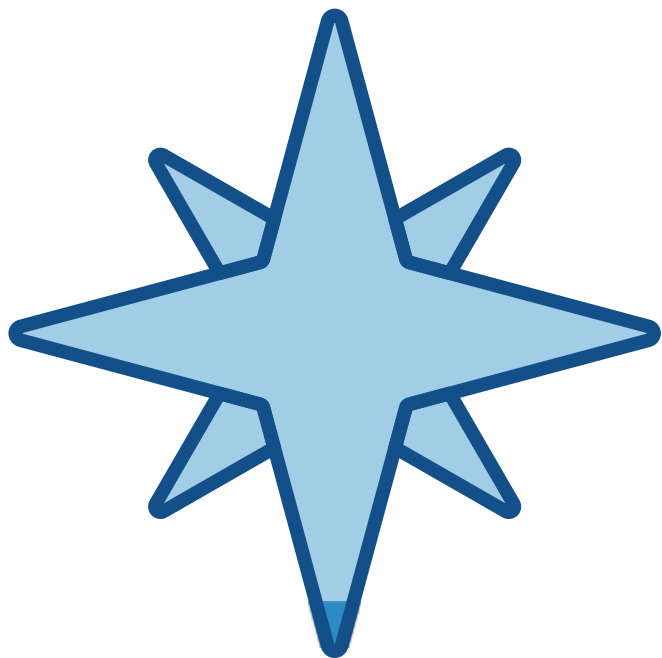
76
active
volunteers



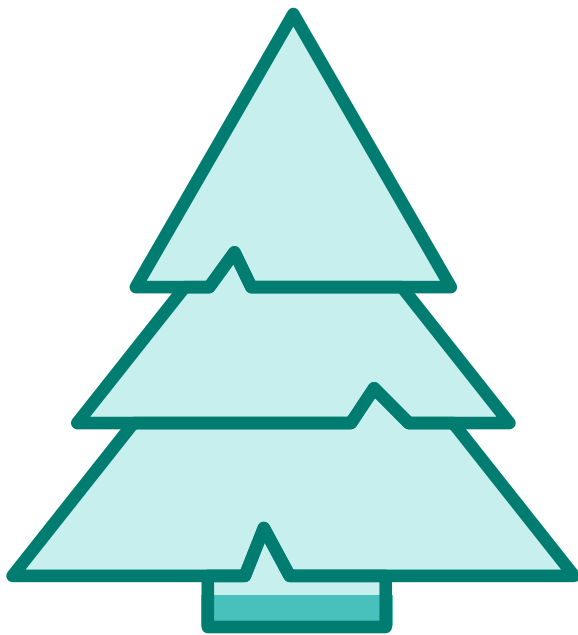
BIPOC*
62%



Trans**
57%



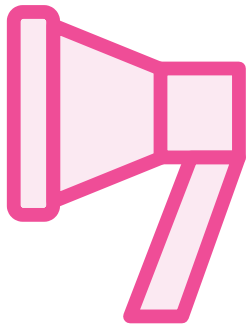
Northern
5%



Rural
5%

*Black, Indigenous, People of Colour
**Includes Trans, Non-Binary, Gender Non-Conforming, Genderfluid, and Questioning youth

Youth We Connected With



“Despite being a new volunteer, it is abundantly clear how crucial this helpline is - not only for the chatters who are able to access meaningful and anonymous support from youth like themselves, but also for the volunteers to participate in a by-youth-for-youth program. For me, being able to support folks who are also young queer and trans people in the same geographical(ish) community is so important to me as we exist in this current political environment.” - **Volunteer**

Location of Youth Contacting Us

- Northern ON – 2%
- Eastern ON – 2%
- Ottawa – 5%
- Central ON – 6%
- Toronto – 46%
- GTA (excluding Toronto) – 21%
- Southwestern ON – 17%

2,535

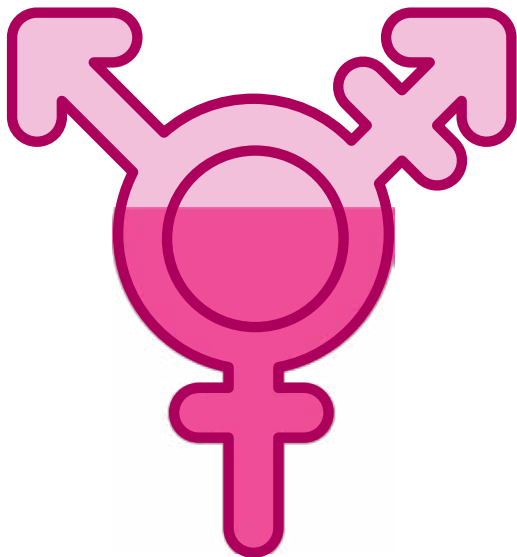
Youth Supported

In 2025-2026, we saw a **4% increase** in our service usage compared to last year.

