



# Oconnections:

A Directory of Resources for Queer South Asian Women in Metro Vancouver, BC

2021 - 2022

## Please note individuals noted in this resource list are not all Queer but all are Queer-friendly.

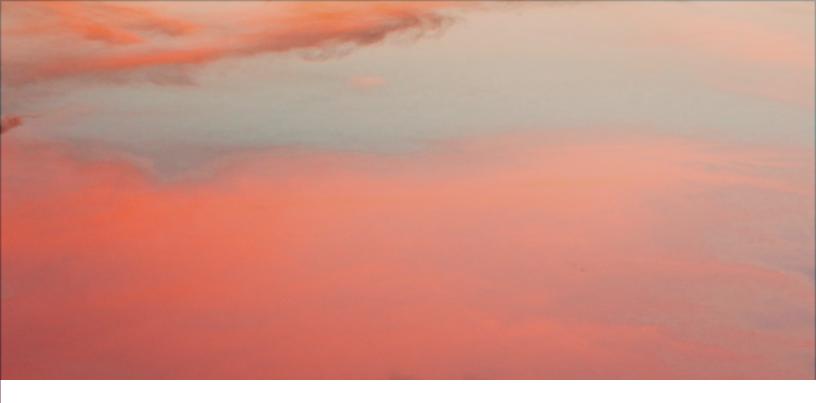
Two individuals contributed to the compilation of this list:

#### **Meet Neery**

Neery is Queer South Asian womxn of colour breaking boundaries through her work in the trades. She's a fierce advocate for all marginalized folx and volunteers her time supporting others who need help from young migrant/refugee youth to sponsoring a 2SLGBTQ+ person from abroad. She loves learning and making new connections in her community. Creating this resource list is one small way she is working to bring Queer women in the South Asian community together.

#### Meet NT

NT is a bad-ass, passionate Queer South Asian womxn of colour. She is an educator by profession and social activist by heart. She enjoys supporting her community in a variety of random ways, forming deep connections and exploring beauty and love in all the places around her.



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**■** Trans-friendly



## **Books**

### **IIBeyond the Gender Binary**

By Alok Vaid-Menon

## **Bright Lines: A Novel**

By Tanwi Nandini Islam

## Free ebooks

b-ok.cc

## **Funny Boy**

By Shyam Selvadurai

## Governing Gender and Sexuality in Colonial India: The Hijra, C.1850-1900

By Jessica Hinchy

## If They Come For Us

By Fatimah Ashgar

## Love Bi The Way

By Bhaavna Arora

## Moving Truth(s): Queer and Transgender Desi Writings on Family edited

By Aparajeeta 'Sasha' Duttchoudhury & Rukie Hartman

## The Carpet Weaver

By Rakesh Satyal

#### The Love & Lies of Rukhsana Ali

By Sabina Khan

## **Podcasts**

**Bad Brown Aunties** 

badbrownaunties.com

Keeping It Queer

ivmpodcasts.com/keeping-it-queer

Masala Podcast

soulsutras.co.uk/masala-podcast

**Queering Desi** 

queeringdesi.com

**Sher Vancouver Podcast** 

shervanpodcast.com

The Diatribe Podcast

thediatribepodcast.com

The Woke Desi

thewokedesi.com

You Don't Love Me Podcast

player.fm/series/you-dont-love-mepodcast





## **Creative Projects**

#### Almaarii (Closet)

almaarii.wordpress.com Instagram: @\_almaarii\_

#### Aravani Art Project

aravaniartproject.com Instagram: @aravaniartproject

#### **BIPOC-CA**

bipoc-ca.org

Instagram: @culturedayvancouver

The Vancouver BIPOC-CA (Black and Indigenous People of Colour Creative Association) join together to reclaim our space in the BC Creative Industry.

#### **Brown Girl Magazine**

browngirlmagazine.com Instagram: @browngirlmag

Community-driven platform empowering SAs in the diaspora.

