

LGBTQ2S SAFE, INCLUSIVE & AFFIRMING SHELTER SPACES



MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SHELTER PROVIDERS

A large part of the solution involves shifting and **transforming the culture of the shelter system** and support services, so that the entire system is safe for everyone accessing it.

Shelters and support services need to be equipped with appropriate resources, learning tools, and posters on the walls, such as information about sexual and gender identity and information about coming out as LGBTQ2S, so that **queer and trans youth see themselves reflected in all aspects of programs**, from the intake forms, to the messages on the walls, to the fliers in the lobby.



MANDATORY AND ONGOING LGBTQ2S CULTURAL COMPETENCY TRAINING FOR EVERYONE WORKING IN THE SHELTER SYSTEM

PROGRAMS FOR LGBTQ2S YOUTH THAT FOSTER AN INTERSECTIONAL APPROACH



Support the development and delivery of culturally-specific programming for LGBTQ2S youth. These programs should provide cultural connectedness and access to cultural traditions and practices, including: newcomer/immigrant LGBTQ2S youth; LGBTQ2S youth of colour; and two-spirit Indigenous youth.



DEVELOP A STANDARDIZED MODEL OF CARE

- Inclusive intake forms and processes
- All shelters should be equipped with appropriate resources and learning tools (information about coming out as LGBTQ2S, sexual and gender identity etc.)
- Creating an accessible and anonymous method for youth to lodge formal complaints



SPECIALIZED HOUSING PROGRAMS FOR LGBTQ2S YOUTH

Emergency and longer-term housing options have been hugely successful in the U.S.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT OF SERVICES

- Private & semi-private rooms with washrooms
- All-gender washrooms



PREVENTION PLANNING



Emphasize strategies for **early intervention**, awareness raising, and programs for children, youth, and families.

Written by Dr. Alex Abramovich (2016) SOURCES: Abramovich, A. (2015). A Focused Response to Prevent and End LGBTQ2S Youth Homelessness. Prepared for the Government of Alberta.; Abramovich, A. (2014). Young, Queer and Trans, Homeless, and Besieged: A Critical Action Research Study of How Policy and Culture Create Oppressive Conditions for LGBTQ Youth in Toronto's Shelter System. University of Toronto.