

## Provincial Updates 2012 - Ontario – Jordan Zaitzow

August 21 2012

1. The information you provide pertains to which province or territory?

Province or territory

Please select

ON

2. Indicate today's date

Month

Day

Year

Please select

August

21

2012

3. First and last name

Jordan Zaitzow

4. Trans-related affiliation (e.g.: GP serving the trans communities, civil rights advocate or lawyer, social worker, surgeon, member of an advocacy group, mental health professional, gender studies student, etc...)

Social Worker, Trans Health Connection Coordinator

5. Do GPs accept trans patients?

Yes

We know of providers in Windsor (FHT), Ottawa (Dr. Barwin, Centretown CHC, Pinecrest Queensway CHC, Dr. Douak, and potentially others), St. Catharines (Quest CHC, Dr. Carys Massarella and others on the team there), Guelph (Dr. Lori Hasulo at the Guelph CHC is already prescribing, and others to get trained in early 2013 throughout the tri-city region), Kitchener (Dr. Lee-Poy), Mississauga (Dr. Chan and the team at East Mississauga CHC), Thunder Bay (The team at NorWest CHC), Sudbury (a doctor is coming in part-time to see trans clients through the local ASO and is prescribing hormones to some trans women, I don't know the doctor's name), Hamilton (Dr. Cathy Risdon at the McMaster FHT), London (the 2 doctors at the Soft Clinic), Peterborough (Dr. Vanita Lokanathan at the Peterborough Family Health Team), and likely others are seeing trans clients. In Toronto, options include Sherbourne, the 3 St. Mike's clinics, Women's Health in Women's Hands, and some CHC's (Access Alliance, Bridgepoint, South Riverdale, and now Dr. Sarah Eckler is working at Queen West CHC and has expertise in working with trans clients). Additionally, Dr. Blair Voyvodic (mobile doc working in Toronto, Peterborough, Killaloe and north of Thunder Bay) is available for hormone starts. I would say there are approx. 25 physicians in the province seeing trans clients at a regular to frequent capacity.

6. If your answer above is positive, are GPs willing to initiate hormone treatment?

Yes

7. If your answer above is positive, are those services provided in...

Urban setting?

Rural setting?

8. Are there GPs who specialize in trans health care?

Yes

See complete answer above.

**9. If your answer above is positive, are those services provided in...**

urban settings?

rural settings?

**10. If your answer is negative, where are trans clients referred?**

Depending on where folks are in the province, we try and refer them to the nearest city/town with a doctor seeing trans clients. We are also trying to support clinicians who are willing/interested in trans care but need some clinical training and mentorship in order to feel confident. We are trying to move away from the process of referring people to services in Toronto.

**11. Is there trans health training offered to health professionals interested in trans health?**

Yes

This is one of the foundational aspects of the program I coordinate: Trans Health Connection (THC). THC is increasing the capacity of Ontario's primary health care system to provide high-quality, comprehensive care to trans communities through training, education, mentorship, resources, and networking. One of our outputs is offering 4 comprehensive days of clinical trans health training to regions/sites/communities of providers interested in building capacity in this area. For more information about the project, you can visit the website at <http://www.rainbowhealthontario.ca/transhealthconnection/home.cfm> or contact me at [jzaitzow@RainbowHealthOntario.ca](mailto:jzaitzow@RainbowHealthOntario.ca). Also, a multitude of organizations and individuals do trans competency training for health and social service agencies, most notably the 519, and PTS.

**12. Is there a "community of practice" of health professionals (by that we mean the health professionals serving trans communities getting together to exchange referrals, knowledge and support)?**

Yes

So this is another aspect of the program i coordinate. Each week THC hosts a mentorship call: an opportunity for providers across the province to call in and connect with each other, and with clinicians from the Sherbourne LGBT primary care team, for ongoing clinical mentorship in working with trans clients. So far, there is over 70 providers signed up for the call.

