

2026 PSAC BC 2SLGBTQIA+ Summit



March 27-29, 2026 | Hyatt Regency Hotel, Vancouver



From March 27 through 29, twenty-four PSAC BC members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community came together for the 2026 PSAC BC 2SLGBTQIA+ Summit.

The Summit Organizing Committee consisted of Damir Moric, PSAC BC Regional Council Pride (2SLGBTQIA+) Coordinator and chairperson of the committee, Julie Kelly and Ericka Chemko. The committee members worked to develop a theme, objectives, and identify speakers and workshops for the summit (amongst other responsibilities), shared emcee responsibilities and hosted the hospitality events in the evenings.

The Summit theme, **“Visibly Queer (We’re Here)”** was designed to build on the work of the inaugural 2024 2SLGBTQIA+ Summit,

considering ongoing challenges facing the Queer and Trans Community.

The objectives of the 2026 PSAC BC 2SLGBTQIA+ Summit were identified as:

- **Resisting the erasure, minimization, and fragmentation of queer identities** - affirming the full breadth of who we are;
- **Recognizing and advancing queer identities within employment equity frameworks**, ensuring representation and inclusion in all spaces; and
- **Ensuring our union remains a steadfast and enduring ally to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community**, upholding our social justice mandate through action and accountability.

Damir Moric welcomed delegates to the first day of the Summit before introducing Musqueam Nation Knowledge Keeper Debra Sparrow. Debra opened the Summit in a good way, providing a welcome and sharing her experience with a loved one coming out to her. Her personal story highlighted importance of providing support and acceptance from community to Queer, Trans, and gender-diverse loved ones.

Damir then provided a welcome on behalf of PSAC BC Regional Executive Vice-President Jamey Mills, who could not attend in person. Damir shared Jamey’s message of solidarity with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and affirmed PSAC’s principles of inclusivity, diversity, and social justice.

Delegates then participated in an ice-breaker activity in which participants rotated through paired discussions. There was a general conversation starter question for participants followed by an organizing specific question. This activity allowed members to get to know each other in a more relaxed setting and gain perspective on different organizing strategies in the face of right-wing attacks on community members.

After a brief break, members then heard from the keynote speaker Teri Westerby. Terry is the first openly Trans man elected to public office in Canada, serving as School Trustee in the Chilliwack School District. Teri spoke to members about his journey of self-discovery.

Drawing on his lived experience, Teri spoke about online chat rooms, which provided many young 2SLGBTQIA+ people with a space to explore their identities while also reminding us of the challenges and dangers in these unmoderated spaces.

Teri also highlighted the need for support from friends and family to ensure development in safe(r) spaces. He also took time to speak about recognizing intersectional identities and the associated privileges to which some in the community have access and how they can use this to advocate for all. Teri then closed



his address by highlighting the importance of challenging and changing existing systems and not shrinking oneself.

Delegates then participated in a panel discussion moderated by organizing committee member Ericka Chemko. The three panelist were: Glenn Tkach, Storyteller and Creator of the Really Gay History Tour; River Shannon, Manager of Legal Services at QMUNITY; and Juniper Fiser, Vice President of Out on the Shelves Library. The panelists spoke about the importance of queer safe spaces and literature by and for 2SLGBTQIA+ people. Their discussion created an opportunity for open conversations within the community with the goal of centering diverse voices, specifically intersectional identities and marginalized sexual and gender identities (two-spirited/Indigiqueer, asexual and intersex communities). The panelists also highlighted the need to confront misogyny and transmisogyny within the community.

The day ended with a group picture. Members were advised of the opportunity for further

networking and community building at the hospitality suite.

Day two of the Summit centered on building on the learning of the previous day. Delegates participated in two workshops: "Trans Rights & Inclusion at a Critical Moment: Deepening our Understanding of Gender and Sexuality and Combatting the Rise of Organized Transphobia" and "Self and Us: Storytelling for Social Change".

The first workshop was centered on enhancing members' understanding of Trans and gender diverse communities, rights and concerns in the context of increased transphobic messaging in the broader society by organized hate groups. The second workshop focused on the importance of storytelling in building understanding and solidarity.

The third day of the Summit built on the previous two days of learning and centred on action and strategy. Delegates participated in a workshop titled "Planning for Community Protests & Celebrations," facilitated by the CLC



“The real question Canada must answer is not whether trans people deserve care. It is why a country that claims to protect us keeps building systems that make survival the price of entry and thriving an act of defiance. Because protection without access is not justice. Recognition without care is not safety. And rights that exist only on paper are not rights at all.

~Teri Westerby, Political Educator & Coming Out Coach



Visibly Queer (We're Here)

“This is the moment in which we need to stand firmly for dignity, inclusion and human rights.

We must be clear that the Queer community is here, just as it always has been, and we will not accept the normalization of prejudice or the erosion of basic human decency.

~Jamey Mills, PSAC BC Regional Executive Vice-President



affiliated BC Flying Squad Against Transphobia. The workshop provided practical and experience-based training and strategies on combatting transphobia and organizing protests and celebration. The facilitators touched on the importance of considering safety before, during, and after events and actions.

Following the workshop, members participated in a reflection session with their respective PSAC Regional Human Rights Committees. Within that session, participants discussed ideas for community outreach and engagement, and talked about the Region's priorities and how we can work toward them.

Debra Sparrow returned on the Sunday to close the Summit in a good way, offering thoughtful words on the similarities between the right-wing backlash against Indigenous rights and on 2SLGBTQIA+ rights. Debra reminded members of the importance of solidarity between the two movements.

Throughout the three-day Summit, participants explored both the challenges and opportunities facing the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and left with a strong commitment to turning solidarity into action, embracing the collective work that lies ahead.



Public Service Alliance of Canada BC Region
200 - 5238 Joyce Street
Vancouver, BC V5R 6C9
@psacbc psacbc.com

