

# Solve for EQUITY-SEEKING GROUPS INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND RECONCILIATION

Indigenous peoples in Canada face ongoing challenges due to historical injustices of colonialism including land rights issues, residential schools and systemic discrimination.<sup>1</sup>

## WHAT CAN YOU CONCEIVE TO CONTRIBUTE TO:

Preserving Indigenous knowledge

Advocacy

Environmental stewardship

Economic development

Education and capacity building

Healthcare solutions

Community research and data analysis

Infrastructure development



# Solve for EQUITY-SEEKING GROUPS RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination is more common among visible minorities. In 2019, among Black Canadians, 65% born in Canada faced discrimination, compared to 36% of Black immigrants.<sup>2</sup>

## WHAT IDEAS COULD YOU DEVELOP TO IMPROVE:

Data analysis

Education and training

Community engagement

Social issues

Health equity

Environmental justice



# Solve for EQUITY-SEEKING GROUPS ACCESS TO EDUCATION

We do not enter the world on equal footing. Geographic location, socioeconomic status, race and culture can all affect a child's access to educational experiences.<sup>3</sup>

## HOW CAN WE INNOVATE TO:

Improve access to education?

Accommodate different learning styles?

Promote diversity  
in educational content?



# Solve for EQUITY-SEEKING GROUPS HOUSING INSTABILITY AND THE UNHOUSED

2.2% of Canadians experience absolute homelessness at some point in their lives. There are many causes of homelessness; financial challenges are the leading cause in Canada.<sup>4</sup>

## WHAT COULD YOU DEVELOP TO EASE:

Health and mental health

Stigma and discrimination

Transportation challenges

Financial issues

Food and shelter



# Solve for EQUITY-SEEKING GROUPS DISCRIMINATION IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Our criminal justice system faces complex issues that affect its ability to efficiently deliver results that are just, fair and compassionate. People feel Canada's criminal justice system too quickly criminalizes symptoms of marginalized people.<sup>5</sup>

## WHAT MIGHT YOU ENVISION TO:

Increase transparency?

Improve fairness?

Help cure  
underlying causes?

Ensure accountability?

Destigmatize  
the vulnerable  
and marginalized?



# Solve for EQUITY-SEEKING GROUPS 2SLGBTQQAI+ COMMUNITY

As of 2021, 25-40% of homeless youth in Canada are 2SLGBTQQI+. A study found 64% feel unsafe at school, while trans individuals are 1.5X more likely to face violent victimization than cisgender individuals.<sup>6</sup>

## WHAT COULD WE CREATE TO COMBAT:

Discrimination and family rejection

Mental health

Lack of  
safe housing

Barriers to  
education and  
employment



# Solve for EQUITY-SEEKING GROUPS **IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES**

By choice or for safety, refugees and immigrants leave their home to start over in a new country. Refugees often need assistance to settle upon arriving in Canada.<sup>7</sup>

## WHAT COULD YOU IMAGINE TO HELP EASE:

Community integration

Language and communication

Cultural  
immersion

Recovery, health  
and wellness



# Solve for EQUITY-SEEKING GROUPS RURAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES

In Canada, many rural and remote communities can be geographically isolated. This isolation can create extra challenges for these communities and their inhabitants.<sup>8</sup>

## WHAT COULD YOU DO TO IMPROVE:

Healthcare access

Education

Food and water

Economic challenges

Environmental vulnerabilities

Connectivity

Infrastructure

Social and  
mental health



# Solve for EQUITY-SEEKING GROUPS WOMEN AND GENDER-DIVERSE INDIVIDUALS

Advancing gender equality promotes fairness, economic prosperity, health, happiness and peace, by aiming to reduce poverty, unemployment and gender-based violence.<sup>9</sup>

## WHAT COULD YOU DEVELOP TO HELP EQUALIZE:

Algorithms and AI models

Data and data science

Skill-building in STEM

Schools and workplaces

Finance and economics

Inclusive health

Medical research



# Solve for HEALTH

## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Mental illness is the leading cause of disability worldwide. One in two Canadians have or have had a mental illness by the time they reach 40 years of age.<sup>10,11</sup>

WHAT ARE YOUR IDEAS  
TO MITIGATE OR IMPROVE  
LIVING WITH:

Depression

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

Schizophrenia

Bipolar disorder

Eating disorders

Anxiety disorders

Neurodevelopmental  
disorders

Disruptive  
behaviour  
and dissocial  
disorders



## Solve for HEALTH

Addiction is a complex process where problematic patterns of substance use or behaviours can interfere with a person's life.<sup>12</sup>

## WHAT COULD YOU CREATE TO HELP PEOPLE WITH:

An illustration of various medications on a dark blue background. It includes a green and white box, a large clear bottle, a small blue bottle, an orange pill bottle with orange capsules, a blue pill bottle with blue capsules, and a blue pill bottle with pink and white capsules. There are also several loose capsules and a blister pack of pink and white capsules. A speech bubble in the top right corner contains the word 'ADDICTIONS' in white capital letters.

