QMUNITY
BC's Queer, Trans, and Two-Spirit Resource Centre

Annual Report 2021

Meeting The Needs of BC’s 2SLGBTQIA+ Community
Introduction

Words From Our Co-Executive Directors

For over 42 years, QMUNITY has evolved to meet the program and advocacy needs of the 2SLGBTIQIA+ community. QMUNITY has transformed when faced with adversity, rising renewed, like a Phoenix. This Annual Report marks a “Phoenix” year for QMUNITY: a year of rebuilding a strategic foundation to achieve new levels of social impact and better meet the needs of queer, trans and Two Spirit folks.

In 2021, we witnessed a rise in economic and social marginalization of queer, trans and Two Spirit individuals and communities, a rise in hate crimes including transphobia, biphobia, homophobia and racism, and a corresponding rise in stressors on mental health and well-being. Many folks newly expressed their gender identity within areas of BC where social services and community were lacking, in part due to COVID-19.

QMUNITY pivoted through the COVID-19 pandemic from in-person services to a hybrid model that includes virtual services throughout British Columbia, making it possible for us to reach the most isolated and vulnerable individuals. QMUNITY strengthened its capacity to serve the unmet needs of communities by decentralizing and serving folks where they are at. We reached far beyond our original centre in Vancouver’s Davie Village to become BC’s resource centre by mobilizing networks, social media, technology, and partnerships.

QMUNITY continued to expand and create new programs in response to ongoing needs. We broadened our initiatives to advance legal and lived equality to remove systemic barriers in law and policy, and to fill gaps in legal services. We re-imagined our programming to further promote a life affirming experience of belonging and celebration. We worked to achieve systemic change through education and transforming knowledge. We examined how we needed to evolve as an organization to better advance decolonization and better serve intersectional identities.

2021 marked a year when QMUNITY integrated the challenges and opportunities of economic, social and cultural change to transform itself to become a provincial leader in removing barriers to mental health and wellbeing for queer, trans and Two Spirit individuals throughout BC.

This was a year of strengthened resolve within our staff, volunteers, board and community, to show that QMUNITY’s work is more essential now than ever in its history.

We hope that our Annual Impact Report 2021 tells our story in a way that inspires you to join us in our work as QMUNITY rises to lead and mobilize for change: creating just, safe, and caring spaces that celebrate and connect 2SLGBTIQIA+ folks.
Message From The Board Of Directors

Our Impact Report 2021 theme is about QMUNITY’s “Phoenix” year, facing adversity and rising renewed.

When we were faced with some of the most difficult organizational challenges in our history, we heard from many individuals who told us that they wouldn’t be alive today if it weren’t for the support and connection QMUNITY provided them during the most vulnerable time of their lives.

Our volunteers, staff, and Board mobilized and persevered because of our shared commitment to ensuring that QMUNITY’s critical role in providing life affirming and life saving services continue. QMUNITY’s incredible resilience translated into vibrant growth through 2021 and beyond to serve queer, trans, and Two Spirit individuals’ needs throughout BC.

QMUNITY embarked on a learning journey to grow toward a deeper understanding of our community and committed to taking steps to better serve folks with intersectional identities and to take action on Reconciliation.

The foundations of our work in 2021 made it possible for us to innovate in creating a Co-Executive Director model and to hire Anoop Gill (she/her), a leader with exceptional strength in integrating intersectionality in our programs and services.

This leadership has made it possible for us to start with our Reconciliation commitment to engage Indigenous and Two-Spirit Communities in creating and facilitating culturally informed programs and services, commencing with the hiring of our Indigenous Outreach Coordinator.

It has also made it possible for us to engage in a co-creation placemaking process with the Indigenous-led Sky Spirit Studios, working in concert with the City of Vancouver to Indigiqueer QMUNITY’s new home at Burrard and Davie which is planned for completion in 2025.

Looking back to my professional self in 2021, my understanding of development and colonial processes has been completely transformed in our co-creation work with Sky Spirit Studios.

QMUNITY transforms lives, including my own. I invite you to continue to lead change with QMUNITY.

- Christopher Vollan | He/Him
Chair of the Board
At QMUNITY, we believe in a person’s right to define their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. We value our complex intersectional identities and operate from an anti-oppression framework.

