



## **The HOPE Centre for Sexual and Gender Minority People**

### **Faculty of Arts, Toronto Metropolitan University**

#### **2023-2024 Report**

The HOPE (Health Outcome Promotion and Engagement) Centre is the TMU Centre for Sexual and Gender Minority People. It conducts community-engaged, interdisciplinary research to understand and promote the health of people who identify as members of a sexual or gender minority community. Our research studies the health of people who identify as gay, bisexual, lesbian, queer, pansexual, asexual, and other sexual minority people; and the health of trans, genderqueer, non-binary, and other gender minority people, including Indigenous peoples, Black people and people of colour.

Our Centre was approved by the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation (OVPRI). Below is our report for 2023-2024. We are pleased to report that we have not only created and officially launched the Centre, but we have since hosted a community symposium and a campus-wide community-based research panel.

#### **Scholarly, Research, and Creative (SRC) Activities:**

Our current SRC activities include:

1. A steering committee of faculty and community members, which continues to meet twice a month
2. Hiring a work-study research assistant (WSRA) for the upcoming academic year to help support the Centre's initiatives
3. Creating a part-time Community Engagement & Social Media Coordinator role to build an online presence and act as a point of contact for the HOPE Centre as a community ambassador to build and maintain strong relationships with community members and organizations
4. Two active working groups: The Education Committee and the Trans Research Committee. Each group has met at least 3 times in the past year
5. Streamlining the HOPE Centre website <https://www.thehopecentre.ca/> that now provides an outline our Centre and its current work, regular updates on the blog, a review of our Inaugural Community Symposium, and connection of social media profiles on Instagram and Facebook to stay engaged with the community and a platform to disseminate knowledge translation of our current activities
6. The receipt of 3 CIHR grants by HOPE Centre members as Principal Investigators:

- [Crystal Methamphetamine Use and Its Associations with Sexually Transmitted](#)



- [Infections Among GBM: Identifying Modifiable Treatment Targets](#) (Nominated PI, Trevor A. Hart, HOPE Centre member; \$986,850 for 5 years)
  - [An Integrated Cognitive Behavioural Therapy to Treat PTSD and Sexually Transmitted Infections Among Gay, Bisexual, and Other Men Who Have Sex With Men](#) (Nominated PI, Trevor A. Hart, HOPE Centre member; \$100,000 for 1 year)
  - [Culturally Responsive Sexual Health and Wellbeing Programming for Transgender Middle Eastern and North African Newcomer Young Adults in Ontario: Community-Based Participatory Research through Arts-Based Approaches](#) (Nominated PI, Roula Kteily-Hawa; Co-PI, Trevor A. Hart, HOPE Centre member; \$99,403 for 1 year)
7. A donation of \$50,000 from DECIEM Inc. to the HOPE Centre for future use within the The HOPE Centre
  8. Application of external funding by the HOPE Centre to support our fall Symposium events: Gilead Sciences Canada, Inc. and ViiV Healthcare ULC
  9. Successful hosting by the HOPE Centre of it's first Community Symposium, fostering valuable connections with key community stakeholders and identifying the key focus areas for improvements in community-based research and areas of research that address issues that are important to the community
  10. Hosting a Community-Based Research Panel to actively involve students on campus, strengthening our ties with the academic community
  11. Recruiting a new Steering Committee member from the Anishinaabe Nation 2SLGBTQQIA+ Advisory Council and the City of Toronto onto our Steering Committee.
  12. Establishing a Terms of Reference
  13. Funding received for \$25,000 from Viiv Healthcare for the HOPE Centre's Sexual and Gender Minority Counselling Training Hub (SCTH) - a project aimed to train gay/bisexual/queer and transgender men's outreach workers in the AIDS service organization (ASO) sector and HIV treatment sector how to conduct evidence-based counselling in HIV prevention and care

Our anticipated SRC activities include:

1. Meeting with our Central Advisory Board once a term to serve as an arm's-length committee guiding the continued research and financial development of the Centre
2. Maintaining and updating the HOPE Centre's website and social media platforms
3. Creating focus groups based on the feedback from participants of the initial Community Symposium
4. Hosting a second community symposium to better support the health of people who live with or are affected by HIV, who are LGBTQ2S+ as well as Black, trans, racialized, Indigenous, and/or live with disabilities, by facilitating community consultation and needs assessment



5. Establishing a biannual newsletter and mailing list following the successful launch of our Centre to foster and maintain community engagement with our Centre's activities
6. Reinvigorating our connections with Ontario Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance to begin our SETH training program initiative

## **The degree to which the Research Centre has met the stated annual objectives and milestones**

Our objectives for the report from the prior year were to:

1. Plan and host a community symposium to bring together community members, organizations, and researchers from the Centre in a collaborative setting
2. Hold an Advisory Committee meeting
3. To submit at least 2 grant proposals

We have achieved most of our prior year's objectives.

## **How the Research Centre is contributing to the SRC objectives established for the Faculty**

Our Centre is also consistent with the Faculty of Arts Academic Plan to intensify SRC. As noted above, the Centre has already leveraged Dr. Hart's research strengths and experience to increase the number of external grants held by faculty across the Faculty of Arts. Our grants and publications are also strongly aligned with the Faculty of Arts' focus on both health and well-being and on equity, diversity, inclusion, and access.

## **Financial Statement for the Previous Year and Its Proposed Budget for the Following Year**

\$50,000 was contributed by DECIEM Inc. for the Centre's discretionary use.

We have received and utilized \$3500 from ViiV Healthcare ULC and an additional \$2,000 from DECIEM Inc. to help support our launch event.

Our proposed operating budget will be \$77,000 for 2024-2025. We will use these funds to support our new Community Engagement Coordinator, host our second Community symposium, increase our capacity for community outreach, and provide a trainee grant to recruit a student representative for the Centre.

Our proposed research budget will be \$376,773 for 2024-2025. These are funds secured through our affiliated research grants and will be used to conduct HOPE Centre affiliated research.



## Activity Plan with Milestones

**June 2024** - Apply for funding to support the Sexual and Gender Minority Counselling Training Hub (SCTH)

**August - October 2024** - Hire and onboard a new Work-Study Research Assistant and a new Community Engagement Coordinator (CEC)

**August - September 2024** - Recruit a new HOPE Centre Student Representative

**October - December 2024** - Plan and finalize our second Community symposium, to host in early 2025

**February 2025** - Host Winter Community Symposium to connect members of our Toronto SGM communities with researchers to create forums of relevant and impactful forums for research co-creation

**Milestone #1:** Submit funding applications for SCTH

**Milestone #2:** Acquire funding to initiate SCTH and begin training program development

**Milestone #3:** Recruit a new member to maximize our online presence and continue growing our networks with other organizations, and to build a foundation for our bi-annual newsletter by October 15, 2024

**Milestone #4:** Host an Advisory Committee meeting by January 31, 2025

**Milestone #5:** Strengthen Centre infrastructure through the development of a more comprehensive website

**Milestone #6:** Strengthen Centre infrastructure with CEC to create deeper community networks and access to resources

**Milestone #7:** Host second community symposium inviting academic and community members to the event, by February 28, 2025