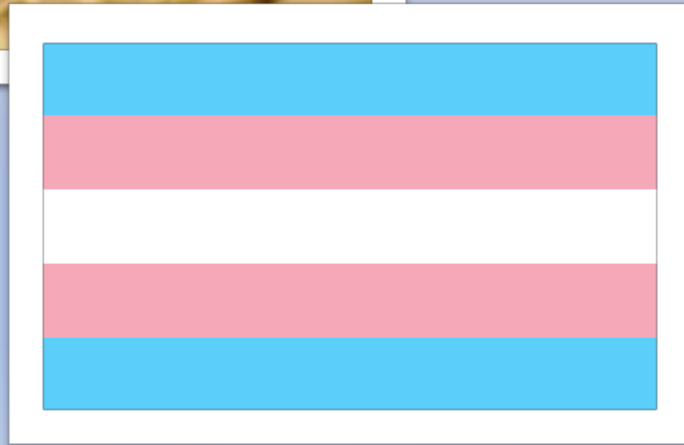


Track: Key Populations / Program ID#:KP4.03 / Abstract 5615

**“Canada's Got Talent” Trans Latinas Ontario (TLO) & Economic Integration Through Employment. A program for HIV+/- Individuals
HIV Prevention Program, CSSP**



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Background

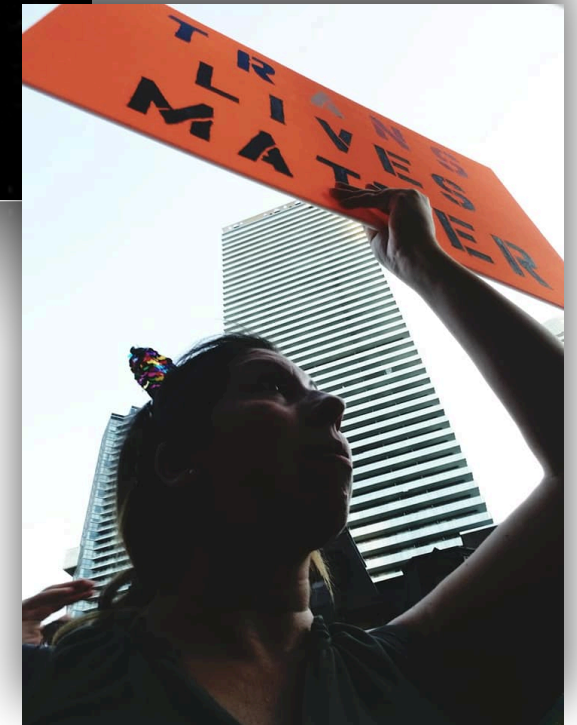
Transgender social economic integration has been proved challenging in Toronto, Ontario. Particularly for trans immigrants to Canada who were raised/educated in the Spanish/Latino culture. Sexual migration explains the journey of geographic relocation for whom have not been accepted in their home networks, and have moved here (voluntary or forced migration) to start a better life. Life that has been proven to be challenging, despite the fact of being in “safer” Canada, facing transphobia and having to trade social mobility as immigrants (language barriers, job/educational credentials, name change, transition process, social isolation).

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The Problem

Immigrants to Canada struggle to have access to the same gradients of wellness and economic inclusion when compared to their peers who are Canadian born. This situation holds back immigrants’ economic and social integration, a problem that is worse for trans immigrants because they coexist in a deeper intersectional marginalized position. Building employment/ labour integration capacity for those individuals was one of TLO’s main goals.



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Results

TLO, 75 sessions (2015-2019, n=40) account for 8 stories of employment success in the last year only. TLO's participants have gained job security from part time jobs in some programs such as Community Without Borders (CWB), to full time coordinators of the Trans Employment Mentorship Program (TEMP, IRCC funded), as well as part time facilitators of the Trans S.P.A. workshop-series and they have even become members of HIV/Sexual Health agencies' Advisory Committee Boards.

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Lessons Learned

Transgender individuals are fully employable if given the training and opportunity to gain skills and improve their lives. Coaching for learning how to access full social and economic integration may be needed. All the TLO employed members, have already become peer educators and natural leaders to other peers and groups, creating tiers of wellness and social justice in the community.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: I have no conflicts of interest.

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EMPLOYMENT MENTORSHIP
TRANS S.P.A
SELF-CARE PEER ADVOCACY

JOB FAIR

FOR TRANSGENDER AND GENDER NON-CONFORMING PEOPLE

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