# Solve for HEALTH

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND VACCINATION

According to the Government of Canada, immunization is one of the most important accomplishments in public health. It has led to the elimination, containment and control of diseases that were once very common in Canada.<sup>13</sup>

### WHAT WOULD YOU CONCEIVE TO BETTER:

Assess

Diagnose

Track

Report

Treat

Educate

Supply

Develop



# Solve for HEALTH

## GENDER-BASED HEALTH DISPARITIES

Gender-based health disparities affect diagnosis and treatment. One study found women are 10% less likely to have pain assessed when they arrive at a hospital, and are less likely to be given pain medication.<sup>14</sup>

### HOW CAN WE INNOVATE TO REDUCE THESE DISPARITIES?



# Solve for HEALTH

## HEALTH IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Changes to climate impact our environment,  
and affect human health.<sup>15</sup>

### HOW COULD YOU PREVENT OR MITIGATE:

**DIRECT  
HEALTH RISKS  
INCLUDING**

Floods

Storms

Air pollution

Extreme heat

**INDIRECT  
HEALTH RISKS  
INCLUDING**

Food yields

Erosion of cultures

Infectious diseases

Water flows



# Solve for HEALTH CHRONIC DISEASES

Chronic diseases require ongoing management, impacting health and quality of life. How can we enhance treatment and everyday life for those affected?<sup>16</sup>

## WHAT WOULD YOU CREATE TO:

Prevent

Mitigate

Reduce impact

Support

Cure



# Solve for HEALTH

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Air, water, food and physical surroundings all contribute to environmental health. Keeping people healthy at work is the aim of occupational health.<sup>17</sup>

WHAT COULD  
YOU INNOVATE TO  
PREVENT OR IMPROVE  
QUALITY OF LIFE  
FOLLOWING:

Exposure to pollution, chemical hazards or radiation

Workplace injuries

Ergonomic dangers

Vector-borne diseases



Solve for  
HEALTH

# REPRODUCTIVE AND SEXUAL HEALTH ISSUES

Reproductive health issues such as infertility can affect physical and emotional well-being. Reproductive health also impacts environmental sustainability.<sup>18</sup>

HOW CAN YOU INNOVATE  
TO IMPROVE:

Education about  
sexual health?

Access to reproductive  
health services?

Stigma  
or safety?

Sexual  
healthcare?



# Solve for HEALTH

## AGING AND DEGENERATIVE DISEASES

Most Canadian seniors have at least one chronic disease or condition. Can we promote good health for them despite social barriers to lifestyle change?<sup>19</sup>

WHAT WOULD YOU CREATE  
TO IMPROVE THESE  
CONDITIONS OF LIFE  
FOR SENIORS:



Mobility

Cognitive function

Degenerative  
disease symptoms

Life span



# Solve for HEALTH DISABILITIES

Disabilities can affect mobility, communication and the ability to fully participate in society, by creating barriers to accessing services and resources such as healthcare and education.<sup>20</sup>

## HOW CAN WE ASSIST PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT DISABILITIES SUCH AS:

Intellectual disabilities  
(e.g. Down syndrome,  
autism spectrum disorder)

Physical disabilities  
(e.g. spinal cord injuries,  
cerebral palsy)

Mental health disabilities  
(e.g. anxiety, depression)

Sensory disabilities  
(e.g. blindness,  
hearing loss)



# Solve for HEALTH

## ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

The proportion of Canadians 18 and older with access to primary care has declined from 93% in 2016 to 86% in 2023 - approximately 4 million people did not have a primary care provider in 2023.<sup>21</sup>

### HOW CAN YOU IMPROVE HEALTHCARE ACCESS WITH:

Data

Remote connection

Personalization

AR/VR

Improved transportation

Portables and wearables

Digital tools



# Citations

1 Hanson, Erin, et al. "The Residential School System." Indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca, Indigenous Foundations, 1 Sept. 2020, indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/residential-school-system-2020/

Accessed 16 Oct. 2024.

2 Cotter, Adam. "Experiences of Discrimination among the Black and Indigenous Populations in Canada, 2019." Statistics Canada, Statistics Canada, 16 Feb. 2022, www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2022001/article/00002-eng.html

Accessed 16 Oct. 2024.

3 Centre for Social Innovation. "People for Education's Right to Education Framework." Centre for Social Innovation, 2024, <https://peopleforeducation.ca/right-to-education/>

Accessed 27 Sep. 2024.