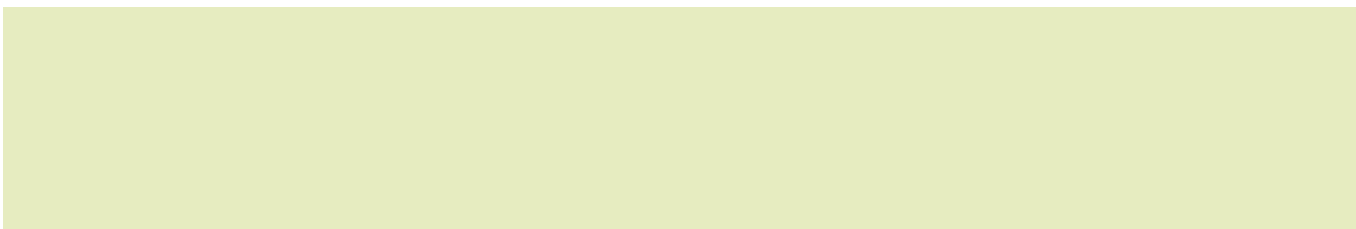
**13. Are the following health professionals seeing trans clients/patients?**

	Yes	No
Psychiatrists	X	
Psychologists	X	
Counselors	X	
Social Workers	X	

*Comments:*

**14. If yes, how many of these professionals see trans clients/patients? (approx. is OK)**

**No Response**



**15. If yes, is it privately or publicly funded?**

	Private pay	Public pay
Psychiatrists		X
Psychologists	X	
Counselors	X	X
Social Workers		X

*Comments:*

**16. If yes, is there a yearly quota imposed by the health ministry on how many clients/patients will be covered, if so, how many?**

**No Response**

**17. Do these professionals write letters of support for hormone therapy or surgery?**

Yes

**18. Are Surgical Reassignment Surgeries performed in your province?**

	Yes	No
Mastectomy with chest contouring	X	
Mastectomy without chest contouring	X	
Hysterectomy	X	
Oophorectomy	X	
Metaoidioplasty		X
Phalloplasty		X
Breast augmentation	X	
Tracheal shaving		
Facial feminization		X
Penectomy		
Orchiectomy	X	
Vaginoplasty		X

*Comments:*

**19. If yes, are these surgeries privately or publicly funded?**

	Private pay	Public pay
Mastectomy with chest contouring	X	X
Mastectomy without chest contouring		X
Hysterectomy		X
Oophorectomy		X

Metaoidioplasty		<b>X</b>
Phalloplasty		<b>X</b>
Breast augmentation	<b>X</b>	
Tracheal shaving	<b>X</b>	
Facial feminization	<b>X</b>	
Penectomy		
Orchiectomy		<b>X</b>
Vaginoplasty		<b>X</b>

*Comments:*

**20. If SRS are publicly funded, are there clients sent out of province or country for their surgeries, which ones?**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Mastectomy with chest contouring	<b>X</b>	
Mastectomy without chest contouring	<b>X</b>	
Hysterectomy		<b>X</b>
Oophorectomy		<b>X</b>
Metaoidioplasty	<b>X</b>	
Phalloplasty	<b>X</b>	
Breast augmentation		
Tracheal shaving		
Facial feminization		
Penectomy		
Orchiectomy		<b>X</b>
Vaginoplasty	<b>X</b>	

*Comments:*

**21. If SRS are publicly funded, and clients/patients wish to go out of province or country, is this permitted?**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Mastectomy with chest contouring		<b>X</b>
Mastectomy without chest contouring		<b>X</b>
Hysterectomy		<b>X</b>
Oophorectomy		<b>X</b>
Metaoidioplasty		<b>X</b>

Phalloplasty	X
Breast augmentation	
Tracheal shaving	
Facial feminization	
Penectomy	
Orchiectomy	X
Vaginoplasty	X

*Additional comments?:* The answer here really is, everyone who is getting approvals for OHIP covered surgery must go through the CAMH gender identity clinic, and all successful applicants are then being sent to Dr. Pierre Brassard in Montreal (except for in the case of hystos or orchis, which can be done locally). This is a complex situation that is tied up in the ways in which surgeries were relisted recently under OHIP, but basically, while there are some surgeons in Ontario able to perform some trans-related surgeries, NONE of them are covered for public-funded surgeries. Those all go to Brassard. Re: question 22 below: The answer to all these is complex. The Ministry has not set any hard numbers in terms of quota, but have intentionally bottle-necked approvals to limit the number of candidates. Since 2008 when surgeries were relisted, CAMH has been the only assessor site for publically-funded surgeries. CAMH will not release the number of approvals they do in a year, but it is clear that the demand for surgeries exceeds the government's expectations, and also that the wait times are intentional. People are able to see other surgeons besides Brassard when: (a) they are going for orchis, hystos, and oophorectomies, (b) clients are paying out of pocket (then they can then use local surgeons, or go wherever they want! (c) they are able to advocate that Brassard does not offer the procedure they want (for example, there are many techniques for phallo and Brassard only offers one. Some guys have been able to get coverage to see a surgeon that offered the phallo technique they desired), or (d) if you have a health concern that Brassard's clinic cannot accommodate.