QMUNITY operates on the occupied unceded ancestral territories of xʷməθk̓əy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səl̓ilwətaɁ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.
QMUNITY
A Place Where We Belong

Since 1979, QMUNITY has existed to deliver programs & services that support all members of the queer, trans, and Two-Spirit community in British Columbia. Built at the hands of our own community - with deep roots in social advocacy and programs delivery - our organization delivers mental health and social support through a variety of activities that bring 2SLGBTQIA+ community members and allies together through support, connection, and leadership.
Programs & Services

At QMUNITY, anyone within the 2SLGBTQIA+ community is able to access free, queer-competent services that support their needs. Whether it be connecting with their community, accessing referrals to queer-competent medical services, or sitting down with a queer-competent counsellor one-to-one.
Removing Barriers To Mental Health & Well-being

*An Impact That Saves 2SLGBTQIA+ Lives*

In response to needs for accessible, low-barrier mental health support, QMUNITY is developing holistic clinical programming that provides wrap-around services that connect and integrate with other services we deliver. This support reaches the most isolated and vulnerable folks across British Columbia, and addresses the most urgent and pressing needs.

- **110** needs assessments completed for seniors and older adults
- **399+** youth received 1:1 youth services
- **180+** hours of consultation provided to youths, parents, caregivers, and service providers
- **500** hours of free 1:1 counselling
- **550** hours of low-cost counselling
- **200** hours of consultation provided to seniors’ loved ones, caregivers, and service providers
- **260** individuals attended peer group meetings each month
- **4** new Peer Groups launched, for a total of 14 groups
Education & Transforming Knowledge

Leading Change Through Better Understanding

Sustainable change has to come from the very foundations of systems that serve to oppress 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. Our Education and Training Program targets and mobilizes those working within these systems to empower them with the needed skills and understanding to impact the systems they operate within, and facilitate safer spaces for queer, trans, and Two-Spirit folks. The program also extends to providing educators and facilitators with training in queer, trans, and Two-Spirit equity and inclusion (Facilitator’s Forum).

An estimated 1,600 people received Queer Competency Training in 2021.

Some of the groups we delivered workshops to, include:
QMUNITY as a **Field Education Site**:  
We have expanded our capacity to better serve professionals in multiple disciplines.  
**We supported:**

- 6 students from Masters in Counseling Programs  
- 9 students from Pharmaceutical Sciences  
- 2 students from Service Learning Placements  
- 3 students from Social Work Undergraduate Programs  
- 1 First Nations and Indigenous Studies Undergraduate  
- 1 student from a Masters of Social Work Program  
- 1 student from Child in Youth Care  
- 1 students from School of Law (Pro Bono Student Clinic)

**Facilitator’s Forum:**

QMUNITY hosted a virtual Facilitator’s Forum concentrated on working through an intersectional lens. The Forum is an opportunity to bring together educators, trainers, and facilitators who are using education as a tool to advance change in social services, health care delivery, community building, and beyond.
Intersectional Identities & Reconciliation

Growing Towards A Better Understanding Of Our Community

In 2021, QMUNITY took necessary steps to better identify intersectional identities to inform our practices and establish better goals for meeting needs and responsibility in our work. Our social impact survey highlighted the need to strengthen our commitment to racialized communities experiencing the same level of belonging as other identities. It has been clear to us for a long time that intersectional programs are vital to our 2SLGBTQIA+ community; peer groups like Autistic Queer Peers and Queer Love in Colour saw the most demand in 2021. QMUNITY is committed to establishing more, safer spaces at the intersections of marginalized identities.
QMUNITY’s Commitment Towards Reconciliation

The Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action Report served as a guiding document for establishing QMUNITY’s priorities.

“"We are fully committed to honouring and amplifying the voices of all Indigenous people, and particularly those queer, Indigiqueer, trans, and Two-Spirit folk who continue to face contemporary erasure, violence, and appropriation by settler queer culture.”

- From QMUNITY’s 2021 Truth & Reconciliation Statement

In 2021, we published a Truth & Reconciliation Statement that set a path forward through three primary commitments:

1. We will engage Indigiqueer and Two-Spirit community members in creating and facilitating programs and services that are culturally informed by hiring an Indigenous Outreach Coordinator.

2. We will identify what clinical community supervision looks like from a culturally-appropriate lens by working with an Indigenous practicum student and the First Nations Health Authority.

3. We will maintain an open invitation for continued feedback from Indigenous and Two-Spirit persons as part of our commitment to continuously listen, learn and implement informed and actionable change across all our programs and initiatives.

QMUNITY’s Annual Report 2021 | Intersectional Identities & Reconciliation

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Belonging & Celebration

We are proud of our community. Proud of our resilience in the face of adversity, and grateful for every single person that lent their hand to supporting QMUNITY in 2021. Grateful for our volunteers, our program participants, and our donors.

