



Opportunities to participate

Trans Health Expansion:

Improving Access to Transition-Related Surgical Referrals and Surgeries

Have you or a loved one had, or want, transition-related surgery? Are you interested in working with health care providers, administrators, and members of trans communities, to contribute to creating a better system for accessing transition-related surgery in Ontario?

The opportunity:

Sherbourne Health Centre, Rainbow Health Ontario, Women's College Hospital, and the CAMH Adult Gender Clinic are working together to expand access to surgery-related health care for trans people.

Our goal is **to influence and improve the access and referral process to transition-related surgery across the province.**

The focus areas will be:

- Effectively reducing the CAMH waitlist for surgical referral
- Training family doctors, nurse practitioners and other providers to offer surgical referral
- Create capacity in Ontario to offer transition-related surgery.

We believe participation of members of trans and gender-diverse communities is vital to the success of this planning work. We recognize that this work must reflect the full diversity of trans communities across the province. In particular, we seek the involvement of Indigenous people, Black people, non-black and non-indigenous racialized people, people from Francophone communities, people who are newcomers to Canada, people with disabilities, youth, and older adults.

We are particularly interested in involving trans and gender-diverse people who do not work in health care. We seek to integrate the perspectives of what it's like to access health services as a trans or gender-diverse person.

There are three types of opportunities to participate:

- A) be a part of a committee; OR
- B) join a list of people who will be invited to provide feedback as needed by the committees
- C) stay informed without getting directly involved, by receiving email updates and opportunities to participate in polls, surveys, and learning opportunities.

Interesting in participating?

If you are interested in committee work, please express interest **by Sunday August 28th**.

To express your interest in participation now, [click here](#).

For more detailed information, see below.

Engagement Process

Eligibility:

Opportunities are extended to members of trans and gender diverse communities (including families / loved ones) living anywhere in Ontario. We are happy to involve people who have don't have much experience with working with health organizations. Eligibility for each opportunity differs, and is outlined below:

Opportunity # 1: Committee work

- Ability to listen, reflect on, and consider other people's perspectives
- Ability to consider how aspects of complex systems interact and are interdependent (including hospital and community based care)
- Willingness to be a part of challenging yet productive conversations
- Willingness to maintain confidentiality, to protect the privacy of members of working groups
- Willingness to keep group agreements
- Willingness to share your own experience
- Willingness to provide feedback on a particular issue/question from the perspective of a person who is/has experienced health care
- Willingness to voice issues or risks and provide suggestions or recommendations
- Ability to participate in the time frame required for the opportunity.

Two subcommittees (Surgery and Waitlist) have one additional criteria:

- Experience navigating the health care system (or supporting a loved one) regarding access to transition-related surgeries. This could be for publicly-funded or privately paid surgeries.

Opportunity # 2: Join a list of people who are willing to provide occasional feedback

- Willingness to share your own experience
- Willingness to provide feedback on a particular issue/question from the perspective of a person who is/has experienced health care as a trans or gender diverse person
- Willingness to voice issues or risks and provide suggestions or recommendations
- Ability to participate in the time frame required for the opportunity.

Opportunity #3: Stay informed without needing to get directly involved

- Ability to provide a current email address

Logistics:

The logistics for the different opportunities are as follows:

Opportunity # 1: Committee Work

Number of people sought: 12

- 4 people for the Implementation Working Group. The Implementation Working Group plays a coordinating function across all the working groups
- 8 people (two per subcommittee) for each of these subcommittees: Surgery, Waitlist, Training & Education, and Evaluation

Time commitment:

- Committees will meet up to twice a month for up to 2 hours per meeting.
- We are looking for a commitment of up to 18 months for the Implementation Working Group.

How the meetings will be held:

- Meetings will be held via teleconference or via an online meeting platform such as GoTo Meetings, so access to a computer or phone in a private space is needed.

Expenses and compensation:

- There are no expenses anticipated for community members involved in committee work. If there is a need for a face to face meeting, the partner agencies would cover costs associated with travel and accommodation.
- Due to the significant and ongoing time commitment involved in this work, honoraria of up to \$15 per hour of meeting attended will be provided for people who are un- or under employed.

Opportunity # 2: Join a list of people willing to provide occasional feedback

Number of people sought: No restriction: As many as are interested.

Time Commitment:

- The estimated time commitment required will vary depending on the specifics. An estimate will be provided when an invitation to participate is sent out.