**22. If SRS are publicly funded, is there a yearly quota imposed by the health ministry on how many surgeries will be covered, if so, how many?**

**No Response**

**23. Do trans patients/clients have access to post-surgery (SRS) care?**

**No Response**

**24. Are there endocrinologists seeing trans patients?**

Yes

2 primarily that i know of in Toronto, one in Windsor, likely others in Ottawa... i would estimate between 5 and 10 across the province.

**25. Where are endocrinological referrals sent if not available in your province?**

As far as I am aware, they are typically available in province. It will sometimes mean waiting a while, however (Dr. Fung and Dr. Bain, the two main endos in Toronto seeing trans clients have wait lists of about 9 months to a year or sometimes longer).

**26. Are there speech therapists seeing trans patients?**

	Yes	No
FTM		X
MTF	X	

*Comments:*

**27. If your answer above is positive, is the service private pay or is it publicly funded?**

	Private pay	Publicly funded
FTM		
MTF	X	

*Comments:*

**28. Are there health professionals accepting referrals for gender independent (gender non-conforming) children and adolescents?**

Yes

i know Dr. Carys Massarella at Quest CHC is working with youth but not really with kids. Dr. Solomon Shapiro at Hincks Dellcrest is also working with youth and prescribing blockers, but not so much kids. Dr. Joey Bonifacio-Cruz at Sick Kids Toronto is working with kids, but im not sure in what capacity. Dr. Margaret Lawson and Dr. Steve Feder at CHEO are working with kids and youth and prescribing blockers, Ernie Gibbs at Centretown CHC is working with youth in a counselling capacity, and many social services have or are developing programs for young people. Jake Pyne recently developed an advisory committee with providers and parents of gender independent kids to address the lack of services in Ontario for these young folks and their families. More to come on that as the project develops.

**29. Are puberty blockers being prescribed?**

	Yes	No
GPs	X	
Pediatric Endocrinologists	X	

*Comments?:* See box above. Dr. Carys Massarella, Dr. Margaret Lawson, Dr. Steve Feder, and Dr. Solomon Shapiro are among the providers i know of who are prescribing blockers. Dr. Joey Bonifacio-Cruz may also be prescribing via Sick Kids or St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto.

**30. Are there health care professionals who treat trans patients (children or adults) with reparative (or corrective) therapy?**

Yes

The Child and Adolescent Gender Identity Clinic at CAMH uses a pathology-focused model of service under the guidance of Dr. Ken Zucker. This fits with a reparative model as the goal is to prevent young people from developing as transgender / transsexual people. Dr. Zucker would not use this term and would describe his work as "helping children to feel comfortable in their own skin". His work is highly contested.

**31. Is electrolysis for transwomen privately or publicly funded?**

Privately

**32. Are hormone readiness assessments provided?**

Yes

**33. If hormone readiness assessments are available, are they provided in**

Urban setting?

Rural setting?

**34. If hormone readiness assessments are available, what is the protocol used?**

WPATH SOC7

Other

Providers are developing their own protocols for doing assessments in some cases. See Rupert Raj, Sue Hranalovic, for more information.

**35. If hormone readiness assessments are available, how many health professionals provide them? (Approx. number OK)**

**No Response**

**36. If hormone readiness assessments are available, is RLE required?**

**No Response**

**37. If hormone readiness assessments are available, are there any specific public insurance requirements?**

No

**38. If hormones readiness assessments are available, who provides them?**

Psychologist?

Psychiatrist?

