



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COVERDALE COURTWORk SOCIETY IS TRANS INCLUSIVE

November 17, 2019

Coverdale Courtwork Society has made a commitment to become trans inclusive. This means that our services are open to women, girls, trans, non-binary and Two-Spirit persons who are involved in the criminal justice system.

Our organization is fully committed to putting in place policies and practices that ensure trans identities are able to access our services in a safe, supportive and respectful environment. We will be engaging in rigorous evaluation, community dialogues and program delivery required to be accountable to trans, nonbinary and Two-Spirit people who are involved in the criminal justice system.

Trans, non-binary and Two-Spirit people are disproportionately targeted by discrimination, are victims of violence, homelessness, displacement and criminalization. We are dedicated to addressing these issues through new programming and services that will center the experiences of queer and trans prisoners and criminalized LGBTQ+ populations. Unfortunately, there are many stories of trans people experiencing re-victimization or marginalization when they access the services they need, often because of a lack of knowledge or understanding of how to support trans individuals.

By being active about our trans inclusion process our hope is to generate new stories of positive experiences, healing, and support. By being better allies for trans, non-binary and Two-Spirit persons we can better address systemic discrimination, marginalization, and criminalization. Coverdale recognizes that discrimination, prejudice and victimization on the basis of gender identity and expression, is a violation of human rights and will not be tolerated.

This change is part of a comprehensive strategic plan that Coverdale will be implementing over the next 3 years. Becoming a more inclusive organization that addresses the needs and vulnerabilities of equity seeking groups including Indigenous, African Nova Scotian, women, girls, trans, non-binary and Two-Spirit persons who are involved with the criminal justice system, is a key focus. Our organization is fully committed to providing a safe, supportive and respectful environment for community members, clients, students, volunteers and staff regardless of any differences based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or disability. There is strength in diversity, and we are so excited to grow and learn throughout this process.

Warmly,

Ashley Avery

Executive Director
Coverdale Courtwork Society