

**Project Goal:** Increase evidence and knowledge about the challenges and barriers people from the LGBTQ2 community experience in the Shuswap Region, and how these factors affect the Quality of Life levels of both individuals and the collective community.

**Project Objectives:**

1. Create community informed and based research about the demographics and quality life levels of LGBTQ2 people in the Shuswap, of which there is currently none.
2. For the first time, networking within LGBTQ2 sectors of community while increasing knowledge about challenges and barriers for people who are gender diverse, exploring transitioning, SRS, struggling with gender dysphoria or navigation pathways, and building connections to resources of which there are currently none.
3. Collect data and information that will generate a profile of the health, social services, volunteer, non-profit, business, sectors operated by or for the Shuswap LGBTQ2 community to use to inform the commencement of building LGBTQ2 networks and community organizations in the Shuswap, of which there are currently none.

The need this project will be addressing is lack of information about LGBTQ2 needs, barriers and challenges. This project will implement activities that will result in the generation of this information to share and use to inform the building of the LGBTQ2 networks and community organizations this region so desperately needs.

In order to contribute to the objective of the call for proposals, which is to build stronger capacity and networks of LGBTQ2 organizations to advance LGBT equality in Canada, networks and community organizations must actually exist first, in order in order to build and grow. As well, the regions that need these networks and organizations must have reliable evidence about their profile and demographic to inform the building of stable and sustainable LGBTQ2 networks & organizations. Once the process of having reliable information about the demographics, profile and needs of a community is complete, networks and community organization can be built and then thrive. There is currently no information, data, evidence of any kind, that is specifically related to or about the LGBTQ2 community in the Shuswap Region. There is no information readily or easily available about health, social services, volunteer, non -profit, and businesses, operated by, or for the LGBTQ2 community.

This project will use a logic model with an accompanying evaluation framework to track and measure its results. It will use Canadian Evaluation Society sanctioned tools and practices to ensure that the monitoring and evaluation protocols include project objectives that are clear and practical, described in terms of measurable goals to be achieved through the project, and include knowledge dissemination practices that are easily accessible to the most people at the widest range of learning levels.