

TRANS+ HEALTHCARE CONFERENCE

JUNE 4-5, 2024 ● YELLOWKNIFE, NT



Conference Backgrounder

Who are we?

Northern Mosaic Network (NMN) is a territory-wide non-profit, and our offices, Rainbow Youth Centre and Rainbow Adult Center, are located in Sòq̓mbak'è (Yellowknife). As an organization, NMN is invested in making the Northwest Territories a safer, more equitable place for 2SLGBTQIPA+ youth, adults, and families.

What do we mean by trans+?

We are using trans+ as an umbrella term that includes transgender people, non-binary people, other gender diverse people, and two-spirit people. It's important to highlight that two-spirit is an Indigenous-only identity, and two-spirit people do not necessarily identify under the trans+ umbrella. Two-spirit is itself an umbrella term that encompasses a multitude of different Indigenous understandings of gender and sexuality that are specific to each nation. We've included it here because some of the healthcare needs of two-spirit people are aligned with the needs of trans+ people, for example gender affirming care and transition-related care.

Why are we hosting this conference?

We've heard from our community that for two-spirit, non-binary and trans+ people, interacting with the Northwest Territories (NWT) healthcare system presents unique challenges and barriers, especially when seeking gender-affirming or transition-related care. To help address some of these barriers, NMN is hosting the first-ever Trans+ Healthcare Conference in the NWT. This conference will be a learning opportunity for healthcare providers from across the NWT to become better equipped to provide safer and more accessible healthcare to two-spirit, non-binary and trans+ people across the NWT.

Who will be attending the conference?

Attendees of the conference will include a broad spectrum of healthcare providers. Registration is open to anyone involved in the frontline delivery of healthcare in the NWT, including doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, registered social workers, and psychologists. Outside of the main centers in the NWT, many healthcare providers deliver services in remote communities with limited access to specialists. Many NWT residents have to travel within or outside of the NWT to access care. Attendees will have varying levels of knowledge about two-spirit, non-binary, and trans+ identities and related terminology, and presenters should plan to deliver their content with this in mind.

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What kind of presentations are we looking for?

We are looking for presentations on the following themes: best/promising practices in trans+ healthcare, debunking myths/ fears about gender-affirming care, delivering trans+ healthcare in remote/rural settings, and delivering affirming and culturally safe care to two-spirit people. We also invite proposals for presentations outside of these themes.

Presentations will have three different formats: (1) Conference Keynote, (2) Conference Presentations, and (3) Workshops. The 2-hour Conference Keynote will start the conference and set the tone. We are looking for presentations that will give attendees an understanding of the unique needs of two-spirit, non-binary and trans+ people who are accessing healthcare services. There will be 3 separate conference presentations. We're looking for engaging presenters who will make connections between their topic and the audience - NWT healthcare providers. Workshops will be 1.5 hours long and should aim to be interactive and include time for discussion and questions. For the workshops, presenters will be asked to offer multiple sessions of the same workshop. Conference attendees will rotate through a series of workshops to allow all attendees to participate in multiple workshop offerings. Presenters can apply to deliver a presentation and a workshop.

How will presenters be compensated?

The registration fee will be waived for presenters, and support for travel and accommodations can be requested. We will compensate all presenters, however we are a small non-profit so we may not be able to match speaker fees offered by larger events.