#### Didihood

didihood.com

Instagram: @didihood

Bringing together SA Canadian women who work in creative industries.

## Just Me and Allah: A Queer Muslim Photo Project

queermuslimproject.tumblr.com

#### **II** Kadak

#### kadakcollective.com

Photos that celebrate being South Asian and Queer; Kadak is a collective of South Asian womxn and queer folk who work with graphic story-telling of different kinds.

#### Queer Brown Queen

Instagram: @runa\_stories

Writer and storyteller.

#### **II** Solstice

qsolstice.com

Instagram: @queer.solstice

An online QTBIPOC magazine to help us connect / online queer social events and stories; queer, black, femme founded.

#### **II** The ArQuives

archives.ca

Instagram: @thearquives

Canada's LGBTQ2+ Archives of personal and organizational records, books, periodicals, love letters, journals, visual art, newspapers, photographs, audio/visual materials, clothes, costumes, broadsides, posters, flyers, artifacts and electronic media.

## The Pink Ladoo Project

pinkladoo.org/books Instagram: @pinkladoo

Globally aclaimed campaign dismantling patriarchy by changing social norms. We also demystify therapy and write books.



## Community Organizations

## **■ City of Vancouver - LGBTQ+**Community

vancouver.ca/people-programs/lgbtq

LGBTQ+, Trans and 2-Spirit Inclusion Advisory Committee.

#### **II DIVERSEcity**

dcrs.ca/event-details togethernow@dcrs.ca 604-547-2004

Together Now. Are you an LGBTQ+ newcomer? Join us for friendship and peer support!

#### Ismaili Queers

ismaili.queers@gmail.com

Private Facebook group for Ismaili Muslim Queers. Please contact via email to be included in the group.

#### **IIMOSAIC**

#### mosaicbc.org

Vancouver's MOSAIC has served newcomers since 1976; also offers support for trans, non-binary and gender-diverse newcomers.

## Il Morgane Oger Foundation

#### ogerfoundation.ca

Is a small volunteer-driven organization entirely run and funded by people who care about justice and inclusion, like you. We focus on opportunities to reduce prejudice-driven inequality in Canada a few projects at a time and pride ourselves with a 100% success rate to date. We are working on several initiatives where we feel we can best help change things for the better.

#### **II Out in Schools**

outinschools.com

Out In Schools is BC's award-winning education program that uses film and video with facilitated group discussion to engage students on issues of homophobia, transphobia and bullying.

#### **|| Qmunity**

qmunity.ca reception@qmunity.ca 604-684-5307 ext. 100

BC's Queer, Trans and Two-Spirit resource centre.

#### Queer South Asian Womxn's Network

qsawnetwork.com Facebook: QSAWnetwork

### **II Rainbow Refugee**

rainbowrefugee.com info@rainbowrefugee.ca

Various support services for refugee and immigrant Queer people.

## Richmond Society for Community Living

#### rscl.org

Community living improves everyday life for everyone living in Richmond. For more than 35 years Richmond Society for Community Living (RSCL) has provided exceptional programs and services for infants with special needs, children and adults with developmental disabilities. Richmond's largest non-profit social service provider, RSCL helps more than 1000 people with developmental disabilities each year to participate and contribute fully as valued members in the community. RSCL also helps family members access programs and services, ensuring quality of care throughout the lifespan of the individual supported.

#### II Salaam Canada

#### salaamcanada.info Facebook: salaamqueercanada

Salaam Canada is a volunteer-run national organization dedicated to creating space for people who identify as both Muslim and queer and trans.

#### **II Sher Feline**

#### Facebook: SherFeline

Various support services for South Asian Queer Women including connection to community, other Queer South Asian women and allies.

#### **IISher Vancouver**

#### shervancouver.com

Sher Vancouver LGBTQ Friends Society is a social, cultural, and support non profit for 2SLGBTQ+ South Asians & their friends and families. Additional resources listed for Queer folks on this website.

