

# Embedding trans inclusion & integration in the Ontario HIV response -findings from the Trans Interweaving Project



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The Trans Interweaving Project (TIP) was a trans-led community-based participatory action research project to examine and explore how the GMSH and Ontario’s HIV service organizations could better integrate trans and non-binary people in projects, programs, and services.

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In 2019, GMSH supported a group of trans people to update Primed, a guide originally intended for trans men who have sex with men, and their cis male partners. The Primed project team recommended that GMSH better integrate trans people in its work, and in that, recognize the fluidity and diversity of experiences within trans communities. Since GMSH recognized that both the provincial GMSH office and many other HIV-sector organizations were working towards or learning about intentional trans inclusion and integration, in 2020 GMSH launched the Trans Interweaving Project.

#### ABOUT THE GMSH

The Gay Men’s Sexual Health Alliance (GMSH) is an Ontario-wide network of HIV/AIDS service organizations. GMSH champions the health of 2SGBQ+ men—cisgender and transgender men whose identities may include but are not limited to being Two-Spirit, gay, bisexual, and queer. GMSH does this by leading the development of cutting-edge sexual health promotion resources and collaborating with HIV service organizations and other service providers in Ontario to support 2SGBQ+ men in having the information, supports, and services they need to have the sex they want.

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## BACKGROUND



- Version of recruitment ad shared on social media and various geo targeted apps.

# 76

Group participants.

*“In this project, we wanted to hear from trans, nonbinary, and Two Spirit people who described themselves as being currently or formerly connected with gay men’s communities and / or sexual cultures”. – Devon MacFarlane, Project Lead*

## Website & strategic plan reviews

- 34 websites and 15 strategic plans of GMSH Alliance member agencies and related organizations

## Group Conversations

- Sex workers
- Francophones
- Indigenous
- Racialized
- Non-binary assigned male at birth
- Primed project team

## Interviews

- 4X HIV+ TNB2S\* people
- 4X senior management at HIV service organizations

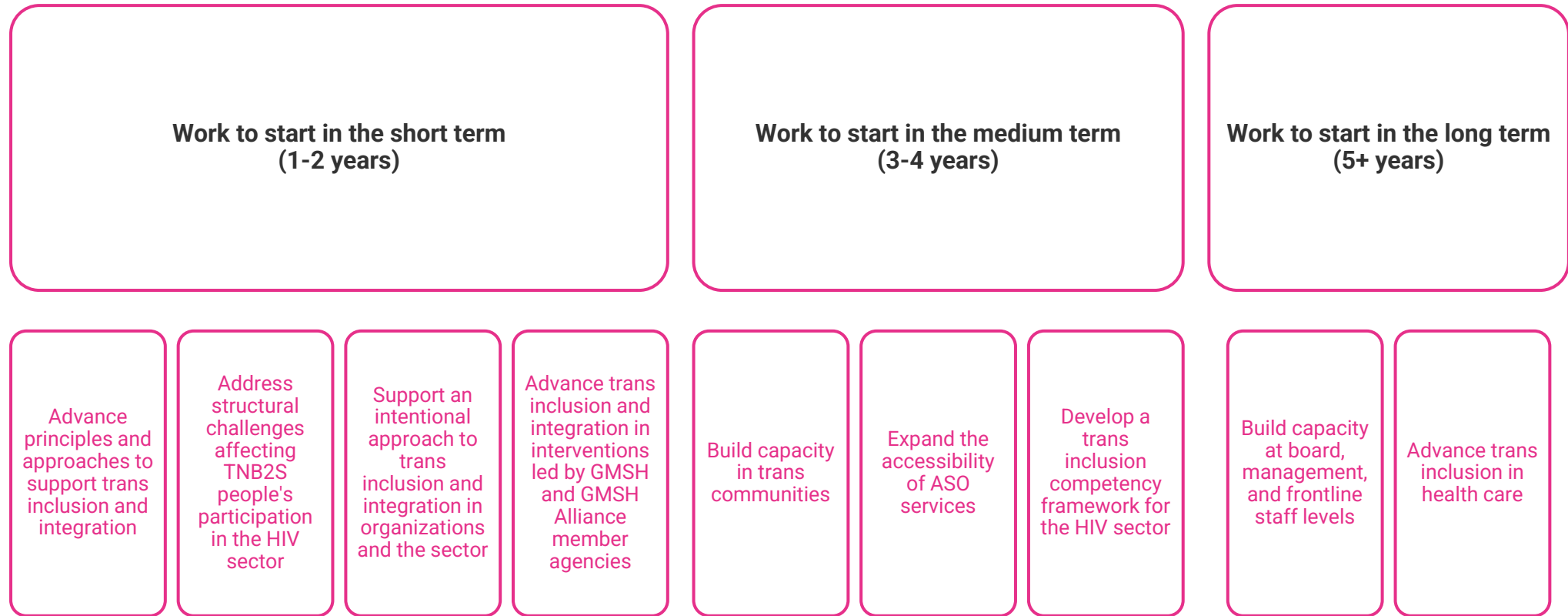
## Deliberative Dialogue

- HIV sector leadership, senior managers, policy makers

# METHODOLOGY

\*TNB2S = trans, non-binary and 2 spirit people

## 22 total recommendations for GMSH and the Ontario HIV sector to advance trans inclusion in our efforts.



### 3 principles underpinning trans inclusion and integration:

1. An intersectional approach would be embedded in trans inclusion and integration work.
2. Trans people would be more involved and be engaged in more meaningful ways.
3. Strengths-based, celebratory, and empowering approaches would be the norm.

## RESULTS / CONCLUSION

*"Trans people continue to tell the HIV sector what to do about trans people. That's what gives me hope."*

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