Demographics of youth contacting us

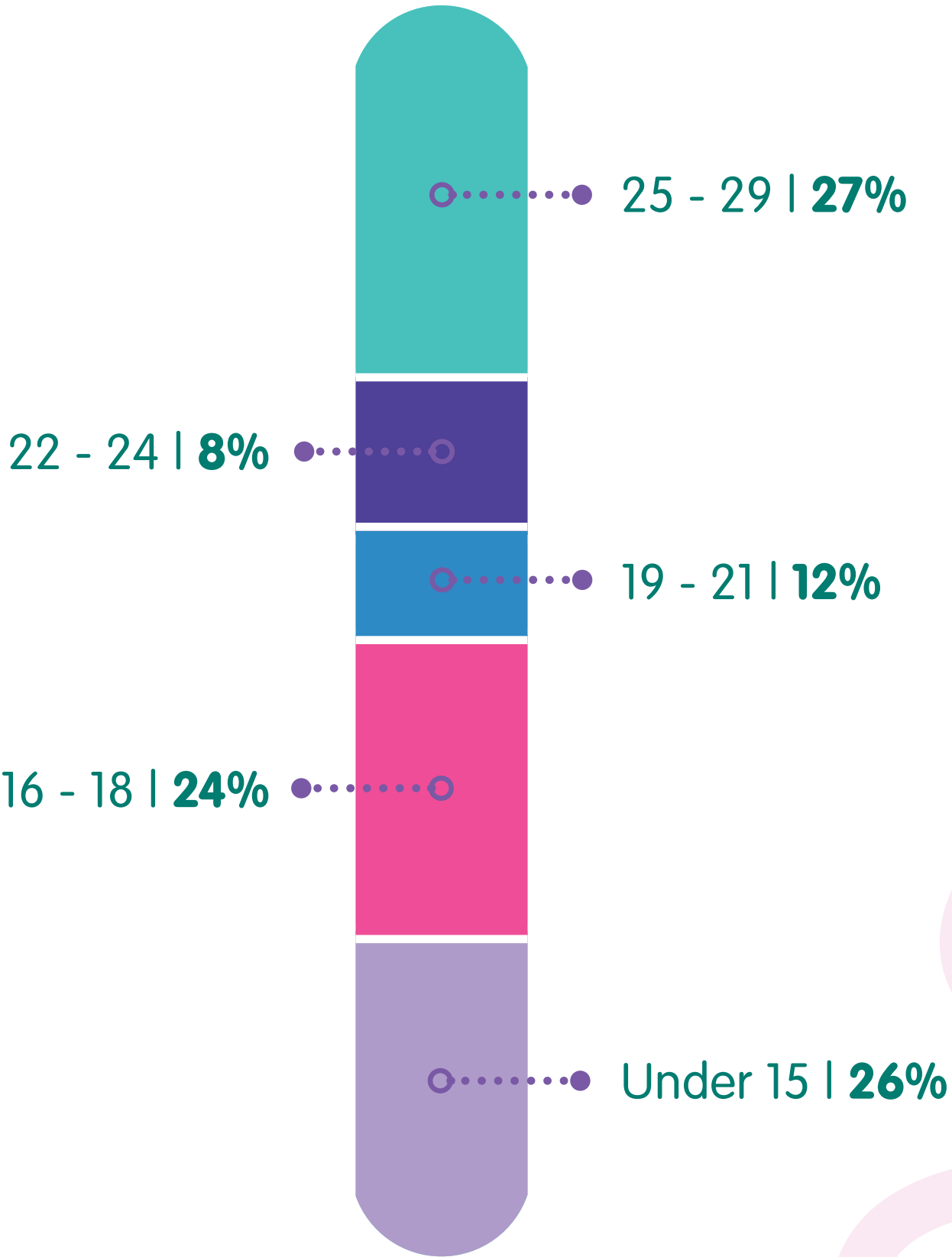


BIPOC
36%



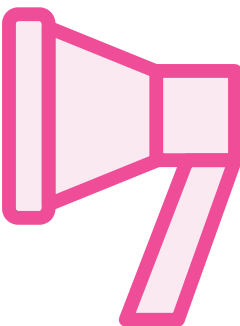
Trans
63%

Youth Age Ranges

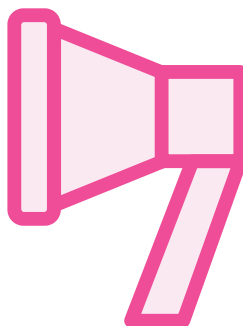


Top Issues Discussed

- 1. Isolation + Mental Health
- 2. Relationships - peer/sexual/romantic
- 3. Coming Out + Questioning (sexuality + gender)



"Every time I chat with y'all I'm reminded that I'm not alone. Having a real person who understands me on the other end is genuinely lifesaving." - **Chatter**



"They were great at getting me to think about my feelings and help me calm down. They also provided me with a resource that I think will be helpful." - **Chatter**

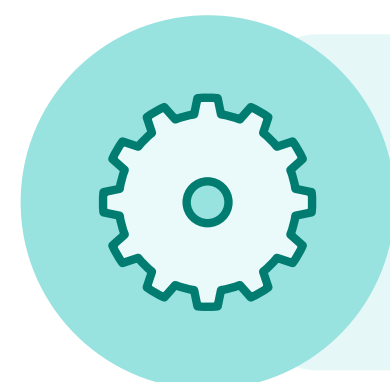
Training and Online Learning

In 2025-2026, 20 volunteers completed our 12-week peer support training.

