

BRETT MASON COUNSELLING

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Advanced Gender-Affirming Practice with Youth & Adults: 2 Day Training

April 24 & 25, 2025

10 am – 4:30 pm

Cost:

Early Bird Rate (before March 1): \$1,000

Cost after March 1: \$1,250

Student rate: \$149 (Sliding Scale Available \$0 to \$149)

Sliding Scale Available – Email to Request (\$0 to \$1250)

Advanced Gender-Affirming Practice with Youth & Adults

Geared towards counsellors, social workers, psychologists, nurses, doctors and other health professionals who are already working with trans, Two-Spirit, and gender diverse people, this training goes beyond “Trans 101.” This training teaches research supported, evidence-based best practice grounded in decades of lived and work experience in trans and Two-Spirit communities. This training fosters experiential learning through partner practice, small group work, and large group discussion. Participants will leave this training with a more fulsome understanding of the social determinants of health and the intersectional oppression that trans and Two-Spirit people face, and how we can better build supports that respect these histories and lived realities from a place of cultural humility.

We will provide an overview of gender-affirming health systems and the ways that Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse clients people access care in BC, including what gender-affirming care is covered by MSP (Medical Services Plan) and what additional coverage is available to Indigenous people covered under FNHA (First Nations Health Authority), as well as information about free supports people can access (such as free binder and gaff programs, travel coverage and more).

This training is designed for providers who work with youth and/or adults. Youth-specific information includes: trans and Two-Spirit youth pathways to care, an overview of relevant legislation relating to youth accessing gender-affirming care, and navigating family dynamics and the role of the gender-affirming provider in working with a youth whose family is not supportive.

This training provides foundational knowledge on neurodivergence and decolonization.

Facilitator Bio:

Brett Mason is a therapist in private practice who works primarily with families and individuals providing counselling, as well as assessments to access gender-affirming care. They have been working in gender-affirming care since 2011, and have worked at Trans Care BC, QMUNITY, and currently part time with Dr. Wallace Wong, where he provides children, youth and adults with gender dysphoria assessments. They hold a Masters of Social Work from the UBC, where their graduate research focused on visioning more equitable trans and Two-Spirit healthcare systems.

He came to work in gender-affirming care through his own experience of being denied care due to discriminatory healthcare practices, which necessitated that he file a human rights complaint in order to access care. This left them wanting to make systems of care better for all trans people, which brings him to the work he does now.

Brett is a queer, trans, fat, disabled, white settler with roots in Calgary and the West Coast, and is of French, Irish, Germanic and English ancestry. Brett lives on Vancouver Island on Stz'uminus, Penelakut, Snuneymuxw, and Quw'utsun Territory with his family.

Learn more about Brett: BrettMason.ca/

Guest Speaker Bio:

Kyle Shaughnessy is a trans and Two-Spirit/Indigiqueer educator, social worker, and writer of Tłjchq Dene, Irish, and Ukrainian background. Originally from the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and rural BC, he currently lives in Vancouver and has a professional background as a community organizer, advocate, and educator in gender-affirming healthcare. Kyle now works as an Indigenous Education Consultant at the University of British Columbia on unceded x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam) territory, where he is also a PhD student in Interdisciplinary Studies, focusing his research on intersections between Indigenous land-based knowledge and queer community ethics.

Learning Objectives:

Through participating in this training, learners will:

- Understand key terminology that is vital to creating a culture of respect
- Recognize how decolonizing and anti-racist practice can support breaking down the gender-binary
- Deepen their understanding of what it means to Indigenize their professional practice
- Build confidence in themselves and their practice through better understanding of implicit bias, how to address it, and how to repair a relationship after making mistakes
- Be better equipped to support clients with gender-affirming health systems navigation
- Feel more prepared to respond to ethical dilemmas and build clinical skills through the use of case studies and small group work collaboration
- Acquire skills for working with families of trans youth
- Gain an understanding of the history of gender-affirming care and the pathologization of trans, Two-Spirit and gender-diverse people and how this impacts care today

- Learn about trans and Two-Spirit communities, their cultures and norms, and how service providers can show cultural humility and respect
- Understand the social determinants of health and trans, Two-Spirit and gender diverse communities
- Increase confidence in addressing myths and inaccurate information re: gender-affirming care
- Identify personal areas of privilege and oppression and how this impacts your relationship with your trans, Two-Spirit and gender diverse clients
- Learn about the ways that neurodivergence presents in gender minorities, and how to better support gender diverse neurodivergent people
- Familiarize yourself with free resources that exist for social transition and support with legal name change, gender-affirming garments (such as binders and gaffs), speech language pathology for vocal feminization, etc.
- Gain familiarity with gender-affirming healthcare pathways in BC, including access to hormone therapy and gender-affirming surgeries, in order to support clients navigating this care and decision making around it
- Familiarize yourself with Indigenous and BIPOC specific resources to better support Indigenous trans and Two-Spirit clients, and BIPOC clients
- Understand the contributing and intervenable factors that affect trans and Two-Spirit youth suicide rates
- Gain a broader understanding of mental health concerns that trans and Two-Spirit people face, and learn about areas where counsellors can be key supports

Logistics:

- Maximum 15-20 people class size
- Online on Zoom, with breaks every 60-90 minutes
- Use of small group work, case studies, and discussion to synthesize learning

Registration:

Visit: BrettMason.JaneApp.com or email BrettMasonCounselling@gmail.com

\$100 deposit required after registration

Full payment due 1 week prior to the training

Questions or to register via email?

Email: BrettMasonCounselling@gmail.com

Can't make it to this training but want to attend the next one?

Newsletter sign-up for training updates: <https://mailchi.mp/beb3bb557b4b/newsletter-signup>

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