4 Statistics Canada. "Homelessness: How Does It Happen?" Statistics Canada, 6 Dec. 2023, www.statcan.gc.ca/o1/en/plus/5170-homelessness-how-does-it-happen

Accessed 27 Sep. 2024.

5 Government of Canada. "What we heard - Transforming Canada's criminal justice system." Government of Canada, 3 Feb. 2023, <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/other-autre/tc-js-tsjp/p1.html>

Accessed 27 Sep. 2024.

6 Government of Canada. "Federal 2SLGBTQI+ Action Plan 2022." Government of Canada, 22 Mar. 2024, www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/free-to-be-me/federal-2slgbtqi-plus-action-plan/federal-2slgbtqi-plus-action-plan-2022.html

Accessed 30 Sep. 2024.

7 Government of Canada. "How Canada's refugee system works." Government of Canada, 29 Jul. 2024, <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/refugees/about-refugee-system/how-system-works.html>

Accessed 27 Sep. 2024.



# Citations

8 Government of Canada. "National Issues Report: Rural and Remote Communities." Government of Canada, 2021, [https://natural-resources.canada.ca/sites/nrcan/files/GN-BC/Chapter%203\\_Rural%20and%20Remote%20Communities\\_Final\\_EN.pdf](https://natural-resources.canada.ca/sites/nrcan/files/GN-BC/Chapter%203_Rural%20and%20Remote%20Communities_Final_EN.pdf)

Accessed 27 Sep. 2024.

9 Government of Canada. "Advancing Gender Equality." Government of Canada, 18 Mar. 2024, [www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/commemorations-celebrations/gender-equality-week/advancing-gender-equality.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/commemorations-celebrations/gender-equality-week/advancing-gender-equality.html)

Accessed 30 Sept. 2024.

10 Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. "Addressing Stigma." CAMH, 2018, [www.camh.ca/en/driving-change/addressing-stigma](http://www.camh.ca/en/driving-change/addressing-stigma)

Accessed 30 Sept. 2024.

11 Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. "The Crisis Is Real." CAMH, 2024, <https://www.camh.ca/en/driving-change/the-crisis-is-real>

Accessed 28 Oct. 2024.

12 Canadian Mental Health Association. "Substance use and addiction." CMHA, 2024, <https://ontario.cmha.ca/addiction-and-substance-use-and-addiction/>

Accessed 30 Sept. 2024.

13 Government of Canada. "Benefits of immunization: Canadian Immunization Guide" Canada.ca, Aug. 2016, [www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-1-key-immunization-information/page-3-benefits-immunization.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-1-key-immunization-information/page-3-benefits-immunization.html)

Accessed 31 Oct. 2024

14 Whiting, Kate. "6 Conditions That Highlight the Women's Health Gap." World Economic Forum, 15 Aug. 2024, [www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/08/womens-health-gap-healthcare/](http://www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/08/womens-health-gap-healthcare/)

Accessed 30 Sept. 2024.



# Citations

15 Government of Canada. "Risks to health from climate change." Canada.ca, Jun. 2024, <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/climate-change-health/risks-to-health.html>

Accessed 28 Oct. 2024.

16 Montague, Terrence, et al. "Chronic Diseases in Canada: Contemporary Burden and Management." McGill University, 2019. [https://www.mcgill.ca/hcic-sssc/files/hcic-sssc/hcic\\_chronic\\_disease\\_in\\_canada\\_burden\\_and\\_management\\_2019.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/hcic-sssc/files/hcic-sssc/hcic_chronic_disease_in_canada_burden_and_management_2019.pdf)

Accessed 30 Sept. 2024.

17 Public Health Ontario. "Environmental and Occupational Health." Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion, 2024, <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Health-Topics/Environmental-Occupational-Health>

Accessed 1 Oct. 2024.

18 World Health Organization. "Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights." [www.who.int](http://www.who.int), [www.who.int/health-topics/sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights](http://www.who.int/health-topics/sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights)

Accessed 1 Oct. 2024.

19 Government of Canada. "Healthy Aging in Canada." Public Health Agency of Canada, 2024, <https://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/seniors-aaines/alt-formats/pdf/publications/public/healthy-sante/vision/vision-eng.pdf>

Accessed 1 Oct. 2024.

20 Canada, Employment and Social Development. "Federal Disability Reference Guide." Government of Canada, Government of Canada, 11 Apr. 2013, [www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/disability/arc/reference-guide.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/disability/arc/reference-guide.html)

Accessed 1 Oct. 2024.

21 Canadian Institute for Health Information. "International survey shows Canada lags behind peer countries in access to primary health care." CIHI, 2024, <https://www.cihi.ca/en/international-survey-shows-canada-lags-behind-peer-countries-in-access-to-primary-health-care>

Accessed 1 Oct. 2024.