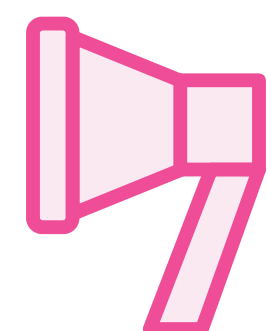
To ensure our training continues to meet the evolving needs of 2SLGBTQ+ youth across Ontario, we developed and updated several training modules and resources. These included:



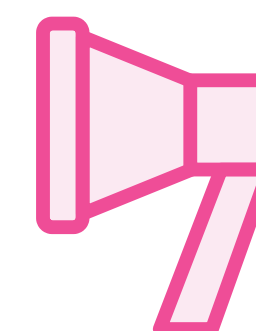
Updates to our core training modules, focusing on Gender & Sexuality, and Disability Justice.



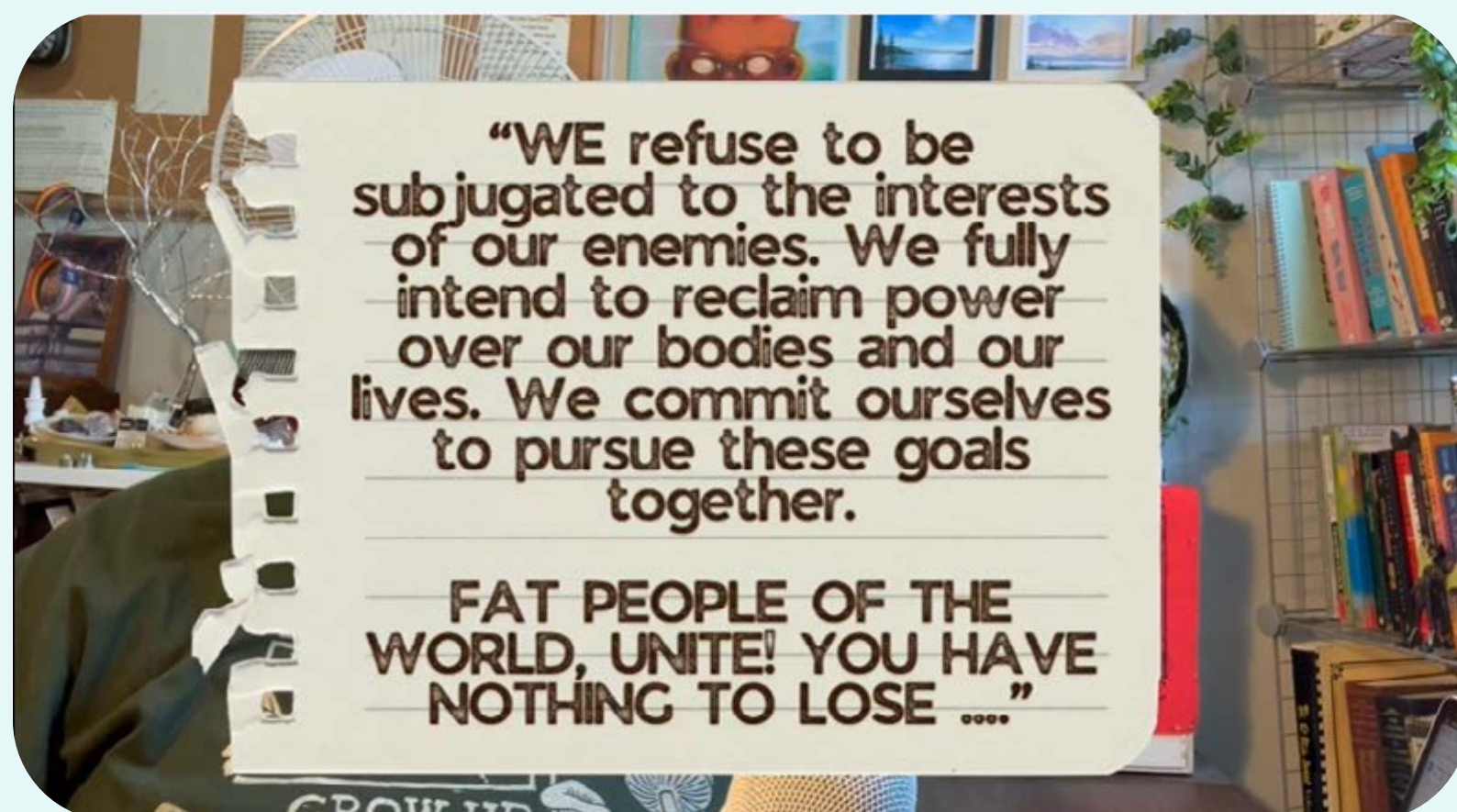
All modules were enhanced with improved accessibility, technical updates, and the most up-to-date information to better equip youth in providing informed peer support.



