

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 130 organizations across Canada:

Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada	Canadian Media Guild / La Guilde canadienne des médias	Fierté Dieppe Pride
AccessBC	Canadian Queer Chamber of Commerce	Fierté Montréal
Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights	Canadian Women's Foundation	Fondation Émergence
Affirm United	Canmore Pride Society	Gender Affirming Care Prince Edward Island Inc.
Age-friendly PEI	Cape Breton Transgender Network	Gender Equality Coalition of Ontario
AGIR Montreal	Centretown Community Health Centre	Halifax Pride
Alberta 2LGBTQI+ chamber of commerce	Chroma: Pride, Inclusion, Equality Inc	Halifax Sexual Health Centre
Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention	Coalition des familles LGBTQ+ Family Coalition	Health Equity Alliance of Nova Scotia
Alter Acadie	Colchester County Pride Community-Based Research Centre (CBRC)	Hello Gender Diversity Center Inc.
ANKORS Trans Connect	Conseil québécois LGBT CUPE 1870	Immigrant and Refugee Services Association PEI
Annapolis Royal Pride	Cuso International	Intersex Canada
ARC Foundation	Dignity Network Canada	It Gets Better Canada
Avocats sans frontières Canada	Divergenres	Kelowna Pride Society
Bay of Quinte Pride Society	Egale Canada	Kind Space
BC Federation of Labour	Em Ojeda	LGBT YouthLine
BIPOC USHR	Equality Fund	Marni Panas Consulting
Black Pride Canada	Family Service PEI	MAX Ottawa Community Health
Black Pride YYC	Family Service Toronto	Midnight Echo Productions
Black Rose Beauty Lounge	Fernie Pride Society	Muskoka Pride
Calgary Pride	Fertility Matters Canada	Myelf, my church, PEERS
Campaign 2000: End Child and Family Poverty	Fierté Canada Pride	Aliance PEI, all other LGBTQIA+
Canadian Association of Social Workers		National Association of Women and the Law
Canadian Labour Congress		

Association nationale
Femmes et Droit
National Right to Housing
Network
New African Canadians
(NAC)
Oxfam Canada
PARN
PEERS Alliance
PEI Advisory Council on
the Status of Women
PEI FEDERATION OF
LABOUR
PEI Rape and Sexual
Assault Centre (PEIRSAC)
PEI Transgender Network
pflag Canada
Phoenix Youth Programs
Pictou County Pride
Planned Parenthood
NLSHC
Positive Space Consulting
Pride at Work Canada
Pride PEI Inc.
Pride Winnipeg
Quadrangle NL
Queen City Pride
Queer & Trans Health
Collective
Queer Aging BC
Rainbow Collective of
Thunder Bay

Rainbow Faith and
Freedom
Rainbow Railroad
Rainbow Refugee
Association of Nova Scotia
Rainbow Resource Centre
River of Pride - Rivière de
la Fierté
Salal Sexual Violence
Support Centre
Smithers Pride Society
South Asian Legal Clinic
of Ontario (SALCO)
South Shore Sexual Health
St. Margaret's Bay Pride
Stephen Lewis Foundation
Ten Oaks Project
The ArQuives
The Arts Guild
The Enchanté Network
The Island Fringe Festival,
Inc.
The Lethbridge Pride Fest
Society
The Queer Justice Project
at the Hamilton
Community Legal Clinic
The Support Network for
Indigenous Women and
Women of Colour
The Youth Project
This Space

TM Change Consulting SK
Trans Manitoba Inc.
Transgender Media Portal
Transgender/Non-binary
Rights Advocacy Nova
Scotia
TransParent Okanagan
Support and Education
Society
Trinity United Church
Summerside
TrinityClifton United
Church, Charlottetown PE
UPEI Student Union
Voluntary Resource
Council
West Coast LEAF
Wisdom2Action
Women's Legal Education
and Action Fund (LEAF)
Women's National Housing
& Homelessness Network
Women's Shelters Canada
Wood Buffalo Pride
York Pride Festival
YWCA Peterborough
Haliburton
YWCA Toronto