

Joint Statement: Canadian 2SLGBTQIA+ and Allied Civil Society Organizations Call for Renewal of Federal 2SLGBTQIA+ Action Plan



We, the undersigned, call on Prime Minister Mark Carney, Minister of Women and Gender Equality Rechie Valdez and the Government of Canada to renew the Federal 2SLGBTQIA+ Action Plan in the upcoming federal budget. Unless it is renewed in the upcoming federal budget, the action plan will come to an end in March 2027.

We are in an era of global backlash on the freedom, equality and human rights of 2SLGBTQIA+ people. In Canada, 2SLGBTQIA+ people are witnessing a decline in their acceptance, attacks on their dignity, increases in hate crimes, and, in two provinces, the restriction of their charter-protected rights. These are not normal times — not for any Canadian, and most definitely not for members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

Amidst the uncertainty, 2SLGBTQIA+ people in Canada, alongside our families and our allies, are looking to Prime Minister Carney, Minister Valdez and the Government of Canada for leadership - namely, through the renewal and expansion of the Federal 2SLGBTQIA+ Action Plan.

Since its launch in 2022, the Federal 2SLGBTQIA+ Action Plan has been the Government of Canada's central vehicle to advance equality and address the discrimination faced by 2SLGBTQIA+ people. It has been both a symbol of Canada's commitment to 2SLGBTQIA+ rights and an ambitious plan to bring forth a Canada where everyone — including queer and trans people — is free, equal, safe, and thriving.

Now, as the Action Plan approaches the end of its first five-year term, we are calling for its renewal.

Since it was unveiled in 2022, the Federal 2SLGBTQIA+ Action Plan has had an outsized impact on the lives of 2SLGBTQIA+ people in Canada and around the world. It has led to:

- **Increased capacity and effectiveness of national, regional, and local 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations**, which are now stronger, more intersectional, and in a better position to serve and support vulnerable community members thanks to investments made within the Action Plan's Capacity Building and Project Funds.
- **Greater Canadian leadership on 2SLGBTQIA+ rights and refugees on the global stage** at a time of growing backlash, rights-regression, and authoritarianism, driven by Canada's first LGBTQI + International Assistance Program which supports projects

aimed at protecting and advancing human rights for our communities abroad .

- **Progress towards a whole-of-government approach to 2SLGBTQIA+ equality**, with many departments undertaking more activities on key issues within their respective portfolios and programs.
- **Hundreds of projects and initiatives within the Government of Canada and across the country** that have contributed positively to Canada's economy, culture, and social cohesion, while creating meaningful change in the lives of 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

The next iteration of the Federal 2SLGBTQIA+ Action Plan presents an opportunity to build on the successes of the past five years, while adapting to the seismic shifts in the social, geopolitical, and economic landscape at home and abroad.

In the spirit of “nothing about us without us”, we call on the Government of Canada to develop the next iteration of the Action Plan through extensive, meaningful consultation with 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and civil society organizations. This should include consultations with Black, Indigenous and racialized, trans and gender diverse, and Francophone subsets of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

As 2SLGBTQIA+ and allied civil society organizations, we urge the Government of Canada to ensure the next iteration of the 2SLGBTQIA+ Action Plan, within an intersectional framework, includes:

- **Increasing Funding for the 2SLGBTQI+ Capacity Building and Project Funds** and adapting the funding programs to focus on (1) investing in small, community-based 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations; (2) strengthening regional and provincial organizations, and (3) sustaining the national 2SLGBTQIA+ civil society ecosystem.
- **Expanding the Whole-of-Government Approach** to ensure meaningful growth and implementation of 2SLGBTQIA+-specific interventions, policy, and programs across departments, with the support of the 2SLGBTQIA+ Secretariat housed in Women and Gender Equality Canada.
- **Engaging Provinces and Territories within the Action Plan** to enhance inter-jurisdictional collaboration and alignment while working across levels of government to build safer communities.
- **Investing in the Economic Power and Potential of 2SLGBTQIA+ Communities** by dismantling barriers to 2SLGBTQIA+ entrepreneurship, career advancement, promoting access to decent work powered by good, union job and small business success
- **Growing Canadian human rights leadership on the global stage** within the Action Plan by following through on the election commitment to increase funding for the

LGBTQI+ International Assistance Program and investing in more supports for queer and trans refugees.