"I feel so much better equipped to provide peer support after completing this training and feel confident going into this role. I also implement things I learned from the training in my job as a support worker and am grateful I got this opportunity to learn!" - **Volunteer**

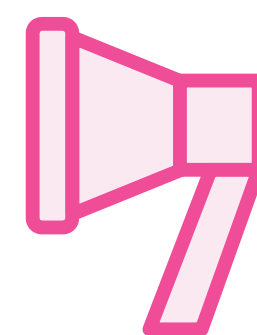


"The training process was very smooth and taught me a lot. I like how it's constantly updating to stay current with the times!" - **Volunteer**

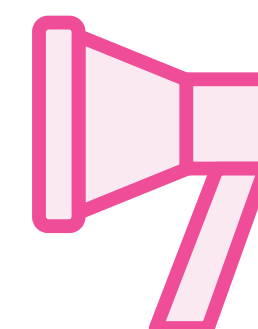


Online learning highlight

This year, we also launched our first online supplementary training module on Fatphobia. This project allowed us to work with one of our volunteers to create a video on the history of Fat Queer Resistance.



"I really liked the breakdown of fatphobia showing up in systemic issues all the way to intrapersonal issues. I never quite made the connection of fatphobia being present in systemic oppression which I realize is a privilege, so it was interesting but also disheartening to read ways doctors uphold such fatphobic ideologies. I also liked the inclusion of family/culture impacting how people perceive body standards as I have seen and experienced this myself. also loved the inclusion of videos/podcast clips!" - **Volunteer**



"I think this was a very comprehensive and thoughtful module! I appreciated the historical context as well as how it shows up today"- **Volunteer**



Thank you to Desjardins for their partnership in support of our training and online learning!



Outreach

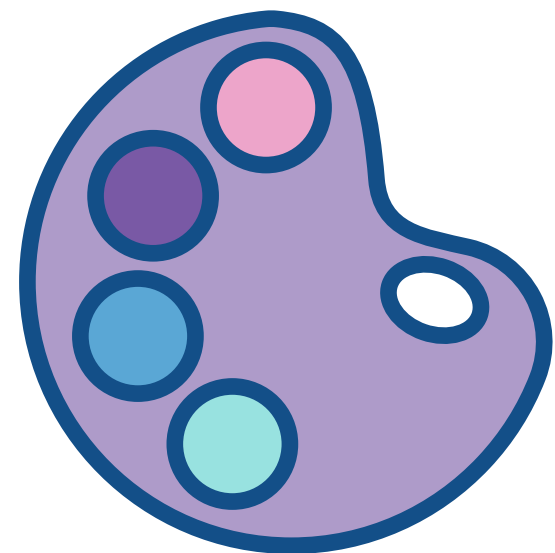
Northern, Rural, Remote, Indigenous Engagement

Virtual Drop-ins for Northern 2SLGBTQ+ youth

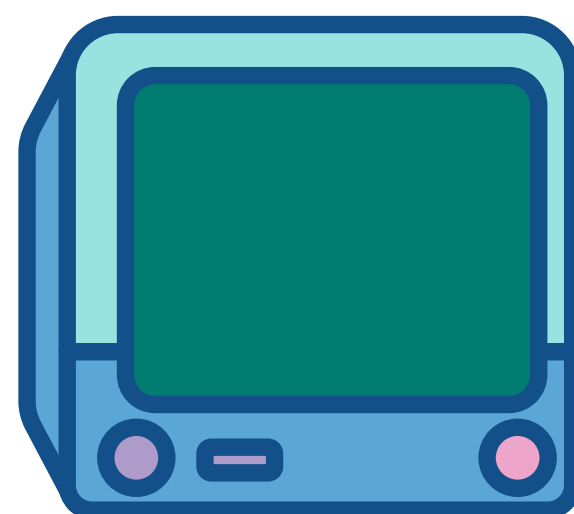
3 drop-ins | 70+ youth reached | 2 virtual + 1 in-person

In 2025, we hosted three drop-ins for Indigenous, Northern, rural, and remote 2SLGBTQ+ youth, creating an anti-oppressive, supportive, and social space to connect, build community, and express themselves. Two drop-ins were held virtually, with one hosted in person in Sudbury.

Our drop-ins explored themes including:



Art & Self-Expression



Queer Media & Representation



Arts & Crafts

Thank you to those who joined our drop-ins! Thank you to TG InnerSelves for their partnership!

Presentations and Events

We participated in presentations, community gatherings, and advocacy events across Northern, rural, remote, and Indigenous communities in Ontario.

Highlights included:

Algoma District School Board: Advocacy 101 presentation

Rainbow Collective – Thunder Bay: Introduction to LGBT YouthLine & Peer Support presentation

Grassy Narrows Rally: Participated in community advocacy and solidarity efforts

These opportunities allowed us to share resources, build connections, strengthen community partnerships, and support 2SLGBTQ+ youth and communities.



Resources for 2 Spirit Youth

In partnership with Ever Sick! Consulting, Grand Council Treaty 3 and Ji-Adisidooyang Ge-Onji Mino-Ayaayang Health Transformation, we created resource **pamphlets focused on health care, resources, and support for 2 Spirit community.**

We mailed **650** pamphlets to local organizations in Ontario!



