



ANKORS
Trans Connect

June 2026 program report

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ANKORS Trans Connect is a rural peer support program serving individuals of all ages whose gender identity or expression does not conform to social norms, including people who identify as transgender/gender diverse (TGD) gender variant individuals, those who are questioning their gender, non-binary people, Two-Spirit individuals, intersex, and gender queer folks.

Other program activities include speaking with and presenting for post-secondary students at workshops in college programs such as nursing and social services. As a special guest Trans Connect attends middle & high school GSA- gay straight alliance clubs and SOGI-sexual orientation and gender identity support groups. The program provides direct 1:1 peer support with social transition, resource referral and health navigation. We maintain an active attendance in a number of provincial and national network calls on trans rights, peer work, harm reduction and gender affirming care access.

Trans 101 and other group presentations

In late November 2025 Trans Connect visited the Fernie Women's Centre (in Fernie BC) and made a two hour hour trans and gender diverse 101 presentation as well as hosting a discussion with the staff of the organization on trans inclusion in their programming, and resources for TGD clients.

In February 2026 Trans Connect made a guest lecture presentation to the Selkirk College 2nd year nursing cohort. The presentation focused on relevant clinical resources for those entering the nursing field, methods of accessing gender affirming care, care strategies for greater inclusion of TGD individuals and highlights of the resources made available by TCBC – Trans Care BC. The presentation was two hours in length and allowed time for a robust question and answer time period and discussion near the end.

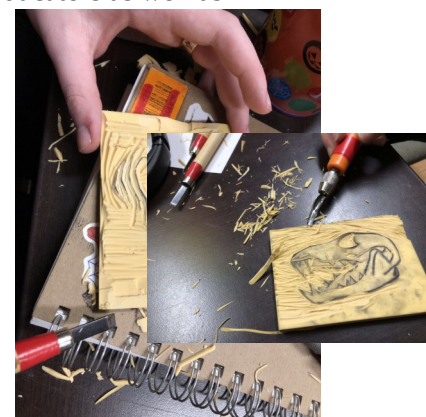
Also in February 2026 the ANKORS Support Recovery Program hosted Trans Connect for a Trans 101 Presentation to program residents during their daily group session. The presentation offered an opportunity for reflecting on gendered roles and expectations, trans inclusive language, and supporting TGD room-mates & community members. We watched a few videos from the We Are Allies campaign www.weareallies.ca including one featuring Two-Spirit voices on gender diversity.

Peer groups, emerging & ongoing program themes:

Gender Outlaws (circa. 2002) Trans Connect's monthly peer support group continues to see growing and sustained numbers of TGD folks attending in Nelson, Cranbrook, online and at occasional events like our yearly peer campout. In the winter time period the Nelson group saw 12-16 people in attendance each month. Online 6 to 8 people attend monthly and in Cranbrook the group has 4-6 regular attendees with occasional new participants. The support of co-facilitators at Gender Outlaws groups has allowed for more diverse facilitation methods like splitting the group into two parts following our check in, allowing for different activities and some one on one connections between facilitators and peers.

Other themes in the time period have included inquiries from TGD asylum seekers from the US, & peers experiencing food, financial and housing based insecurity. We have been supporting peer lead meetings happening in community regarding community preparedness and identifying/building capacity to support trans refugees and asylum seekers, mutual aid campaigns and fundraisers.

UtU - Under the Umbrella is a weekly drop in group for 12-18 year old 2SLGBTQIA+ and allied youth and is a collaboration between Trans Connect, the Nelson & District youth centre and Nelson Youth Action Network. The group continues to see good attendance and involvement with ongoing co-facilitation and coordinating from community educators as well as guest presenters on a range of topics and activities.



Lino cut prints workshop at UtU (previous page) and drag makeup skills supplies (below). Each week the UtU group features a different activity including occasional guest presenters on topics such as: queer & trans sexual health, seed bead art, clothing swap, board games, gel nails, candy bracelets, a visit to the Capitol Theatre costume department, nerf gun event, Out on Screen, Party Safe with Freedom Quest Youth Services, zine making with WK Foundry Youth Services coordinator, lino cut printing, and more!



Counselling pilot project.

In November 2025 we launched a five month pilot project offering expanded counselling based peer support to a number of Trans Connect clients. Two longer term Trans Connect clients were expressing needs for higher level counselling support than we could provide and we were able to connect them with a local clinical social worker.

In January 2026 with the addition of a social work practicum student the program was able to support an additional 8 individuals with counselling support for a three month time period.

Going forward Trans Connect will offer a series of six funded counselling sessions on a case by case basis to program clients who are in need.



Smaller presentations & support conversations for

clinicians, social workers and community:

Trans Connect co hosted a **TDOR- Trans Day of Remembrance event on Nov 20th 2025** in collaboration with Selkirk College including a screening of the film Major! Which celebrates the life and activism of Miss Major a Black trans peer worker who passed in 2025 after decades of work in trans community.

Policy work and interagency groups

Trans Connect regularly participates in a range of interagency and working groups working to advance trans rights and health care access, research and advocacy.

- HRNA (the Harm Reduction Nursing Association) monthly webinar presentations (<https://www.hrna-aiirm.ca/>)
- BC Name Act working group of SAGAH (the Society for Advancing Gender Affirming Healthcare) including November 2025 participation in a radio interview along with a staff lawyer at Qmunity.
- 2026 Trans Day of Advocacy SAGAH event planning working group.
- TCBC (Trans Care BC) weekly Clinical Mentorship Call.
- Quarterly TCBC health navigators national network call.
- We supported Selkirk College's healthy campus coordinator and DEI committee in looking at TGD inclusion related content and learning modules available from TCBC for potential integration into the college's own professional development and training programs.
- Attended the ongoing SFU 2SLGBT research roundtable
- TransLINK Canada project- an intersectoral project aimed at creating an exchange of knowledge on supporting transgender and gender diverse survivors of sexual assault and intimate partner violence. [trans-LINK](#) Canada Network: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant (2022-2029) Ontario Women's College Hospital Research Institute
- supported Selkirk College Nursing faculty regarding integrating more resources on gender diversity into the nursing program curriculum, and suggestions for potential practicum placements for nursing students.
- Supported the Selkirk College Biology 164/165 instructor with updates to TGD and HIV/Aids related content and references in the Human Anatomy & Physiology course curriculum.
- Ongoing collaboration with Tiny Lights Music Festival for safety and inclusion strategies at the festival.