

# RPT Minutes

April 21st 2026

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85260784009>

Meeting ID: 852 6078 4009

RPT Members In Attendance: O.G, Lisa, Aysa, Ryan, Karen, E.M., Natasha, Rae, Seb

Support roles in Attendance: laura (W2A), Blue (C2K), Holly (CCHC), Rutendo (OHE)

Regrets: Erik

Quorum: Y

## 1. Welcome, and Opening Items

- Approve the [March](#) minutes
  - Moved: Holly
  - Seconded: Aysa
  - Approved: Y
- Approve the April agenda
  - Moved: Karen
  - Seconded: Holly
  - Approved: Y

## 2. Community and Table Updates

- Community/CAT updates
  - E.M. shared the 13 Calls for Change previously presented to The Ottawa Hospital by the Rainbow Patient and Family Advisory Council. The PFAC is now giving their input on which calls to advance in follow-up work.
  - An update was shared that Planned Parenthood Ottawa is moving toward reopening. The recent board recruitment call has closed, but work toward reopening appears to be continuing.
  - Astrid's workplace launched a new youth-focused gender-based violence website. The work was described as intentionally as non-gendered and non-binary as possible within the limits of French-language usage.
  - The Hamilton Trans Health Collective is losing its sole paid staff member and will continue as a volunteer-run organization. Members noted that its listserv and community-of-practice-style connections remain useful, and O.G. offered to help connect people to Hamilton contacts when helpful.
  - Members flagged an anti-trans protest expected in Ottawa in early May as something to keep in view.
- Symposium debrief
  - laura shared a six-week symposium follow-up email that included photos, reported increases in participant comfort, provider quotes about changing practice, and an invitation to join the Gender-Affirming Care Community of Practice.

- Holly reported a positive response to the follow-up, including encouraging feedback from internal communications colleagues. The materials will be useful in future conversations with Ontario Health Teams to show the practical impact of the symposium.

### 3. **Work Plan and Recommendations Voting**

- laura presented the final strategic policy recommendations and the revised 2026-2027 work plan for submission to Ontario Health East.
- The largest work plan change was a shift away from building a separate Gender Journeys program. Since Kind Space is already advancing a multi-year project that includes this work, the plan is now to support Kind Space as needed and reallocate the larger block of time to the local service map.
- A second change was to flip the timing of the planned joint in-person RPT/CAT meeting and the community event. The current proposal is for the joint meeting to happen in the fall and the community-facing event to happen in late winter or early spring.
- Members briefly discussed possible dates for the fall in-person meeting, including concerns about September busyness, Thanksgiving timing, and illness risk. laura will circulate options for further scheduling discussion.
- OHE -
  - Karen - moved
  - Holly - seconded
  - Approved - **Y**
- Workplan
  - Holly - moved
  - Aysa - seconded
  - Approved - **Y**

### 4. **Skills Market Activity**

- This activity was postponed to the next meeting because the group energy was low and members preferred to save the discussion for a later session.

### 5. **Other Discussions**

- Karen shared a positive update from the International Congress on Academic Medicine, where she raised gender-affirming care in multiple sessions as a patient partner. She noted it was encouraging to hear another presenter later pick up the issue as part of their own session.
- Members also shared good news about the upcoming queer boot camp, where E will be participating as a panelist and Karen will also be attending.
- [National Post Article](#) / Gender Q Use
  - Members discussed the recent National Post article featuring a former CHEO endocrinologist and expressed concern about the impact on youth, families, and community trust. A CHEO representative on the call said the former colleague no longer represents the clinic or CHEO, that the clinic remains business as usual, and that no changes to care are planned.
  - Questions were raised about whether CHEO would make a public statement and about the implications of related research activity

connected to CHEO, McMaster, and GenderQ. Members described broader concern about how anti-trans research and media framing are being used to justify restrictive positions in Canada and the United States.

- Holly shared that the issue had been escalated internally at CCHC to consider what role the clinic and the RPT might play in responding. Members suggested that organizations unable to draft a new statement could still repost or reaffirm existing supportive statements, and several people emphasized framing responses around shared values such as informed consent, the patient-provider relationship, and keeping government out of clinical decision-making.
- Karen stated that institutions with CHEO's profile should be public in rejecting harmful messaging rather than remaining silent. O.G. offered support to any organization wanting help reviewing language or thinking through a response.
- McGill Wellness Clinic
  - Members also discussed changes affecting gender-affirming care in Quebec, including concerns about McGill's wellness clinic and the reduction of the publicly funded surgery budget for Quebec residents. E noted that English-language organizations can sign on to an open letter written by Quebec trans orgs advocating for in support of restoring more stable funding and coverage.
  - The conversation highlighted concern that institutions may quietly pull back care or policy support in response to anti-trans pressure. Members stressed the importance of preparing organizations and individual providers for possible targeting, including reviewing what contact information is publicly available online.