Thank you to Ever Sick! Consulting, Grand Council Treaty 3 and Ji-Adisidooyang Ge-Onji Mino-Ayaayang Health Transformation.





Event highlight- Trans Day of Remembrance: Reflections & Community

On November 20, 2025, in collaboration with Jordyn Angecone of Ever Sick! Consulting, Two-Spirit speakers reflected on Indigenous trans experience, and paid respects to trans elders and mentors.

You can watch a recording of the event on our [YouTube page](#)!

Resource Distribution

585 service cards



671 Posters



266 Provincial Youth Ambassador Project Summary Reports



1,000 Bookmarks



[Click here to order our resources!](#)

Pride Across the Province

From Northern and rural communities to larger urban centres, we connected with 2SLGBTQ+ youth, community members, and local organizations to celebrate Pride, build community, and share resources and support.

We attended
16 prides
across Ontario!



- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Brant Pride | North Bay Pride |
| Durham Youth Pride | Orangeville Celebrate Your Awesome |
| Capital Pride | Peel Pride |
| Chatham-Kent Pride | Peterborough Pride |
| Guelph Pride in the Park | Pride Fest Niagara |
| Kawartha Lakes Pride in the Park | Strathroy Pride |
| Kingston Pride | Sudbury Pride |
| Muskoka Pride | Toronto Trans Community Fair & March |

Advocacy

Teach-Ins: By us, for us

Over 100 people attended the teach-ins this year, thank you for joining us!

This year, we continued hosting advocacy teach ins: virtual workshops intended to teach the fundamentals of advocacy and provide space for learning and discussion related to race, gender, and sexuality. Here is a look back at this year!

Combatting Gentrification with the Jane-Finch Action Against Poverty

Building Solidarity with Queer and Trans Prisoners with the Prison Correspondence Project

The Federal Election Explained with Celeste Trianon

Intro to Pinkwashing with Queers 4 Palestine



Teach-in highlight: Eco Advocacy Teach-In Series

Our Eco Advocacy Teach-In series highlighted important information and current developments in the field of environmental justice. This series explored a variety of topics, including queer ecology and environmental racism, while creating opportunities for participants to learn, engage, and build their knowledge.

- Queer Ecology 101 with Kayrn Anderson
- Environmental Racism with Celeste Alenca and Fatin Ishraq
- Environmental Advocacy and You with Beze Gray

Thank you to all of our collaborators and facilitators for making our teach-ins possible!

If you missed any of our teach-ins live or want to watch them again you can [check out the recordings of the teach-ins on our YouTube page!](#)

Introducing TRANScendTO

On June 6, 2025, we partnered with the City of Toronto and the Toronto Kiki Ballroom Alliance to bring Two-Spirit, Trans and Non-binary (2STNB) youth together for a day of connection, learning, community resources and celebration. It took place at the Toronto Metropolitan University Student Centre in Downtown Toronto.



- 6 Workshops
- 3 Social & Community Spaces
- 3 Pop-Up Service Stations
- 23 Community Service Providers
- \$3,000+ in Kiki Ball Cash Prizes



A Day of Community, Learning & Celebration

Over 70 2STNB youth participated in workshops focused on self-defense, crisis intervention, ballroom, grounding, healthy relationships, and navigating systems while Trans. Social and meet-up spaces also created opportunities for connection and community.

The Community Resources Fair brought together 23 service providers to share information, resources, and support with 2STNB youth, alongside pop-up services offering haircuts, ID support, and harm reduction.

The day ended with the TRANScendTO Kiki Ball celebrating 2STNB joy and talent with more than \$3,000 in cash prizes for 2STNB walkers!

Thank you to all the youth, community members, facilitators, service providers, interpreters, and the Toronto Metropolitan University Student Centre who helped make TRANScendTO possible. We are especially grateful to the City of Toronto and Toronto Kiki Ballroom Alliance for helping create a space where 2STNB youth could connect, learn, celebrate, and be themselves.

Canada Summer Jobs Assistants

In summer 2025, we welcomed 4 talented Canada Summer Job assistants who contributed significantly to various facets of YouthLine:



Finance and Fundraising Assistant

- Supported financial administration
- Researched fundraising strategies
- Contributed to our donor stewardship strategy



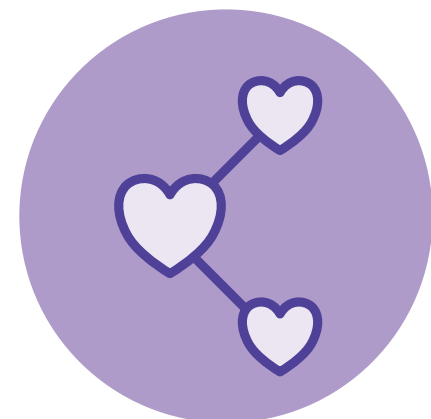
Admin Assistant

- Supported report drafting
- Supported with data and records organization
- Provided admin support across teams



Training and Resources Assistant

- Updated online learning modules for peer support volunteer training
- Supported maintenance of our Resources and Referrals Database
- Supported enhancing accessibility



Outreach Assistant

- Updated and maintained outreach contact list
- Supported with Northern, Rural, Remote and Indigenous programming
- Recommended Outreach Strategies for Northern, Rural, Remote & Indigenous Youth



Thank you to our Canada Summer Jobs assistants! Their dedication and hard work helped support our programs and operations!