#### **II Trans Alliance Society**

#### transalliancesociety.wordpress.com

We provide support, education, outreach and advocacy for transgender persons in BC and Canada

## Queer/BIPOC Businesses

#### || Little Sisters

littlesisters.ca

Book and Art Emporium; gifts, sex toys etc.

#### **||Loco BC**

locobc.ca/blogs/support-bipoc-businesses

Support BIPOC owned businesses.

### **IILoud Business**

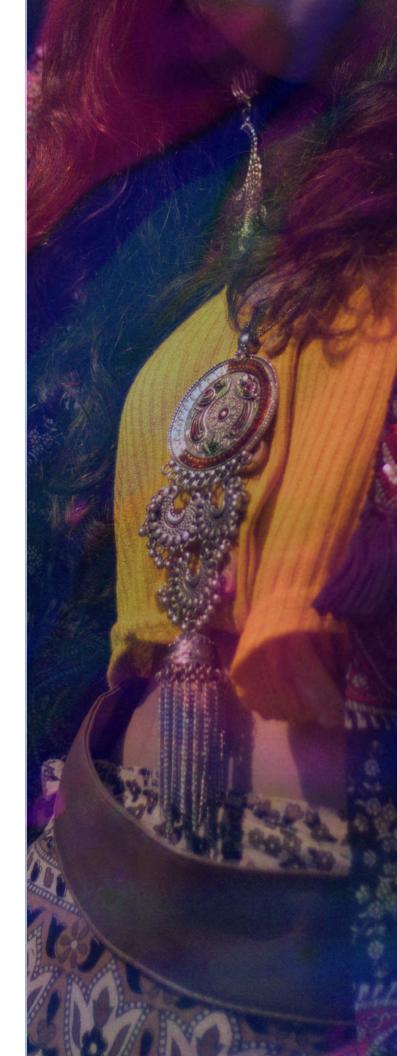
loudbusiness.com

We unite the LGBTQ2+ business community to be stronger and louder together.

## II What's On Queer BC

whatsonqueerbc.com

Queer owned businesses, services, events in BC - BC's Queer Magazine.



## Social Media

#### @annikasharma

Author & Podcast host for The Woke Desi

#### @acolourdeep

Creating an online space by and for QSAY

#### @alyypatel

LGBTQ+ researched and community organizer living her best Queer SA life

#### @biancamaieli

DJ / Actor / Director

#### @desirainbowparents

Providing support, education, and advocacy for Desi American Families with LGBTQ children/family members of all ages.

## @greengurleen

## @hasinajuma99

Advocate, educator, speaker; bridging the gap between LGBTQ2+ POC and heterosexuals

## @jagnagra

Artist & advocate for LGBTQ+ South Asians

## @leezamangaldas

Digital Creator - Imagine a world where all sexual experiences are consensual, safe and pleasurable

