

# DAWN Canada

**PRIDE**

## **AT THE INTERSECTIONS**

*Thematic Analysis of Survey Results*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

DAWN Canada acknowledges and thanks the past and present staff who proposed the **Pride at the Intersections survey** at the outset of Pride Season 2024. The survey was conceived not to be confined to a day, a month, or even a season, but to establish a foundation that can be built on every day. This report reflects that commitment.

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# PRIDE at the Intersections

## *Thematic Analysis of Survey Results*

### INTRODUCTION:

This report presents the findings from a thematic analysis of open-ended responses in a 2024 survey conducted by DAWN Canada as a follow-up to 'Pride at the Intersections'. This survey was launched nationally with the goal of gathering stories, reflections, and experiences from 2SLGBTQ+ people with disabilities. A total of 48 people responded to this survey, with 41 respondents self-identifying as a 2SLGBTQ+ persons with disabilities.

Using an inductive approach and a feminist intersectional framework, 106 responses based on 5 key questions were manually coded to identify three primary themes. Responses that were too short or unclear (such as "none" or "N/A") were excluded. The themes reflect recurring ideas and patterns in how participants described their experiences as 2SLGBTQ+ people with multiple intersecting identity markers in Canada.



# Theme #1:

## Intersectional Identities & Interlocking Oppression

People's identities are shaped by overlapping factors such as race, culture, gender, sexuality, disability, and age. These identity markers interact in complex ways and influence the lived-experiences of individuals.

One inspirational response highlights this complexity and the way that interconnected identity markers can shape self-understanding and positionality and drive advocacy:

“I am queer because I am disabled, I am trans because I am autistic. I am an activist / fighter because of the inequity in my community and others face.”

Further, survey responses highlighted the importance of applying an intersectional lens to Canadian legislation, policy, and the accessibility of social structures and supports. Responses demonstrate that many supports and services can fail to account for the complexity of intersectional identities.

One respondent reflected on their experience in accessing health and reproductive care; this response shows that a lack of access to safe and inclusive care can create medical invisibility and harm the wellbeing of 2SLGBTQ+ people.

“While my sexuality has been less and less of an issue or even thought for most people I interact with, I still find a lot of medical professionals are dismissive of my gender identity/sexuality or lack knowledge or a desire to understand those facets of my identity and how they affect my health. I am AFAB and have been struggling in particular with my reproductive health, with doctors dismissing my experiences, my pain and my choices.”



## Theme #2:

### Addressing Inequality in Access to Health & Wellbeing

Access to adequate income, housing, education, employment, healthcare, and social supports is crucial for health and wellbeing. However, 2SLGBTQ+ people - especially those with disabilities - often face systemic barriers when navigating these systems. These challenges can be further compounded by other factors such as age, race, cultural heritage, and gender.

In response to the question, “Which areas of advocacy, research, or policy work should DAWN Canada prioritize to best support 2SLGBTQ+ people with disabilities?”, participants' responses highlighted the ongoing structural inequality in multiple areas.

Area of Concern	Number of Supporting Responses
Affordable, Inclusive, & Accessible Housing	17
Safe and Accessible Healthcare / Reproductive Care	10
Broader Advocacy for 2SLGBTQ+ People and People with Disabilities	10
More Comprehensive Legal Rights & Protection	6

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**Access to Adequate and Comprehensive  
Funding and Income Benefits for PWD** **5**

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**Access to Safe and Inclusive Mental Health  
Supports** **5**

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One participant shared:

“I found secure accessible housing for the first time in my life in 2020, and have flourished ever since. However, I feel like once we have strong legal protection that doesn't force us to fight for our rights one by one, the rest must follow.”

This quote reinforces the importance of systemic supports like housing and legal protection to well-being and dignity.



## Theme #3:

### The Impacts of Canadian 2SLGBTQ+ and Disability Policies and Legislation

Canadian policies and laws related to 2SLGBTQ+ and disability rights can affect access to social supports and impact the daily lives of those that they are meant to uplift. Unfortunately, many participants shared that these frameworks can often lack an intersectional approach, leaving their needs unmet.

One participant shared simply, “Disability policies or lack of them or the lack of accountability of them affect my life everyday.”

Another respondent emphasized how federal policy gaps can force people to choose between the facets of their identity,

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“Disabled 2SLGBTQ+ people still do not in effect have marriage equity. We often have to choose between whether we are seen as disabled or queer, we cannot be both...The fact that it has taken until 2024 to even see a curiosity towards how we are impacted by policies when we live in abject poverty, without critical disability supports, without supports for our sexual identities, and experience amplified hostility due to our interlocking oppression is pretty appalling.”

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Provincial policy gaps can also impact 2SLGBTQ+ people, this is highlighted by one response, “I am trans in Alberta, of course my province's policies have impacted my life. The provincial government is currently trying to roll back (trans) rights and access to health care...”

These insights indicate that current 2SLGBTQ+ and disability legislation, at both federal and provincial levels, may be falling short and failing to recognize the full complexity of people's lives, particularly for those that are navigating multiple systems of oppression.



## Conclusion:

This analysis shows that 2SLGBTQ+ people continue to face deep structural barriers rooted in legislation, policy, and social systems. Participants called for action on housing, healthcare, income and financial support, legal protection, and more inclusive policies and legislation. Their stories emphasize the need for intersectional approaches in research, advocacy, legislative reform, and policy work related to the structural inequalities that they face.