Pride

Our Pride 2025 theme was **Turn Your Pride Into Action.**

We received **190 donations** totaling **\$45,656**, and **16 community fundraisers** made up **53%** of that amount!

We extend so much gratitude to all our donors, not only for helping us do our work, but also spreading the word about YouthLine among their friends, family, customers, and coworkers.

Community Pride Fundraisers

<\$500

- ConQuest Crafts
- The students of J. R. Wilcox Community School
- Twitch streamer skullzy_p and their fans
- The Sweeterie Inc.
- Whistle & Flute Clothing Ltd.

\$500-\$1,000

- Anice Jewelry
- The Broadview Hotel
- Gladstone House
- Great White North Pottery Supplies
- Philip Villeneuve
- Sausage Party Toronto

\$1,000-\$2,499

- Academy of Lions (“Pride of Lions”)
- The students of Albert College
- Muskoka Pride Community

<\$2,500

- The Exchange Brewery
- Heaps Estrin’s 3rd Great Gay Bake-Off
- Pure Yoga Ottawa

Pride Fundraiser highlight: The Great Gay Bakeoff

Starting in 2023, Heaps Estrin employee Jeff Brown brought together his coworkers and love of baking to create the Great Gay Bakeoff: a sweet celebration of pride in support of LGBT YouthLine!

The event grew year after year, and even after Jeff left the Heaps Estrin team, he and his former colleagues continued the Bakeoff tradition in 2025. Take a look at our Great Gay Bakeoff Fundraisers in 2025:



Thank you to Jeff Brown, Heaps Estrin and all of the bakers and supporters of the Great Gay Bakeoff in 2025!

Year-End: The Gift of Belonging

205
donations

\$54,946

raised between our
regular campaign and
our second holiday
auction!

Our Year-End 2025 theme was “The Gift of Belonging”. As is traditional for YouthLine, we commissioned a 2SLGBTQ+ youth to design a postcard for us to send to team members, donors, and community partners. This year’s artist was Rowan Campbell! [Check out Rowan on Instagram!](#)

We want to extend an extra thanks to our “Holiday BFFs” for continuing to support us! These are donors who give generously every year-end campaign, and this year was no exception.



LGBT YouthLine's Holiday Auction

Thank you so much to everyone who made bids, and congratulations to all the winners!

Special thanks to our partners that donated prizes! 46 businesses and organizations gave generously to make this another exciting auction.



Ana Pascos
The Anndore House
Arcadia Earth
Artage Portraits
Astanga Ottawa
The Aura House
BATL Grounds
The Big Carrot
Bird Kingdom Niagara Falls
Body Positive Fitness
Boiler Room Climbing
Boreal Museum
Canadian History Museum
The Churchmouse: A Firkin Pub
Cineplex

Con-Quest Crafts
Coyote Rock Gym
Daydream Adventures
Generations Performing Arts
Glad Day
Hearty Hooligan
Honey's Icecream
Hopeless Romantic Books
Improbable Escapes
The Keg
Kingston School of Dance
Level One Game Pub
Magnus Theatre
Morro Yoga
The Move Room

Niagara Helicopters Limited
Nuts for Cheese
On The Off Beat Music School
Pirate Life Theatre
Pure Yoga Ottawa
Queen Books
Relay Coffee
Sinfonia
Tarragon Theatre
The Studio PEC
Trek Kingston
Urban Nature Store
The Westdale
Wheelhouse Cycle
Wiggins Productions

Communications: Expanding Awareness

We know how important it is to keep reaching young people where they are. Last year, we produced a short promotional video to raise awareness of YouthLine’s services and remind young people that we’re here when they need someone to talk to.

Thank you to Tanya Hoshi for producing the video, and to our staff and volunteers for their feedback support and on-screen participation!



[Check out the video here!](#)



We also brought our message to **16 communities** across rural Ontario through bus advertising.

Thank you to Women and Gender Equality Canada for supporting this work and helping ensure we’re reaching young 2SLGBTQ+ people and they know that YouthLine is here for them.

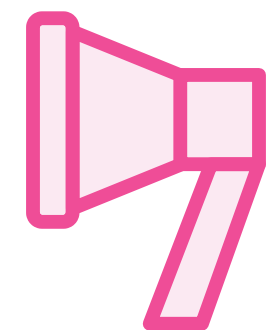
 Women and Gender Equality Canada Femmes et Égalité des genres Canada

Who Supported Us

Very special thanks to our **110 monthly donors** who provide us with a reliable stream of funding throughout the year. You are our BFFs!

We do not name individual donors out of consideration for privacy, but every donation, whether one-time or monthly, is hugely appreciated!

Thanks as well to the foundations, businesses, associations, and student groups that supported us this year. You make it possible for us to continue our work.



