



Secondary School Grants *Fall 2024 - Spring 2025*

Grants up to \$5,000 will be awarded to an eligible student group within a secondary school located in each Canadian province and territory.

Grants are brought to you by *It Gets Better Canada*, with financial support from *American Eagle*.

- **True Voices** is a *new* grant-making initiative launched by It Gets Better Canada (“IGBC”) to empower, inspire and encourage **2SLGBTQ+ secondary students** from coast-to-coast-to-coast to embrace **the power of storytelling** to overcome the challenges that 2SLGBTQ+ youth and their communities are facing.

OVERVIEW & GRANT GUIDELINES

Eligible Project

- A 2SLGBTQ+ youth-focused and youth-led ***storytelling project*** created, developed and produced by secondary students associated with an Eligible Organization, under the supervision of at least one faculty advisor.
- Eligible projects must identify and **address the challenges faced by 2SLGBTQ+ youth and support their physical, mental and emotional well-being** in furtherance of IGBC’s charitable purpose. A few examples might include creating a collection of compelling stories that combat trans discrimination, running a storytelling campaign to support 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion in your school, showcasing Two-Spirit voices in an artistic exhibition, building understanding and awareness in your school exploring intersectionality & queerness or celebrating the profound experience of 2SLGBTQ+ youth finally having their gender and pronouns validated.
- Eligible modes of storytelling include: documentary, animated or dramatic video, photography, theatrical play, puppetry, song/dance, podcast, blog, e-zine, social media, multimedia, or other artistic creation and media.
- The project must be an *original* creation by the grant recipient.
- The storytelling project must be completed within one school year, Sept 2024 - June 2025.

- Applicants are encouraged to apply with a complete, detailed budget for the full \$5000 grant amount, wherever possible.
- Each applicant must clearly demonstrate that the funding will effectively support 2SLGBTQ+ youth, and describe expected outcomes.
- Only one application per school and associated group is permitted.
- Examples of ineligible projects include: misleading propaganda, research, partisan political activities (activities in support of a political candidate/party, or which influence an election outcome), scholarships, making grants to individuals or other organizations, or those projects serving individual needs. IGBC reserves the right to decline any application that, in its sole discretion, it deems ineligible.
- Grant recipients may not alter or deviate from their approved project design and proposal without prior written approval from IGBC.
- Grant recipients will be required to demonstrate and measure the impact their project had for their organization and within their school and for 2SLGBTQ+ youth in the community. IGBC will provide the grant recipients with guidance and practical tools to assist in such measurement.
- Ideally the grant recipients are able to showcase their storytelling project in a format that is transportable for a potential national summit tentatively scheduled in June 2025.

Eligible Organizations

- Eligible applicant organizations must be one of the following:
 - a) a *registered charity* under the Income Tax Act (Canada);
 - b) A *registered municipal or public body* performing a function of government in Canada that is a *qualified donee*, and therefore can issue official donation receipts and is eligible to receive gifts from registered charities
 - c) a *non-profit organization* that is incorporated under the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act; or similar provincial legislation.
 - d) a **school authority** as per subsection 123(1) of the Excise Tax Act; or
 - e) an established *Gender Sexuality Alliance* (GSA) or similar student club sanctioned by and under the supervision of an eligible **school authority**.

Your eligible organization must also be directly associated with, or in direct support of a specific **School** (as defined directly below).

- The **School** is a public secondary (middle, junior high or high) school recognized by the Canadian province or territory that serves students between 13-18 years old.
- All applications must designate at least one student leader and one faculty advisor and include them as signatories to the application, in addition to the legal representative(s) of the Eligible Organization.
- The Eligible Organization must be able to receive, disburse and properly account for the grant funds, including maintaining books, records and receipts of all expenses related to the grant.

We encourage applications from those who self-identify as belonging to equity-deserving groups and whose Projects focus on and aim to uplift the communities specified below: [also see the ADDITIONAL CRITERIA section in Grant Application Questionnaire]

- The school has a 50% or greater Indigenous, Black and People of Colour student population.
- The Project incorporates broader 2SLGBTQ+ youth impact and involvement within the community.
- The Project focuses on and aims to uplift primarily Francophone youth who identify as 2SLGBTQ+.
- The Project focuses on and aims to uplift primarily Indigenous youth who identify as Two-Spirit and/or LGBTQ+.
- The Project focuses on and aims to uplift 2SLGBTQ+ youth in rural or remote communities, including but not limited to the far northern communities.

Estimated Application Timeline - Subject to Change

Below is the estimated timeline for the entire grant process, from application through the final report:

Date	Action
February 1, 2024	Application Portal Opens
February & March, 2024	Application information webinars
April 1, 2024	Application Portal Closes
April & May, 2024	Application Review
June, 2024	Notify Grantees of Final Decisions
July & August 2024	Enter into Agreements with Grantees
August 2024	Disbursement of 1st drawdown
September 2024	Media Announcement of Grantees
October 2024	Interim Financial & Narrative Report #1
January 2025	Interim Financial & Narrative Report #2
April 2025	Interim Financial & Narrative Report #3
June 2025	Potential National Summit for Grantees
July 2025	Final Financial & Impact Report