

VOICES IN THE ART (VIA):

Exploring the Intersectional Identities of Newcomer 2SLGBTQIA+ Youth using Arts-Based Engagement Ethnography (ABEE)



An intervention-focused research project intended to understand and uplift lived experiences

* Intersecting Identities

* Integration into Canadian Society

Social Lives & Relationships *

Experiences with Gender-Based Violence (GBV) *



VIA aims to empower participants through:

Understanding diverse experiences through art

- Developing feelings of **belonging** and **community**
- Increasing senses of **safety** surrounding **conversations** about identities and experiences
- Increasing **willingness to seek support** in community



Individual Interviews *



Focus Groups with Other Participants *



Optional Art Exhibit *

“I feel more connected with the participants in my cohort who share similar experiences”

“I now feel a stronger sense of belonging and connection with the newcomer 2SLGBTQIA+ youth community”

45 Participants, across 4 Cohorts, with a broad mix of identities and experiences

“The people that I’ve met through this programme are now my close friends! It was such a unique experience that brought us all together!”

“I feel like my voice has been heard through my art”



These responses were gathered from a follow-up survey with **15 2SLGBTQIA+ Newcomer Youth** in Calgary, Alberta, as part of the **Voices in the Art** Project.

VIA’s Preliminary Findings:

- Discrimination and Prejudice
- Tensions of Home and Belonging
- Immigrant Challenges and Adaptation
- Navigating Difficult Familial Dynamics
- Reconciling Intersectional Identities
- Identity Exploration and Finding Acceptance

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