"You helped my daughter when she was struggling. I will always be thankful." - **Donor**

Foundation

\$2,500+

Andree Rheume & Robert
Fitzhenry Family Foundation
Elephant Shoes Foundation
Fiera Capital Foundation
Jays Care Foundation
The Sonor Foundation

\$1,000-2,499

Arbor Memorial Foundation
Dawn Tattle Family Foundation
Charities Aid Foundation Canada

\$500-\$999

Charitable Impact Foundation

\$250-499

Jason Nardari Charitable Fund
The Lowidt Foundation

Business Donations

\$2,500+

Simply Naillogical Inc

\$1,000-2,499

Altas Corporation
AMS
celia satov i
Eclipsys Solutions Inc.
Ivari Insurance

\$500-\$999

Coconut Software Corp.
Mentor Educational Inc.
SPINCO Hamilton
Woody's on Church

\$250-499

Gardens Path
Sparks Pizza
Tinderbox

\$100-249

The Aura House
BD
Big Feelings Bracelets
Embrace Yoga and Health
Linea Solutions
lululemon employee matching donations
Meridian's DEIBR team
Sed Psychotherapy

Other Group Donations

\$500-\$999

Ontario Secondary School Teacher Federation - District 11
Peel Elementary Teachers’ Local

\$250-499

The students of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School
The students of Thornlea Secondary School

\$100-249

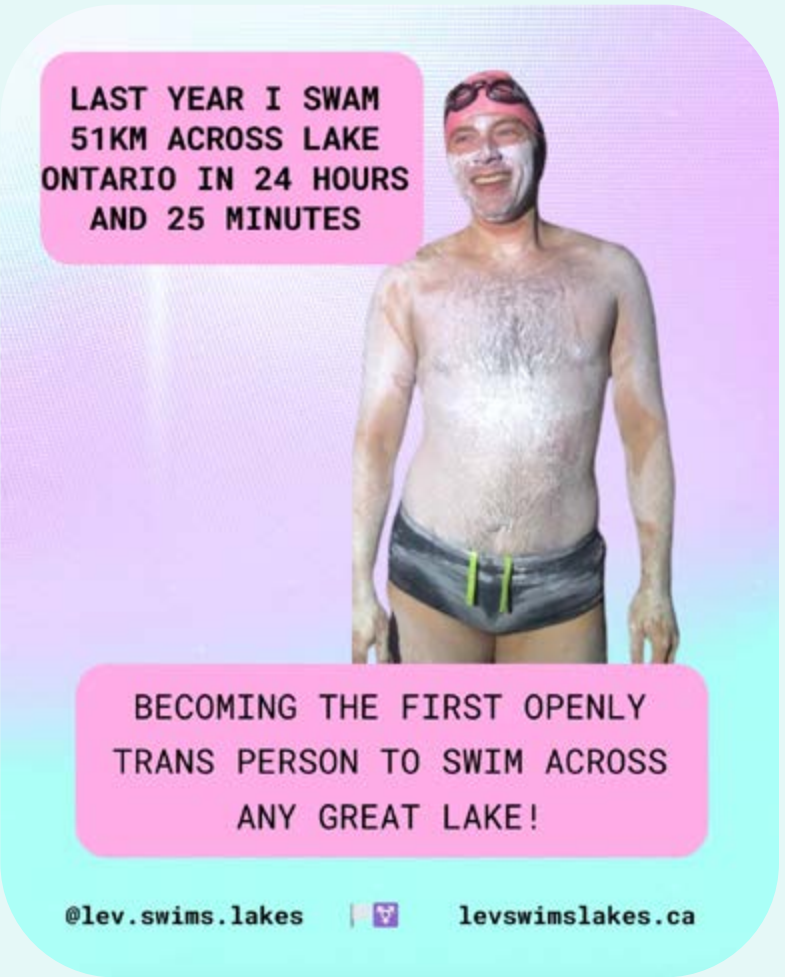
Durham Children’s Aid Society
Junction Residents Association
Woodview Mental Health & Autism Service



Third Party Fundraisers

Third Party Fundraisers offer a fun way for individuals, groups, and organizations to show their love for YouthLine. Thank you to all who hosted a third party fundraiser outside of Pride season!

DISCAPE DISC GOLF Inc.
earlgreycastle
The Imperial Court of Toronto
McMaster University LGBTQ2SIA+ Athletic Advocacy Group
Mississauga Festival Choir
Murphy’s Farm Market and Bakery
Toronto Aces Special Olympics Disc Golf
Toronto Historical Bowling Society
Woody’s on Church



Third Party Fundraiser highlight: Lev Goldberg Swims 51km for Trans Visibility

YouthLine alum Lev Goldberg made waves on September 3rd, 2025, as the first openly transgender person to swim across Lake Ontario.

As part of his fundraising for this historic swim, Lev generously raised \$7000 for YouthLine! We’re so grateful for his support and so proud of him for achieving this incredible feat after many months of training.

