



AWARENESS TO ACTION



**A Health Strategy for Women and Islanders
Who Are Gender Diverse 2022-2027**

Department of
Health and Wellness

**YEAR TWO
PROGRESS REPORT
June 2023-May 2024**

THE STRATEGY

[Awareness to Action: A Health Strategy for Women and Islanders who are Gender Diverse, 2022-2027](#) was released on [June 8, 2022](#). It is built on four pillars with the goal of optimal health and wellbeing for women and Islanders who are gender diverse, at every stage of their lives. The Strategy will be implemented by staff of the Department of Health and Wellness and Health PEI.

PILLARS

The four pillars under the Strategy include:

- 1) Create welcoming spaces
- 2) Expand available, accessible services and care
- 3) Integrate and coordinate services
- 4) Build and share knowledge

OVERSIGHT

[The Women and Gender Diverse People's Health Council](#) was established to oversee the implementation and monitoring of the Strategy. The Council is made up of government, health care providers and administrators, community partners, and the public. The Council has continued to meet regularly throughout year two of the Strategy (June 2023 – May 2024).

Members as of May 2024 included: Deborah Bradley (Chair), Mary Acorn, Alta Bernard, Felicia Carey, Li Feng, Abigail Fredericks, Lucky Fusca, Michelle Harris-Genge, Maria Gomez, Jane Ledwell, Andrew MacDougall, Bethany MacIsaac, Annick Mondat Allemann, Dr. Michele Murray, Amirah Oyeseun, Anastasia Preston, Kelley Rayner, Candice Rochford, and Mary-Ann MacSwain Standing.

Previous members are thanked for their contributions, including: Linda Beyer, Rebecca Jesseman, Lindsay Johnston, Ellen Mullaly, Malak Nassar, and Roseanne Sark.

YEAR TWO UPDATES – June 2023 – May 2024

The Council

- Following an anti-racism impact assessment, the decision was made to expand the membership of the Council to increase representation of people from equity-deserving groups. Three new citizens at large seats were added to the council.
- On December 14th, 2023, Dalhousie faculty member Dr OmiSoore Dryden presented at an event called “Anti-Racism in Health, We Can All Make a Difference”. The event was well attended and audience feedback was very positive.
- In March of 2024, a consultant was hired to create an evaluation plan for the Strategy.

Strategy Implementation

In year two, development and planning work in progress included:

- There’s been ongoing support for health staff in conducting **gender and diversity analysis**. As well, resources are being developed to support **health equity** considerations. There have been 14 unique requests from health staff for direct support or general advice regarding gender and diversity analysis, health equity analysis, anti-racism impact assessments, and related topics during the reporting period.
- **Welcoming environments** plan has been created. A toolkit is being developed to help staff enhance inclusive and welcoming spaces.
- A **social marketing campaign** was developed and launched in March 2024. The website [The Women and Gender Diverse People’s Health Hub](#) was also launched alongside the campaign.
- Engagement activities took place to support the development of a **contraception program**. Findings from the engagement activities will support the program design.
- An informational booklet on how organizations can support **infant feeding** was created.
- In July 2023 an expanded **gender affirming care** procedure coverage policy was announced. Work is ongoing to implement the policy and to expand navigation supports.

Beyond the Strategy

We also actively engage in work related to women and gender diverse people's health outside the direct scope of the Strategy. In year two that included:

- A review of the **fertility treatment program** was conducted and implementation of program improvements is in the planning stages.
- Implementation of the **Sexual Violence Prevention Strategy** is ongoing. As part of the strategy an awareness campaign was launched – [Let's Change the Story](#).
- **Midwifery Services** launched in February 2024 with reduced capacity until the clinic is fully staffed.
- An information sheet for health care providers on **endometriosis awareness** was developed.