## @lilly

Lilly Singh a comedian and YouTuber

#### @m2ray\_

Musician, DJ, & producer

### @muslimlgbtnetwork

Muslim LGBTQ+ Network

#### @mx\_riasharma

Motivational speaker, youth activist, educator

#### @neeesherz

Artist

#### @nehaltenany

Blogger & Content Creator, Podcast host for The Woke Desi

#### @decolonizedaunty

Centering QTBIPOC healing - healer, self-care educator and writer

## @qap.asia

Queer Asian Project

## @queerasiansocialclub

Queer Asian Social Club

## @queerbrownhistory

Queer Brown History

## @queeringdesi

Podcast celebrating SA LGBTQ+ folx

## @queerdesimag

#### @qsaalt

Queer South Asians and Allies of Toronto

## @sarbatlgbtsikh

A Sikh LGBT group

#### @shamimsarif

Novelist, screenwriter, director

### @somayamusic

Musician

### @subtlequeercurry

#### @sumofusfest

The leading wellness community for womxn, trans and gender non-conforming folx

## @sundeepmorrison

Artist

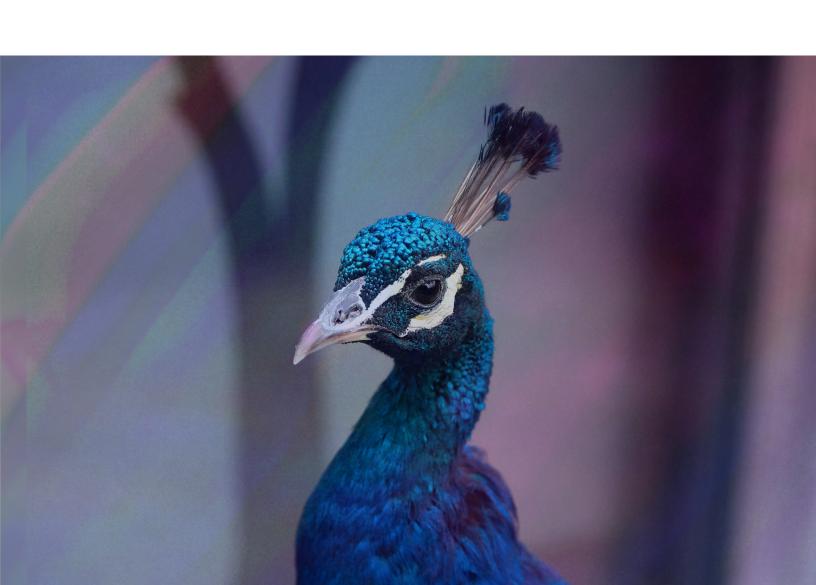
### @theindianfeminist

### @thepriyaarora

Digital Creator

### @thequeermuslimproject

@trikonevancouver





## **Dating Sites**

Bumble

apple.com/ca/app

Dil Mil: South Asian Dating

apps.apple.com/ca/app

**IlFiorry: Transgender Dating** 

apps.apple.com/us/

Happn

apps.apple.com/us/

**II**Her: Lesbian Dating

apps.apple.com/ca/app

Hinge

apps.apple.com/us/app

Just She: Lesbian Dating

play.google.com/store

Lex: Lesbian Queer Dating

apps.apple.com/ca

Mirchi: South Asian Dating

apps.apple.com/ca/

Plenty of Fish (POF)

apps.apple.com/us/

Tinder

apps.apple.com/us/app/tinder

**II Transgender: Trans Dating** 

apps.apple.com/ca/app/transgender-dating

For TS and cross dressers.

## Meetup.com

Les Be Friends Vancouver

meetup.com/les-be-friends-vancouver

Langley Surrey Lesbian Pub Night

meetup.com/Langley-Surrey

Lesbian Bi Girls of Vancouver

meetup.com/lesbianbigirlsofvancouver

**Gay & Lesbian Friends** 

meetup.com/Vancouver

Vancouver Bi Brunch

https://www.meetup.com/Bi-Brunch

**Tri-Cities Older Lesbian Buddies** 

meetup.com/tri-cities-older-lesbian-buddies

S-H-E Bang

meetup.com/S-H-Ebang



## **Employment**

## Employment and Social Development Canada

canada.ca/en/employment

Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) works to improve the standard of living and quality of life for all Canadians. We do this by promoting a labour force that is highly skilled. We also promote an efficient and inclusive labour market.

## Immigrant Services Society of BC issbc.org

We support professional Canadian newcomers - language training, education funds, career support and more.

#### **WorkBC**

workbc.ca/employment-services.aspx

Job search support, skills assessment, training, work experience placement, apprenticeship programs and financial aid.

## Lawyer Resources

#### **II Sher Vancouver**

shervancouver.com/sher-lawyer-referrals

A resource compiled by Sher Vancouver with various lawyer referrals and legal services in Vancouver.