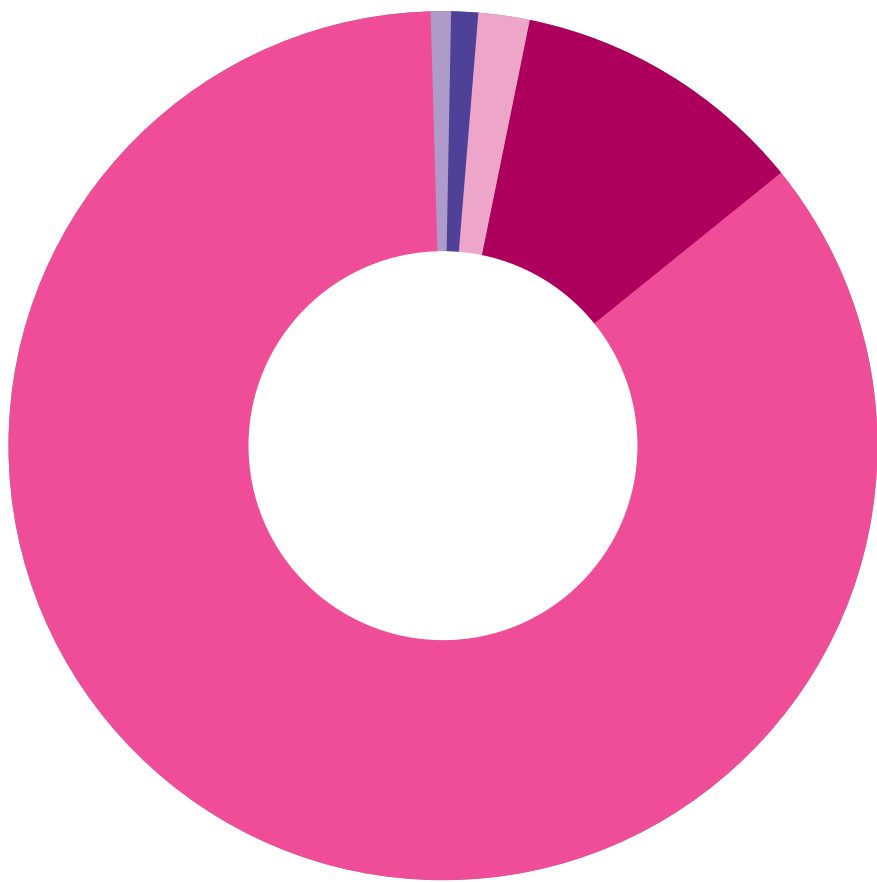
Follow Lev’s journey to become the first trans person to swim across all five Great Lakes by [checking out his website!](#)

Financial Summary



REVENUES \$875,037

Corporate & Foundation Grants	\$254,527	29.09%
Donations and Fundraising	\$213,943	24.45%
Federal Grants	\$172,661	19.73%
City of Toronto Funding	\$111,249	12.71%
Ministry of Health	\$102,086	11.67%



EXPENSES \$857,552

Charitable Activities Expenses	\$739,883	86.29%
Salaries, Benefits & Related costs	\$92,311	10.77%
Office Supplies, Bank Charges & Other	\$17,406	2.03%
Accounting & Audit	\$6,521	0.76%
Board of Directors costs, Insurance	\$1,431	0.17%

Our Funders



Canadian
Race Relations
Foundation



Desjardins



lululemon



Ministry of Health
Ministry of Long-Term Care



pride & remembrance run



TORONTO



Women and Gender
Equality Canada

Femmes et Égalité
des genres Canada



Our Team

Toronto

Anika
Beck
Dean
Jay
Lauren
May
Vale

Ottawa

Esther
Noah

North Bay

Katrina

Past Staff

Bisma
Nico
Ren
Sierra
Tyler

Board of Directors

Ben
Nicole
Renéyah
Pri
Kai
Sophie
Kess
Bilal
Caelus

Outbound Board Members

Austen
Keziah
Tehjler

How You Can Help

The community around YouthLine includes the youth who connect with us, donors, organizations that partner with us or do similar work, and people who refer youth to the HelpLine such as teachers and mental health workers. As restrictions on 2SLGBTQ+ freedoms, healthcare, and programming continue, we urge you to look for ways in which you can provide support, care, and resistance.



Ways that you can support LGBT YouthLine

Spread the word

[Order outreach materials](#) and tell the 2SLGBTQ+ youth in your life that they can chat with the HelpLine.

Donate

During times of economic austerity and reactionary politics, [donations of unrestricted funds](#) are incredibly important to small identity-based organizations like ours. We also greatly appreciate it when our supporters hold fundraisers for us!

Volunteer

[We recruit volunteers](#) for the HelpLine and members for the Board of Directors every summer!

Give us feedback

Whether you are a youth, counsellor, donor, former volunteer, or invested in YouthLine in another way, we'd love to hear from you about the work we do and the ways we can expand. Email us at info@youthline.ca!

Learn and advocate

This past year, we have been exploring ways in which YouthLine can advocate for 2SLGBTQ+ youth safety and rights.

- Learn about activism and areas of interest with [recordings of our teach-in workshops](#)!
- [Download a poster kit](#) and paint the town!
- [Check out our online library](#)!



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