People in Canada pride ourselves on our inclusivity and our commitment to human rights and equality. Now, these values are under threat at home and abroad. Through a renewed Action Plan, the Government of Canada can show its sustained commitment and take real steps to build a more free, equal and inclusive Canada – for everyone.

Thank you.



Co-signed by 100+ organizations across Canada:

Abbotsford Community Services	Centretown Community Health	Halifax Sexual Health Centre
Abortion Rights Coalition of	Centre	Health Equity Alliance of Nova
Canada	Chroma: Pride, Inclusion,	Scotia
AccessBC	Equality Inc	Hello Gender Diversity Center Inc
Action Canada for Sexual Health and	Coalition des familles LGBT+	Intersex Canada
Rights	Family Coalition	It Gets Better Canada
Age-friendly PEI	Colchester County Pride	Kelowna Pride Society
Alliance for South Asian AIDS	Community-Based Research	Kind Space
Prevention	Centre (CBRC)	LGBT YouthLine
Alter Acadie	Conseil québécois LGBT	Marni Panas Consulting
Annapolis Royal Pride	CUPE 1870	MAX Ottawa Community Health
Avocats sans frontières Canada	Cuso International	Midnight Echo Productions
Bay of Quinte Pride Society	Dignity Network Canada	Muskoka Pride
BC Federation of Labour	Divergenres	National Association of Women
BIPOC USHR	Egale Canada	and the Law / Association
Black Pride Canada	Em Ojeda	nationale Femmes et Droit
Black Pride YYC	Equality Fund	National Right to Housing
Black Rose Beauty Lounge	Family Service PEI	Network
Calgary Pride	Family Service Toronto	New African Canadians (NAC)
Campaign 2000: End Child and	Fernie Pride Society	Oxfam Canada
Family Poverty	Fertility Matters Canada	PARN
Canadian Association of Social	Fierté Canada Pride	PEERS Alliance
Workers	Fierté Dieppe Pride	PEI Advisory Council on the
Canadian Labour Congress	Fierté Montréal	Status of Women
Canadian Media Guild / La Guilde	Fondation Émergence	PEI FEDERATION OF LABOUR
canadienne des médias	Gender Affirming Care Prince	PEI Rape and Sexual Assault
Canadian Women's Foundation	Edward Island Inc	Centre (PEIRSAC)
Canmore Pride Society	Gender Equality Coalition of	PEI Transgender Network
Cape Breton Transgender	Ontario	Phoenix Youth Programs
Network	Halifax Pride	Pictou County Pride

pflag Canada	Smithers Pride Society	Trans Manitoba Inc
Positive Space Consulting	South Asian Legal Clinic of	Transgender Media Portal
Pride at Work Canada	Ontario (SALCO)	TransParent Okanagan Support
Pride Winnipeg	South Shore Sexual Health	and Education Society
Quadrangle NL	St. Margaret's Bay Pride	Trinity United Church
Queer Momentum	Ten Oaks Project	Summerside
Queer & Trans Health Collective	The ArQuives	Trinity-Clifton United Church
Queer Aging BC	The Arts Guild	UPEI Student Union
Queen City Pride	The Enchanté Network	Voluntary Resource Council
Rainbow Collective of Thunder	The Island Fringe Festival, Inc	West Coast LEAF
Bay	The Lethbridge Pride Fest Society	Wisdom2Action
Rainbow Faith and Freedom	The Queer Justice Project at the	Wood Buffalo Pride
Rainbow Refugee Association of	Hamilton Community Legal	Women's Legal Education and
Nova Scotia	Clinic	Action Fund (LEAF)
Rainbow Railroad	The Support Network for	Women's National Housing &
Rainbow Resource Centre	Indigenous Women and Women of	Homelessness Network
River of Pride - Rivière de la	Colour	Women's Shelters Canada
Fierté	The Youth Project	York Pride Festival
Salal Sexual Violence Support	This Space	YWCA Peterborough Haliburton
Centre	TM Change Consulting SK	YWCA Toronto