## **Entertainment**

#### **Babes on Babes**

Instagram: @babes.on.babes

Dance parties for queer womxn. Women owned and operated.

#### **Brown Girl Outdoor World**

Instagram: @browngirloutdoorworld

Changing the narrative through adventure

#### Colour the Trails

colourthetrails.com Instagram: @colourthetrails

This is a group for BIPOC & allies interested in outdoor activities, including hiking, skiing, etc.

#### **II Desi QDiaspora**

desiqdiaspora.org Facebook: desiqdiaspora

Conference that aims to gather LGBTQ+ & GNC South Asian, Indo-Caribbean and folks that identify within the Desi Diaspora.

## **Enlightenment Productions**

Instagram: @enlightenmentmovies

Award-winning movies and TV aligned with our ideals of feminism, social impact and humanism, and LGBTQ+ representation.

#### **IIFly Girl Productions**

flygirlproductions.com

Flygirl's mission is to bring people together to celebrate our authentic selves, cultivate a community, and share the love—both on and off the dance floor. We're a small, tight-knit group that puts on big events. Our events are inclusive of all genders, sexualities, ethnicities, and body types. Flygirl's mission is to bring people together to celebrate our authentic selves, cultivate a community, and share the love—both on and off the dance floor. We're a small, tight-knit group that puts on big events. Our events are inclusive of all genders, sexualities, ethnicities, and body types. Owned and operated by a SA woman - Mandy Randhawa.

### Guftagu

Instagram: @browngirlsguftagu

Virtual events for womxn of South Asian heritage.

#### Les Flicks

Instagram: @lesflicks

LesFlicks brings you lesbianfilms and bisexualfilms on a global platform.

#### **II Queer Film Festival**

#### queerfilmfestival.ca

The Vancouver Queer Film Festival (VQFF) is a vibrant space for queer arts, culture, and community. It showcases dynamic and thought-provoking films from British Columbian filmmakers as well as other Canadian and international directors and storytellers. As Western Canada's largest queer arts event, the Festival curates films which contextualize and celebrate queer lives and experiences and prioritize foregrounding diverse identities in our communities, including narratives from trans people, queer people of colour, and Indigenous people.

#### Rangeela

Facebook: @RangeelaTO Instagram: @rangeelato

North America's largest LGBT bollywood event.

#### **Tasveer**

#### tasveer.org

It's 2001 and the 9/11 attacks have just shaken the entire world. The aftermath of these attacks left South Asians feeling the weight of fear, racism, hate, and crimes that were on the rise against them. Troubled by the stereotyped and highly prejudicial images of South Asians in the mainstream media at the time, Farah Nousheen and Rita Meher decided to change the narrative. Their quest for better representation led to the founding of Tasveer (meaning 'picture' in Hindi & Urdu) in March 2002, in Seattle. And their aim was to recast the harmful labels by providing a glimpse into the lives of South Asians through film, art, and storytelling.

#### **Tourism Vancouver**

tourismvancouver.com

Gay-friendly Vancouver events list.