And we are proud to celebrate the diversity that exists within our vibrant, rich community. And in spite of what 2021 had in store for us, we are proud to have celebrated one another through events, engagements, and more.
Lived & Legal Equality

Giving A Voice To The Community

QMUNITY recognizes the importance that policy and legislation carries in leading the way for the protection of all members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Progress cannot occur without the full recognition of our identities within the legal structures that govern our way of life.

In 2021, QMUNITY engaged in community consultations, advocacy initiatives on municipal, provincial and federal levels, and stood up for the rights of all members of the queer, trans, and Two-Spirit community living in BC.
Social Media & Digital Campaigns

In 2021, we focused on raising awareness and educating the public, social service providers and leaders on queer identities and their intersections.

We made a focused effort to use social media to connect our followers to other activists and organizations doing work in 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and adjacent spaces. We believe that building engagement with other queer, trans, and Two-Spirit organizations across BC and globally is the way forward and our programs and services are beginning to reflect these growing partnerships.

69,581 users visited our website and accessed tools & resources.
Meeting Communities Where They Are At

Serving Needs Throughout BC

Responding to the needs of our communities requires an understanding of the degree to which community members are able to receive support. For QMUNITY, this includes creating better opportunities to access low-barrier harm reduction supplies, nurturing closer collaboration with partner organizations, and delivering programs that are available across the province through hybrid models both online and in-person.

Whatever it might be, QMUNITY is committed to continued growth and flexibility so as to meet the needs of our community, regardless of their circumstances or where they live.

10 staff trained on overdose response

500+ units of harm reduction drug supplies given out

1000+ units of safer sex supplies given out

2767 “Q-Desk” Information and Referral services requests responded to (emails, phone calls, and walk-ins)
Donor Recognition

These are the people who are creating change. Individuals, families, funders, and corporate groups who are making it possible for queer, trans, and Two-Spirit programs and services to continue saving lives.

From all of us at QMUNITY, thank you.

Monthly Donors

Monthly giving provides sustainable support and makes it possible for QMUNITY to run programs & services that support 2SLGBTQIA+ members of the community every day of the year. We are so incredibly grateful for the generous support of folks who give monthly.

Click here to become a monthly donor today!
Thanks to these individuals, QMUNITY has been able to reduce barriers to access for 2SLGBTQIA+ folks looking for support across our programs and services. Transformational gifts in 2021 have kept our doors open to the community.

From all of us at QMUNITY - thank you.

Adrian Perera
Antonia Newton
Bryn Kipnis
Carter Sawatzky
Christopher Marchesi
Christopher Vollan
Claire Hutchings
Courtney Watkins
Cynthia & Robert Joseph
David Ross Moorhouse
Douglas & Bernice Mak
Edward Lee
Eric J. Phillips

Forrest Silver
George Wu
Gino Di Domenico
Heather Ward
Jake Giammarino
James Brown
James Mactier
Janet Walker
Jennifer Hutchinson
Jessica Mordo
John Kot
John M Lavery
Kirby Sewell

Lidi Giroux
Michael James Branham
Michael Peters
Paul Pavlik
Rhiannon Sara Lemky
Samantha Simpson
Shannon Lia Joyce Sproul
Simon Rosenman
Stephen Burke
Sydney Wanchulak
Veronica Blott
Vincent Wheeler
William J Hodgson
QMUNITY’s Annual Report 2021 | Donor Recognition

**Corporate Donors**

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TELUS  
Tom Parkinson Fund  
Unifor Local 111  
Vancity  
Vancouver Fashion Truck  
Watson Goepel LLP Watson Goepel LLP  
Zonda Home Canada Inc. – Urban Analytics
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<th>Statement of Operations</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<td><strong>Year ended December 31</strong></td>
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<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Donations and fundraising</td>
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<td>Fee for service</td>
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<td>Wage subsidy - government assistance</td>
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<td>Rental</td>
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<td>Events revenue</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>1,324,700</td>
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<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td>Wages, subcontractors and benefits</td>
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<td>Rent and utilities</td>
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<td>Program costs</td>
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<td>Office</td>
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<td>Professional fees</td>
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<td>Events and fundraising</td>
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<td>Bank charges and interest</td>
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<td>Amortization</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>898,170</td>
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<td><strong>Excess of revenue for the year</strong></td>
<td>217,804</td>
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Our Mission
To improve queer, trans, and Two-Spirit lives through superservices, support, connection and leadership.

Our Vision
Vibrant, diverse and celebrated queer and trans communities, where individuals are empowered to live their lives fully, free from discrimination.

Registered under the Society Act of BC as:
QMUNITY BC’s Queer, Trans, Two-Spirit Resource Centre
+1 (604) 684-5307
1170 Bute Street
Vancouver, BC
V6E 1Z6

Charitable registration number:
11924-9522-RR-0001