

Celebrating Diversity. Celebrating You.

By CCMB Communications & Public Affairs

June 10, 2021 12:56 PM

Equity. Sensitivity to Diversity and Identity. Compassion and Respect for Human Dignity. Positive Environment. Safe Workplace. These words are from CancerCare Manitoba's Values and Code of Ethics and are applicable for all people – our staff, our patients, and our communities – in the services we provide. Putting these words into action is a continual process and the responsibility of all of us every day, recognizing the need for ongoing commitment to these values.

In June we recognize and celebrate the 2SLGBTQ+ community during Pride Month – Celebrating Diversity. Celebrating You!

The [Roadmap to Cancer Control for Manitoba](https://rainbowresourcecentre.org/files/12-11-Ally.pdf) (<https://rainbowresourcecentre.org/files/12-11-Ally.pdf>) is our guiding document, outlining the strategic priorities for the entire province to achieve cancer control. It recognizes diversity in our population, including gender diversity, and commits to equitable care for all – providing care that is patient- and community-centered and responsive to the unique needs and preferences of individuals, their families and communities. This is our ongoing commitment to the patients we serve.

This month we partner with Shared Health in sharing this message with you - for staff, patients and communities in Manitoba.

As an organization rooted in the service of Manitobans, our diversity is an important strength. These differences position us, as a growing workforce, to provide each of our patient populations with compassionate, professional care.

This year, Shared Health is excited to formally celebrate Pride and the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Its members are our colleagues, our patients and our community and we are so proud of the contributions they – and you - make to who we are.

It's this diversity that connects us to our values of inclusivity, equity and compassionate care.

As health providers, compassion is at the heart of everything that we do. It's built into the fibre of every task, every patient, every appointment. This compassion is an important foundation that we have all embraced over the past 15 months and it is a quality that will allow us to build up a health system that is a safe space for all staff, patients, and Manitobans.

To do that, it is important that we understand and commit to learning and acknowledge that not all Manitobans experience healthcare in the same way. For the 2SLGBTQ+ community, access to health services has historically and – in many ways still is- left this population underserved. Homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, racism, sexism, heterosexism and ableism can impact access to safe care for 2SLGBTQ+ community members and reports of systemic and discriminatory obstacles are unfortunately, not uncommon. These issues make it more difficult to build relationships based on trust and confidence with coworkers, patients and providers and we must work together to disrupt these hateful and harmful realities.

Respect for every individual, accountability, value and continuous improvement and learning are four pillars guiding Shared Health's [Quality and Learning Framework](https://sharedhealthmb.ca/about/quality-patient-safety-learning/framework/) (<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/about/quality-patient-safety-learning/framework/>). This foundation is informing a coordinated, client-centred and provincial approach to culturally safe care.

A deep and ongoing commitment to this framework and its principles are key to creating a healthcare environment that is accessible, safe and equitable for underserved communities, including members who identify as 2SLGBTQ+.

Partners in diversity

To the members of our healthcare teams who are part of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, we recognize and celebrate you and the important contributions you make to our health care system every day. In June, but also in every other month of the year.

To Shared Health team members who are allies or who are on a journey of learning and education to become allies, this is a month to reflect and offer acceptance and support.

Consider: What does it mean to be a good ally (<https://rainbowresourcecentre.org/files/12-11-Ally.pdf>)? What learning, unlearning, and action could you take?

Help us celebrate Shared Pride by using one of the enclosed Microsoft Teams backgrounds during your conference calls or by sharing it on your social media, tagging @sharedhealthmb and telling us what Pride means to YOU.

Below are some incredible (local) community organizations dedicated to empowering our 2SLGBTQ+ community and educating others on how to better support as allies.

- [Rainbow Resource Centre](https://rainbowresourcecentre.org/) (<https://rainbowresourcecentre.org/>)
- [Klinik Community Health](https://opencms.cancercare.mb.ca/Home/Klinik%20Community%20Health) (<https://opencms.cancercare.mb.ca/Home/Klinik%20Community%20Health>)
- [Sexuality Education Resource Centre](https://serc.mb.ca/what-we-offer/lgbt-program/) (<https://serc.mb.ca/what-we-offer/lgbt-program/>)
- [SERCs 2SLGBTQ+ Program \(Serving the Brandon and the PMH Region\)](https://serc.mb.ca/what-we-offer/lgbt-program/) (<https://serc.mb.ca/what-we-offer/lgbt-program/>)
- [Nine Circles](https://ninecircles.ca/) (<https://ninecircles.ca/>)
- [Sunshine House](https://www.sunshinehousewpg.org/) (<https://www.sunshinehousewpg.org/>)

Celebrating you

Over the coming weeks as we celebrate Pride, you'll hear personal accounts and stories from members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community – but we know this needs to be an ongoing commitment to ourselves and our patients. Shared Health is a growing organization and we are on this journey together.

Are you part of the 2SLGBTQ+ community working in health care? **We want to hear from you!** Share your story about what Pride means to you and your vision for safe and equal health care for all Manitobans.

Celebrating you, today and everyday!