

My name is Cat Haines, I am a genderqueer trans woman and lesbian who lives in Regina's Heritage Community. But I don't want to position myself with my identity, but rather the work I have done around 2SLGBTQIAP+ advocacy and support work in Regina, Saskatchewan, and across Canada. I was previously the Programs and Operations Manager at UR Pride, a local 2SLGBTQ+ support organization that does critical work in the city; I have Chaired the Board of TransSask, a provincial organization that supports trans individuals and their families, friends, and support networks; and am currently the Development Director at JusticeTrans, a national non-profit organization that seeks to advance access to justice for Two Spirit, trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people across Canada. Beyond my professional work, I also sit on the Trans Research and Navigation Saskatchewan committee, which guides a project piloting two trans health navigators in Saskatchewan, including one in Regina, and one in Saskatoon; and I sit on the Capacitor Advisory Council, which oversees a provincial project that seeks to provide a universal basic income, and artistic support, to four artists throughout the second half of 2022. I am deeply committed to, and in tune with the needs of 2SLGBTQIAP+ communities, and in particular, queer and trans communities across Canada, within Saskatchewan, and locally in Regina.

What I'd like to speak to today are what I believe are serious gaps in this motion. JusticeTrans recently completed a pan-Canadian legal needs assessment for Two Spirit, trans, non-binary, and gender nonconforming individuals which collected demographic information, and information about experiences with legal issues from over 700 participants who identified as Two Spirit, trans, non-binary, and gender nonconforming. Of those 700 participants, over 70% had experienced harassment and discrimination due to their gender identity and/or expression, and over 50% had experienced other forms of discrimination including homophobia, racism, classism, and fatphobia, amongst others. Often times these multiple forms of discrimination and

harassment intersected and resulted in unique forms of systemic and personal violence and marginalization.

While it is true that gender identity and expression are covered in the Canadian Charter of Human Rights, both systemic and direct discrimination—including transphobia and transmisogyny—are still daily occurrences for many Two Spirit, trans, non-binary and gender non-conforming people. These experiences, our research shows, results in complex trauma, issues with physical and mental health, including suicidality, and a withdrawal from public space. What's worse, our research shows that services that should be designed to support Two Spirit, trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming people, including healthcare, mental healthcare, social services, human rights tribunals, and the legal system often not only fail to provide the required services, but invoke systemic and personal transphobia and transmisogyny themselves, whether intentionally or not.

Some more statistics to chew on: 30% of the Two Spirit, trans, non-binary and gender nonconforming people we surveyed are disabled, 37% of people surveyed had experienced housing insecurity, 20% had engaged in sex work in thier lifetime; and over 20% had experienced police harassment and violence. The impacts of police budgets and the realities of how those budgets contribute to police violence and over policing of marginalized communities; the impacts of city by-laws and how they affect sex workers; and the priorities that counsellors set in the motions and recommendations they bring forward have a deep impact on Two Spirit, trans, non-binary and gender non-conforming people in Regina. While there is much to be excited about in this motion and the proposed report, it frankly does not address the issues affecting those most impacted by systemic and institutionalized discrimination and harassment, and I would urge counselors to consider how to incorporate these serious gaps into the report including a prioritization of specifically Two Spirit, trans, non-binaary and gender

nonconforming communities and people, as well as the issues I have just raised. At JusticeTrans, we believe that by enabling those most affected by systemic marginalization, we not only improve the lives of people within these communities, but improve the lives of everyone. Housing, police violence, and the lack of supports for sex workers are critical issues in this city and country, and by addressing these issues in the report, we will take the first steps to making Regina a safer, better, and more comfortable community and city for everyone.

Thank you,

Cat Haines