#### II Vancouver Dyke March

vancouverdykemarch.com

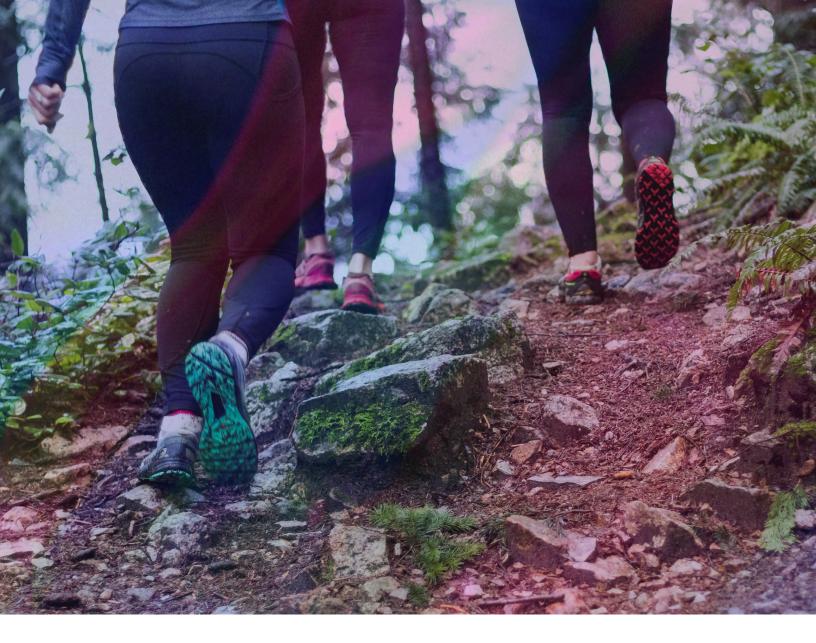
The Vancouver Dyke March and Festival Society is a grassroots, nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization which, with love, energy, purpose, and sustainability, plans and produces the Annual Vancouver Dyke March and Festival to celebrate and centre the experiences of those whose gender identity or expression intersects with their sexual orientation to further marginalize them.

#### **II Vancouver Pride**

#### vancouverpride.ca

Vancouver Pride Society strives to produce inclusive, celebratory events, and advocacy for LGBTQAI2S+ communities through an intersectional lens. We strive to produce events that reflect the pride the LGBTQAI2S+ community has in itself, by strengthening the sense of community, and contributing to the vibrancy, health and overall well-being of all persons in the community.

## **Whistler Pride** whistlerpride.com



## **Sports**

## Mabel League mabelleague.com

Vancouver Queer fastpitch softball league.

## **MyDavieVillage** mydavievillage.com/lgbt-gay-sports-van

Vancouver Gay LGBT sports organizations and groups.

## Il What's on QueerBC.com whatsonqueerbc.com/woq-bc-stories

A directory of sports and recreation activities for Queer folx in BC.



## **Counselling Services**

#### **Blue Bird Counselling**

bluebirdcounselling.ca

Registered SA clinical counsellor and social worker with 22 years of experience working with children, adults, couples and families.

#### **II Dragonstone Counselling**

dragonstonecounselling.ca

Counsellors who speak a variety of languages.

## **Eagle Wellness**

eaglewellness.ca

#### Meera Dhebar, MSW, RSW

meera@eaglewellness.ca 604-816-8377

LGBTQ+ centered counselling.

## **Healing in Colour**

healingincolour.com

A directory of BIPOC therapists - Supports individual and collective healing for BIPOC.

## **Dentists**

Dr. Jessa (South Asian Woman)

brightsmilesongeorgia.com

Red Tree Dental

redtreedentalvancouver.ca

Owned by queer women.

## Inder Kauldher, Counselling

psychologytoday.com/ca/therapists 778-319-5804

### **Mindsight Counselling**

mindsightcounselling.ca

#### **Peak Resilience**

Instagram: @peakresilience

A leading intersectional feminist and antioppressive counselling practice in Canada.

#### **South Asian Therapists**

southasiantherapists.org

Instagram: @southasiantherapists

#### Willow Tree Counselling

willowtreecounselling.ca

## General Wellness

## Il Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention

asaap.ca

A community-based, non-profit, charitable organisation committed to providing health promotion, support, education and advocacy in a non-discriminatory manner for those who identify as South Asian living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

#### **BC Cancer**

#### bccancer.bc.ca

For breast cancer screening and more. BC Cancer's mandate covers the full spectrum of cancer care from prevention, screening, diagnosis and treatment, to research and education, to supportive and palliative care.

## BC Women's Health Foundation between soundation.org

Gender inequity in the healthcare system is systemic - women have been unheard, unseen and misunderstood

## BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre

bcwomens.ca

BC Women's is dedicated to improving the health of women, newborns and families through a comprehensive range of services, research and education.