GPs

Some GP's (like at Sherbourne) will do that within their practice. Some GP's will refer their clients to an endo (usually either Dr. Bain or Dr. Fung, listed above). Some (like at St. Mike's) will work with a mental health team. Mostly, providers are not using a readiness assessment as much as an informed consent model.

**39. Are SRS readiness assessments provided?**

Yes

**40. If SRS readiness assessments are available, are they provided in**

Urban Setting?

**41. If SRS readiness assessments are available, what is the protocol used?**

Other

CAMH assessment.

**42. If SRS readiness assessments are available, how many health professionals provide them? (Approx. number OK)**

Just the CAMH Gender Identity Clinic

**43. If SRS readiness assessments are available, is RLE required?**

Yes

For genital surgery yes, for other surgeries no. This is a new update. (Actually not sure about the particularities around this, you will need to check CAMH website)

**44. If SRS readiness assessments are available, are there any specific public insurance requirements?**

Yes

Please see above. if folks are looking to get publicly funded surgeries, they need to be assessed through the CAMH GIC. If they are not getting surgery covered, documentation and "readiness" requirements will depend on the surgery, and on the surgeon.

**45. If SRS readiness assessments are available, who provides them?**

CAMH.

**46. Are there trans peer support groups in your province?**

Yes

Trans Youth Toronto (Toronto)-  
<http://www.the519.org/programsservices/transprograms/transyouthtoronto> - [mpage@the519.org](mailto:mpage@the519.org) TransFusion Crew (Toronto)- <http://www.soytoronto.org/current/tfc.html> - [tfc@sherbourne.on.ca](mailto:tfc@sherbourne.on.ca) Trans\* Support Collective (Thunder Bay) - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Trans-Support-Collective/194317560663423> - [tbts2012@gmail.com](mailto:tbts2012@gmail.com) OK2BME (Kitchener/Waterloo) - <http://www.ok2bme.ca/> - [ok2bme@kwcounselling.com](mailto:ok2bme@kwcounselling.com) (for LGBTQ youth, not just trans) Gender Journeys Toronto - [rraj@sherbourne.on.ca](mailto:rraj@sherbourne.on.ca) Gender Journeys Peterborough - [genderjourneypeterborough@gmail.com](mailto:genderjourneypeterborough@gmail.com) (one trans and one cis facilitator, Shaun Allan and Jan Tkatchuk) Gender Journeys Windsor - <http://www.windsorfht.ca/Areas/Custom/ContentFiles/Gender%20Journeys%202012.pdf> - 519 250-5656 ext. 203 (Paula Cole is the facilitator and is not trans...does it still count as peer?) Gender Journeys Mississauga - not running yet, but will be in a few months! <http://www.eastmississaugachc.org/PeelTransitions.php> The Patio (Guelph) - <http://www.qlinks.ca/the-p> - [thepatiogroup@gmail.com](mailto:thepatiogroup@gmail.com) Gender Quest (Ottawa) - (613) 563-4818 or [volunteer.coordinator@ptsottawa.org](mailto:volunteer.coordinator@ptsottawa.org) (trans discussion group, 18+) YSB Spectrum (Ottawa) - 613-241-7788 ext 409 or email [hiv@ysb.on.ca](mailto:hiv@ysb.on.ca) [www.Facebook.com/spectrumysb](http://www.facebook.com/spectrumysb) - (for LGBT youth, not just trans) Pink Triangle Youth (Ottawa) - 613-563-4818 or [volunteer.coordinator@ptsottawa.org](mailto:volunteer.coordinator@ptsottawa.org) - (youth group again for LGBT folks, not just trans) Trans Youth London - just started up, don't have a website or contact, and just meeting casually i think. <https://www.facebook.com/TransYouthLondon?ref=ts> Steel Butterfly (London) - <http://transgenderlondon.com/> Gender Mosaic (Ottawa) - E-mail: [gendermosaic@gendermosaic.ca](mailto:gendermosaic@gendermosaic.ca); Website: [www.gendermosaic.ca](http://www.gendermosaic.ca) MealTrans (Toronto)- [www.the519.org/programs/homeless/mealtrans.html](http://www.the519.org/programs/homeless/mealtrans.html) Coordinator (Morgan Page): (416) 355-6778 - [mpage@the519.org](mailto:mpage@the519.org) 2Spirit People of the 1st Nations (Toronto) - (416) 944-9300 (for 2spirit folks, some of who identify as trans). LGBTTTTIQQAA Youth Support Group (Halton) - <http://search.hipinfo.info/record/BTN4873> - (905) 875-2575, x239 (LGBT youth, not just T) Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy (Ottawa) - Tania (Sharp) Dopler has started a support group for trans masculine folks. [taniad@oahas.org](mailto:taniad@oahas.org). Trans Support Group (York Region) - (905) 780-9927, x225, [burman@fsyr.ca](mailto:burman@fsyr.ca) (for trans folks, but not lead by trans folks, as far as i know) Trans Peer Support Group (Hamilton) - <http://www.thewellhamilton.ca/programs/t-group/> - [transpeersupport@gmail.com](mailto:transpeersupport@gmail.com) Torchlight Gender Support (Cambridge) - <http://www.torchlight.ca/> STARS (Toronto) - <http://www.delisleyouth.org/pages/STARS> (for queer and trans youth 13-21) Various Programs for queer and trans youth with disabilities, Griffin Centre, Toronto