How you will hear about opportunities to provide feedback :

- Information about opportunities to provide feedback will be emailed to the list. (People will be BCC'd – no one's contact information will be shared).
- Details about the opportunity will be included in the email, as will a timeline to RSVP.
 - We may want particular perspectives at times - (e.g. people living in rural or remote settings; newcomers to Canada). These requests will be sent just to people who indicated that this is part of their life experience.

Opportunity #3: Stay informed without needing to get directly involved

Simply provide your email address. We will periodically send you emails to update you on the work to date. No action is required on your part.



Selection for committee involvement:

A selection committee comprised of representatives from the partner agencies as well as a diverse group of trans people involved in community work from across Ontario will be formed. This group will review all the expressions of interest and will make decisions based on the range of skills and perspectives sought. A representative from Rainbow Health Ontario will inform everyone who has expressed interest about the decision outcomes in the second week of September.

Commitment regarding inclusion of Trans Communities in decision-making:

We recognize that it is vital to involve people who are affected by a decision in the decision making process. The approach to engage members of trans and gender diverse communities reflects the values and processes outlined by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) (www.iap2.org).

The committee work is at the level of “Involve” on the IAP2 spectrum of engagement. The promise to you is partner organizations will work with members of trans and gender diverse communities who are involved in this process to ensure your ideas, concerns, and aspirations are heard and reflected in recommendations and practices. Also, committee members will provide follow-up communication through feedback on how your input affected the decision.

Background:

Regulation change

On November 6th 2015 Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC), announced the provincial government’s intention to expand access to referrals for transition related surgeries for trans people in Ontario. He said that, “Every Ontarian has to be who they are. Our health care system should reflect this vision”.

As of March 1st, 2016, the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) has changed the funding criteria for transition-related surgeries (listed as SRS) by allowing qualified providers throughout the province to refer clients for funding for surgeries. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care’s [website](#) outlines these changes. The Ministry also released an [information bulletin](#) for providers.

Geographic Scope & Mandate

Planning work through this initiative will consider perspectives from across the province. Both Rainbow Health Ontario and CAMH have a provincial mandate.



Partner organizations:

Sherbourne Health Centre (Sherbourne): Sherbourne is a community-based health and social services agency located in downtown Toronto. It provides primary health care and community programming for people in the Greater Toronto Area. Sherbourne's in-patient Infirmery is expanding to provide a place to stay and recover for trans people across the province who are homeless or whose housing situation is not conducive to post-surgical recovery. The LGBTQ Primary Care Team will also be expanding to provide additional system navigation, case management, and emotional and mental health supports for Sherbourne clients.

One of Sherbourne's programs is Rainbow Health Ontario. In this initiative, Rainbow Health Ontario is leading work in supporting providers across the province in building skills in assessments, planning for surgery, and referrals. Rainbow Health Ontario is also coordinating the community engagement work for this initiative.

For more than 100 years **Women's College Hospital (WCH)** has been developing revolutionary advances in healthcare. Today, WCH is a world leader in the health of women and is uniquely positioned as an entirely out-patient hospital allowing patients to receive the healthcare they need and going home within the same day. A champion of equitable access, WCH advocates for the health of all people from diverse cultures and backgrounds and ensures their needs are reflected in the care they receive. It focuses on delivering innovative solutions that address Canada's most pressing issues related to healthcare, patient experience and system costs. As increased referrals to medical transition related surgeries occur in Ontario, the need for downstream surgical services will also increase. WCH is working with our community and healthcare partners across the system to increase access, capacity and expertise for transition related surgery including pre- and post-operative surgical care in Ontario.

Centre for Addiction & Mental Health (CAMH) – is Canada's largest mental health and addiction teaching hospital, as well as one of the world's leading research centres in the area of addiction and mental health. CAMH combines clinical care, research, education, policy development and health promotion to help transform the lives of people affected by mental health and addiction issues. The CAMH Adult Gender Clinic wait list strategy includes:

- a. triage and referral of waitlisted individuals as other referral options develop across the province
- b. to continue to accept referrals from primary care physicians seeking consultation from our interdisciplinary mental health team to assist in the care of their patients seeking medical transitions surgery;
- c. continue to be a site for assessment and referrals for surgery;
- d. support the skill development of primary care and other professionals in order to expand the provincial capacity for referrals for surgery;
- e. enhance our clinical team to help reduce the waitlist



TO EXPRESS INTEREST:

If you are interested in committee work, please express interest **by Sunday August 28th**. People can sign up at any time to receive information or to join the list of people who will be contacted to provide occasional feedback.

To express your interest in participation now, [click here](#).

If you have questions, or for more information, please contact info@rainbowhealthontario.ca