

We're Here



Northern 2SLGBTQ+ Youth Across
Ontario Assert Needs and Experiences

144 participants identify as Indigenous

which includes First Nations, Métis and Inuit youth

“We don’t get noticed and we have barely any supports or places we can go if we don’t feel safe”

How youth from Northern Ontario take care of their mental health

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

32% of participants say their mental health needs *are not* being met

Changes that youth from Northern Ontario would like to make in their community

- #1 Consistent spaces and events
- #2 Health resources
- #3 Educating community awareness and acceptance by the broader community

61% of participants say they *do not* feel a sense of community

“Everytime I try to speak or have a discussion I am silenced.”

“[I love] being connected to others in the community and sharing this commonality that we are different and amazing.”

What youth from Northern Ontario love about being part of the 2SLGBTQ+ community

- #1 Connections with community
- #2 I can be myself



Top needs when accessing services and resources

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

“We’re not all the same.”

Top needs for 2SLGBTQ+ dedicated spaces

- #1 Low to no financial costs
- #2 Close in distance
- #3 Accessibility

53% of youth from Northern Ontario have *not* accessed a dedicated space

“Think about employing youth...reach out to us.”

What youth from Northern Ontario would say to people who are making decisions about their lived reality

- #1 “Include us in the decision-making”
- #2 “Take serious action to support 2SLGBTQ+ youth.”

“Don’t speak over us.”



“Make sure that people have resources for learning more about the LGBTQ+ community aside from the Internet”

“Just because you do not see us doesn’t mean we aren’t there. Just because some of us are thriving doesn’t mean we all are. Just because the space is designated “safe” doesn’t mean it is.”

“When it comes to caring about LGBTQ+ and Indigenous (or both) people it is not just about recognizing there is a problem and a lack of resources, but it’s finding ways to listen to those people on how we can better the resources in our communities. It’s nice to hear some people care but it’s not enough to not have a difference made.”

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

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 173 youth across Northern Ontario. The Northern Ontario boundary map used can be found at northernpolicy.ca.

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