

## Project Overview

### **TransFormed: Better Health for Trans\*, Gender Diverse, and Two Spirit Survivors**

Funded by Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)  
September 2017 – March 2020

## Project Description

TransFormed is a health intervention project that brings together trans\*<sup>1</sup>, gender diverse and Two Spirit communities who experience domestic violence or DV /IPV, with researchers, health practitioners and multi-sector agencies to:

- engage in joint planning
- conduct research
- communicate findings
- create and disseminate relevant health promotion tools
- develop and deliver trainings for service providers
- evaluate project processes and outcomes

## Project Goal

To understand how DV /IPV is experienced by trans\*, gender diverse and Two Spirit people in the GTA – in a manner that meets safety, trauma-related, and confidentiality needs of the target population – to better help survivors, build peer intervention approaches, and increase Ontario healthcare /multi-sector service provider capacity /competency to provide effective and equitable health and social supports.

## Project Objectives

1. Establish effective partnerships between trans\*, gender diverse, and Two Spirit community members and multi-sector agencies to support the health of members affected by DV/IPV
2. Conduct ethical, trauma-informed, community-based and mixed-method research in the GTA:

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<sup>1</sup> Definition of trans\*: Transsexual, transitioned, transgender, trans men (FTM), trans women (MTF), gender queer, gender-fluid, gender non-conforming, third gender, non-binary, intersex

- which builds on previous scant research, to further illuminate the unique experiences of trans\*, gender diverse, and Two Spirit survivors of DV/IPV
  - to understand the barriers and facilitators that influence help-seeking amongst trans\* and gender diverse survivors of DV/IPV
  - to identify research gaps
  - to identify promising practices for effective health promotion interventions for trans\* and gender diverse communities
  - to exchange new knowledge and lessons learned
3. Create and disseminate 3 health promotion tools designed by peers for trans\* and gender diverse survivors of DV/IPV
  4. Utilize research findings to develop and launch 2 new trainings and 1 knowledge exchange symposium for 100 service providers
  5. Evaluate all project activities (e.g., partnerships, research, and knowledge transfer/translation/dissemination interventions) for continuous quality improvement, effectiveness, impact and sustainability.

## Strategies

**Strategic Partnerships:** the project brings together trans\*, gender diverse and Two Spirit people with academics and multi-sector agency partners to examine and address current issues, challenges, barriers and facilitators of better health supports for community members affected by DV /IPV.

**Community-based Research:** researchers, vested agencies and people with lived experience will lead community-grounded research on trans\*, gender diverse, and Two Spirit individuals' unique experience of DV /IPV; barriers to health /social supports; promising practices in health promotion; effectiveness of health interventions; and more.

**Peer Health Promotion Strategies:** peer education activities and techniques will be utilized where people with a shared lived experience promote health-enhancing beliefs and behaviours. Trans\*, gender-diverse and Two Spirit individuals will lead the design and development of relevant tools /resources to help peers affected by DV /IPV build resilience, knowledge and awareness.

**New training and a knowledge exchange symposium for providers:** new training will be developed for health and social service providers to improve their competencies and practices with trans\*, gender diverse and Two Spirit individuals affected by DV /IPV

**Evaluation:** ongoing feedback will enable adjustment of all activities and produce a final evaluation of the project's end results

*"The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Public Health Agency of Canada."*

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