

Gender-inclusive Language Policy: SOGC to Promote LGBTQ+ Inclusivity

Ottawa – June 22nd, 2017 - The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) is committed to developing a Gender-Inclusive Language Policy to promote sensitivity to LGBTQ+ individuals in both health care research and practice. This is in response to a [recent study](#) that cites 43.9% of transgender people in Ontario have reported an unmet health care need in the past year alone due, in part, to negative experiences with health care providers and a lack of access to transition-related services.

“Breaking down the barriers between health care practitioners and transgender people starts with cultural sensitivity. The SOGC is developing a Gender-Inclusive Language Policy to help build bridges between health care providers and members of LGBTQ+ communities who are seeking access to affirming and culturally sensitive health care services.”

As leaders for promoting excellence within the practice of obstetrics and gynaecology in Canada, the SOGC believes it is critical to create policies and guidelines that reflect the diversity of people while promoting compassionate, supportive, and inclusive care in all aspects of practice to all people served. The SOGC also believes that the creation of a Gender-Inclusive Language Policy will aid health care workers, including obstetricians and gynaecologists, in being knowledgeable and approachable for members of LGBTQ+ communities.

On Monday June 19, 2017, the SOGC Board of Directors passed a motion to develop this policy as part of its important role in advancing and advocating for women’s health. The Gender-Inclusive Language Policy will:

- set a standard for gender-inclusive language
- communicate appropriate pronoun usage while addressing members of LGBTQ+ communities
- offer suggestions for how to communicate with and about transgender, cisgender and gender non-binary individuals in a manner that is inclusive to all
- aid health care providers and researchers in the nuances of language related to binary sex and non-binary gender
- be available to SOGC staff as well as in our print and digital publications

For more information or to arrange a media interview please contact:

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About The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada

The SOGC is one of Canada's oldest national specialty organizations. Established in 1944, the Society's mission is to promote excellence in the practice of obstetrics and gynaecology and to advance the health of women through leadership, advocacy, collaboration and education. The SOGC represents obstetricians/gynaecologists, family physicians, nurses, midwives and allied health professionals working in the field of sexual reproductive health. For more information, please visit www.sogc.org