**47. Are these support groups professionally led or volunteer (non-professionally) led?**

	Yes	No
Professionals	X	
Volunteers	X	

*If yes, please share the name/s of the group/s and their contact info/website: please see box above.*

**48. Are there support groups for gender independent (gender non-conforming) youth?**

Yes

Please see youth specific groups and gender journey groups mentioned above, which are also open to GI youth. I would also add: The Other 10% (Thunder Bay) - group for queer and trans youth 12-25. didnt include it above because it is not a peer group. Organized by Children's Centre Thunder Bay, 343-6373 Also, we have identified a gap in services: for folks age 10-13, there seems to be NO resources available in Ontario that we know of. Youth groups usually start at 13 or 14, and are typically geared towards older teens or early 20s. Programming for children/kids is SCARCE and not really applicable to this age group.

**49. Are these support groups professionally led or volunteer (non-professionally) led?**

	Yes	No
Professionals	X	
Volunteers	X	

*Comments:*

**50. Are there support groups for gender independent (gender non-conforming) children?**

Yes

The Toronto District School Board offers the Gender Independent Group (GIG) for K-grade 4 kids who experience gender independence. 416-985-3749 or by email [steven.solomon@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:steven.solomon@tdsb.on.ca) There is also a new advocacy group for parents of gender independent children that is just getting started. Contact Chris Veldhoven at The 519 Community Centre: [cveldhoven@the519.org](mailto:cveldhoven@the519.org) Rainbow Health Ontario has launched the Gender Independent Children Project to build capacity among health and social service providers in the province to provide community-based support for gender independent children and their families.

**51. Are these support groups professionally led or volunteer (non-professionally) led?**

	Yes	No
Professionals	X	
Volunteers	X	

*Comments:*

**52. Is there support for families and loved ones?**

Yes

Trans Partner Network offers an 8 week group for the partners of trans people: <http://www.transpartnernetnetwork.com/> The Toronto District School Board offers the Gender Independent Group (GIG) The parents meet at the same time as the kids do a play group. 416-985-3749 or by email [steven.solomon@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:steven.solomon@tdsb.on.ca) Quest Community Health Centre in Ste. Catharines is beginning to offer a group

for parents of trans youth. Central Toronto Youth Services offers a group (Transceptance) for parents of trans youth: LeeAndra Miller: leeandra.miller@ctys.org Delisle Youth Services has just recently launched a series of workshops for parents of LGBTQ youth (possibly with a trans specific group). Contact Maria Papadimitriou: mpapadimitriou@delisleyouth.org There is probably other stuff outside Toronto, but i dont have time to look it all up right now!

**53. Are these support groups professionally led or volunteer (non-professionally) led?**

	Yes	No
Professionals	X	
Volunteers	X	

Comments:

**54. Are there advocacy groups for trans human rights In your province?**

	Yes	No
Grassroots organizations		X
Lawyers organizations		

If yes, please share the name/s of the group/s and their contact info/website: Trans Lobby Group: <http://translobbygroup.ca/> EGALE: <http://archive.egale.ca/>

**55. Do you have any more comments?**

This is a lot of information for one person to fill out! im sorry if it's not exhaustive. i tried to ask around in the time that i had but i fear i have not done justice to the work that is happening across Ontario. There are huge gaps, and i apologize.