#### **II** Camh Foundation

camh.ca/gethelp Instagram: @camhfoundation

If you are experiencing thoughts of suicide, you are deserving of help.

## || Catherine White Holman Centre

We provide low-barrier wellness services to transgender and gender non-conforming people in a way that is respectful and celebratory of clients' identity and self-expression. Our centre is volunteer run, and all of our practitioners are volunteering their time, so that we can offer free services to people who need them, regardless of factors like citizenship, health insurance, or residential address.

## || Crime Victim Assistance Program victimsinfo.ca/en/services

British Columbia's Crime Victim Assistance Program (CVAP) is a financial benefits program to assist victims, immediate family members and certain witnesses in dealing with the effects of violent crime. CVAP helps to offset financial loss and assist in recovery from injury.

#### **II** DrugWatch

#### drugwatch.com/health/lgbtq

Comprehensive Health & Well-being Guide. Members of the LGBTQ+ community have unique and complex health needs that heterosexuals don't face. Health disparities and barriers to care can make staying healthy challenging, but knowing LGBTQ+ health risks can ensure you stay on top of your health. Local and national resources can help you prevent or treat these health conditions with the right medical testing, care and support.

#### **IIMind Map BC**

mindmapbc.ca

LGBTQ2+ focused mental health resources.

#### **IIMy Davie Village**

mydavievillage.com

AIDS & Fertility support, Asexuality support, Counselling, LGBTQ+ friendly medical doctors and dentists, Lesbian/Women's resources, Transgender support.

#### **Project Love Run**

Instagram: @projectloverun

Safe space for womxn to run, talk and love right; teaching the value of self love.

#### **Soul Care Collective**

Instagram: @soulcarecollective contact@soulcarecollective.org

Alternative and holistic health services via African and Indigeneous healing modalities.

#### South Asian Wellbeing

southasianwellbeing.org
Instagram: @southasianwellbeing

A directory of SA wellbeing professionals and complimentary therapists.

## Il Vancouver Women's Health Collective

womenshealthcollective.ca

Helping self-identified women foster health, wellness and equity through feminist approaches to advocacy, shared knowledge and low-barrier programs and services.

## II Wellness Together Canada

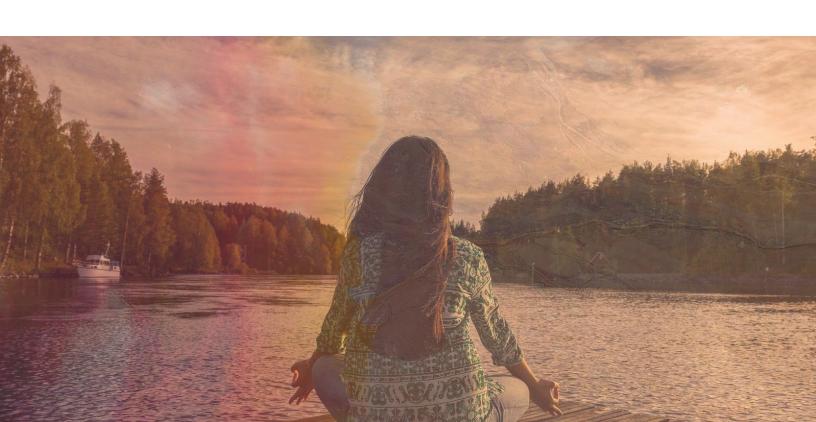
wellnesstogether.ca

Free counselling and mental health support for all those in Canada.

#### Womxn of Color Summit

Instagram: @womxnofcolorsummit

Social justice and wellness, celebrating BIWoC embodying their truest potential.



## Fertility Clinics & Resources

#### **BCHealthLink**

healthlinkbc.ca/health-topics

Information about fertitlity problems and health coverage in BC for reproductive issues.

