

# Trans Connect

## Annual Report

April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021



**Image:** A fundraising poster campaign made by Design Farm that donated a portion of proceeds to Trans Connect during Kootenay Pride 2020!

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## WORKSHOPS

In the last year, Trans Connect has presented **30 workshops** on trans identity and LGBTQ allyship. In total, these workshops have been attended by about **642 individuals** in the past year! This is a significant decrease from the 80 presentations done last year. However, the increased provincial reach that comes from the virtual platform of most presentations has allowed each workshop to host more people than would otherwise be possible, and to increase the number of communities reached.

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## GROUPS

### Gender Outlaws

The program has hosted a **weekly all-ages virtual support group** for East and West Kootenay locals with a focus on community connection, trans identity, mental health, and social justice. Participants from Nelson, Castlegar, Invermere, Creston, and Trail have met consistently through the year.

### Under the Umbrella

A **weekly LGBTQ+ youth group** in Nelson (partnered with NYAN and the NDYC). This group has a focus on social activities like role-playing games, movie nights, and art. For most of the year, the group has met virtually, with some hybrid/in-person programming through the Fall of 2020.

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## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

Over the past year, Trans Connect has provided peer support to around **48 individuals** on coming out, emotional health, transgender healthcare navigation, supporting trans loved ones, or connecting to community. A few have requested more involved casework supporting them through processes like human rights tribunal cases or overcoming gender dysphoria. Individuals request an average of 1 - 3 meetings.

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## COMMISSION FOR TAKING AFFIDAVITS

Trans Connect has continued to offer support with the basic notary services required for legal name changes and other changes to someone's ID. Most paperwork support has been delivered virtually (such as education on the application processes, and the walking through the filling out of forms). In person meetings have been arranged to stamp affidavits and support the delivery of applications.

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## CHRISTOPHER MOORE COMMUNITY FUND

Trans Connect's donation fund has continued to provide microgrants to transgender and non-binary community members to support access to things like binders, packers, post-surgical supplies, bureaucratic costs for name and gender marker changes. This has been a popular

and valuable programming point for participants over the past year.

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## HIRING AN EAST KOOTENAY OUTREACH WORKER

In early 2021, Trans Connect supported Jenna Ross as a College of the Rockies practicum student for her social service worker diploma. In Spring of 2021, Jenna was hired to a newly created, part-time Trans Connect East Kootenay Outreach Worker position. This is an exciting expansion for the program to have further reach and accessibility in the East Kootenay region!

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## TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Our **annual November 20 vigil** for Transgender Day of Remembrance was hosted online this year. A cohort of Kootenay locals attended a larger San Francisco-based virtual event, and then met over Zoom to connect and talk afterward.

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## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Trans Connect hosted a **Christmas Day virtual event** for program participants who were alone for the holidays. This was a useful place for people to connect, watch a movie, and take their mind off of things that might be stressing them in everyday life.

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## CONSULTING + COLLABS

Over the past year, Trans Connect has participated and supported the gender affirming initiatives of the following:

- **Options for Sexual Health:** through participation on the Board of Directors as a Member at Large
- **Trans Care BC:** through monthly meetings to share referrals for regional and provincial trans services
- **SD10 SOGI Policy Committee:** participation in the development of school district policies to support LGBTQ+ students and families
- **East Kootenay Gender Affirming Care Project:** ongoing participation and consulting with the East Kootenay Division of Family Practice as they develop greater training, access, and referral pathways for gender affirming care for adults and youth in the region
- **Pacific AIDS Network:** participation in a panel for an online educator's roundtable event
- **Kootenay Pride:** in 2020, Trans Connect supported Kootenay Pride in their pivot to virtual delivery, and hosted an online Open Mic event
- **Touchstones Museum:** Trans Connect is collaborating with Touchstones and the West Kootenay Queer Archives to create a 2021 exhibit on the queer history of the region.

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## COVID-19 RESPONSE

Over the past year, Trans Connect has been delivering programming almost exclusively online. Rather than Gender Outlaws meetings being hosted in three different towns monthly, it has been hosted weekly online for the whole region. The previous peer support drop-ins available at the ANKORS Nelson office on Mondays have been moved online or to phone. Youth meetings have occasionally been delivered in a limited, in-person format with pre-registration (when the timing was right) and have otherwise been delivered over the Discord platform. A greater development of social media services offered by Trans Connect has supported the move to online services (such as Discord, Facebook, and Zoom).

In-person delivery has been arranged on request to support the delivery of basic notary services.

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## ADDITIONAL REPORTS + LINKS

- [Trans Connect's 6 month report for IHA: April 1 - September 30, 2020](#)
- [Trans Connect's 6 month report for IHA: October 1 - March 31, 2021](#)
- [Job Description for Trans Connect East Kootenay Outreach Worker](#)
- [Trans Connect AGM Report 2020](#)
- [Trans Connect program website](#)
- [Trans Connect on the ANKORS site](#)
- [Trans Connect's Facebook page](#)
- [Trans Connect's Instagram](#)