**56. Is there trans Human Rights legislation being proposed?**

Yes

Recent passing of human rights bill, inclusion in anti-discrimination legislation (Toby's Law). Recent amendment to ID regulations, based on human rights charge. Asking trans people for "proof of transsexual surgery" in order to change gender marker on ID deemed "unethical". Government must propose new process by October 2012.

**57. Does your Education Ministry have LGBT anti-bullying policies in public schools?**

**No Response**

**58. Is there legislation that does not follow WPATH SOC v.7 being proposed?**

**No Response**

**59. Can FTM have the sex marker on their birth certificate changed?**

Yes

This is currently under review. We have sent our recommendations to the ministry. The following information was taken from an unpublished fact sheet that RHO is compiling on the matter. as of now, you need: a) A personal letter addressed to the Office of the Registrar General. The letter should be put to the attention of registration/specialty services, and should include your full contact information (name, address, phone number, email). The Office of the Registrar General will then send you an information package with instructions on how to proceed. (NOTE: The Ministry of Government Services does not provide any specific information on their website about changing the sex designation on a birth certificate.) b) A letter from the physician that

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performed your “transsexual surgery” stating that s/he conducted this procedure, and that the sex designation on your birth certificate should be changed as a result of this surgery. c) A letter from a physician licensed to practice medicine in Canada who did not perform your “transsexual surgery.” The letter must state that the physician has examined you, confirming that you have had “transsexual surgery,” and that the sex designation on your birth certificate should be changed as a result. Note: requirements b) and c) are listed in the Ontario Vital Statistics Act. For further information, please refer to this piece of legislation.

**60. Can MTF have the sex marker on their birth certificate changed?**

Yes

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same as above.

**61. Can FTM change the sex marker on their driver's license?**

Yes

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This is also taken from the same fact sheet: To change the sex designation on your driver’s license, you will need the following: a) A letter written by a physician licensed by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. The letter must state that the physician has either treated or examined you and supports your request to change the sex designation on your license. Make sure the letter is written on the physician’s letterhead and is signed by the physician. b) A personal letter requesting a change in the sex designation on your licence that includes your full name, your current address, your driver’s licence number, and the name and address of the physician who has provided you a letter in support of the change. Note: If you have already changed the sex designation on your birth certificate, you do not require a letter from a physician approving your request. (This information has been provided from a trans person who has gone through the process.)

**62. Can MTF change the sex marker on their driver's license?**

Yes

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same as above.

**63. Do you have an positive and ongoing relationship with "political" allies in your provincial legislature?**

Yes

**64. Is there other information and data you would have liked to see in this survey? If so, please share:**

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we need like 10 people in ontario filling this out next year. if not 40.

**65. What are you doing in your province that is successful?**

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SO MUCH. There is Trans Health Connection (building capacity within primary health care across the province to increase access for trans folks), activists across the province running and establishing peer supports, training, and local capacity (Aiden Kivisto in Thunder Bay, Michelle who runs Torchlight Gender Support, one of the longest running peer support groups in the province, from established services like Pink Triangle Services in Ottawa, to grassroots initiatives like informally providing accompaniment for trans folks going to medical appointments), the sprouting up of Gender Journeys groups (this is a 10 week social and educational group for people thinking about transitioning, has been running at Sherbourne for years. Now, groups across the province are taking on this model: there is gender journey groups in Windsor, Peterborough, St. Catharines, and soon to be in Thunder Bay and Mississauga), and the new Gender Independent Children's Project at Rainbow Health Ontario which is working to build capacity in the province for community-based support for gender independent children and their families - contact person Jake Pyne.

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**66. What are the next steps in expanding accessible competent trans health care in your province?**

Continue training and education, mentorship, and building a provincial community of practice. Decentralize expertise out of Sherbourne and out of Toronto. Continue to liaise with policy makers and bring forth the concerns of trans communities to affect policy, continue grassroots advocacy initiatives to expand trans human rights, NEED more support/funding for initiatives by and for trans folks of colour and trans women, more endorsement of leadership from those communities, more visibility and images of trans/women/of colour, stronger analysis of racism and transmisogyny in all our work.