#### **Boda Health**

#### bodahealth.ca

Deciding to become pregnant is an exciting time, however for some it can be a difficult and frustrating process. Some women become pregnant easily, others need support and more time. At BodaHealth, we understand that from preconception to postpartum, the support and healthcare needs are different for each individual. For that reason, our strategy for your care and treatments will be unique to you and customized throughout every stage of your journey. Free consultation with licensed practitioner available.

### **Olive Fertility**

olivefertility.com info@olivefertility.com 604-559-9950

One of Canada's leading IVF and Fertility Centres with among the highest pregnancy rates in Canada.

## Pacific Centre for Reproductive Medicine

pacificfertility.ca

The Pacific Centre for Reproductive Medicine (PCRM) is focused on your needs with our comprehensive IVF and reproductive medical care.

## Well Women Counselling wellwomancounselling.com

Reproductive health counselling addresses the emotional concerns and daily challenges related to fertility, hormones, the menstrual cycle, sexual health, pelvic pain, pregnancy and postpartum. From puberty to menopause, women can spend approximately 30 years of their lives coping with issues related to reproductive health, whether it's trying to conceive, managing PMS symptoms, coping with miscarriage, or making the difficult decision to end a pregnancy.

## Public Health Care

### **IIBC** College of Family Physicians

bccfp.bc.ca/for-the-public/

A search engine to find family doctors in BC.

#### **Cambie Practice**

cambiepractice.com

Several woman family doctors.

#### **IIMedical Services Plan (for BC)**

gov.bc.ca/msp

## RMT/Massages

## **IIDavie Village Wellness**

davie-rmt.com

RMT massages. LGBTQ+ owned and operated.

#### **II** Empower Health

empowerhealth.ca

Transformative healthcare solutions for body work treatments.

### Hands on Healing

Instagram: @handsonhealing\_

Therapeutic massages for women only.





## Housing

## BC Housing behousing.org

Housing assistance, homelessness services, women fleeing violence, and etc.

## Women Shelters

#### **Il Battered Women's Support Services**

bwss.org 604.687.1867 (24 hour crisis line)

BWSS crisis line remains open, providing emotional support to self-identified women experiencing gender-based domestic violence and/or uncertainty during these difficult times.

## Harmony House

pics.bc.ca/harmony-house

Harmony House is a second stage transition home for women providing women and their children with a shelter that is safe, secure, and provides an opportunity to them to heal and nurture in a culturally sensitive, linguistically accessible and healing environment. In Harmony House, residents learn life skills, get assistance with employment search, learn about budgeting on their own and learn English language to enhance their capacity of leading their lives to the best of their potential. Aside from measurable services, these women receive emotional support and advocacy from PICS and our community partners.

#### Vancouver Women's Rape Relief

rapereliefshelter.bc.ca 604-872-8212 (24 hour crisis line)

For all women who have experienced any kind of abuse, need mental health support and shelter.

\*not trans-friendly

#### **II Wavaw Rape Crisis Centre**

wavaw.ca 604-255-6344 (24 hour crisis line)

For all women who have experienced any kind of abuse, need mental health support and shelter; indigenous counselling.



#### **II Trans Care BC**

phsa.ca/transcarebc

Health services, education, and peer support for trans people.

#### **II Transgender Map**

transgendermap.com

Learn about gender identity and gender expression, as well as the social, legal, and medical ways to make a transgender transition.

#### **II Trans Newcomer**

mosaicbc.org/resources/trans

An online community that provides information and support to newcomer transgender folks, including information, peer and mentor support, and a platform to build a network of support.

## **II Transgender Therapists**

psychologytoday.com/ca/therapists

A list of transgender therapists across BC.

## **■ VCH Trans Speciality Care** vch.ca

Offers knowledgeable and specialized care to transgender and gender diverse persons. There are no costs for the services provided, however, you will need valid MSP coverage.

## Disclaimer

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