HCMA Architecture + Design created this document to help fill a gap in design knowledge around issues relating to universal washrooms and change rooms, and to provide tangible strategies that promote design as a tool for social impact.

HCMA has been at the forefront of inclusive change room design for aquatic centres in Canada for over two decades. We continuously challenge ourselves to advance how we design for equity, inclusion, security, and adaptability (see framework below).

We are grateful for the insight on gender diversity that TransFocus Consulting provided while advising on this document (see page 31). This focus is one of many to explore, and reinforces how strategies that reduce barriers to access for a vulnerable population ultimately improve access for everyone. This document, currently in its first version, is a contribution to the ongoing and evolving discussions around designing for inclusivity. It provides an overview of design considerations rather than an in-depth review of specific suggestions for all groups.

We would also like to thank the City of Surrey for contributing to, and supporting the development of this content.
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Executive Summary
Universal Washrooms and Change Rooms: Why Do They Matter?

This document explores the benefits of universal washrooms and change rooms, and why they are increasingly part of evolving best practice considerations across project and building types—from recreation to institutions and businesses. It is intended to be a resource for designers, municipal staff, and anyone interested in understanding more about this topic. The key objectives of this document are to provide context, identify opportunities and challenges, and share design strategies that promote better inclusivity for a wide variety of users.

The Canadian Human Rights Act and Criminal Code were updated in June 2017, clarifying the right of all people to use a washroom or change room that corresponds to their gender identity and supporting discussions around access and how spaces can be made more inclusive. While universal washrooms (single-user and multi-stall) and universal change rooms are common in Europe, they are gaining traction in North America as demand for them continues to increase. Gender-designated washrooms and change rooms lack privacy and accessibility for many users, including those who have personal health requirements or mobility challenges, those who are transgender or transitioning, and those who may require assistance from someone of a different gender—including children and the elderly. This document discusses how universal washrooms and change rooms promote:

- Inclusivity for people with disabilities
- Inclusivity for families
- Inclusivity for trans and non-binary people
- Increased privacy
- Increased efficiency
- Forward-thinking design

The design strategies described in this report offer a guide to important considerations in the design of universal washrooms and change rooms. They encourage higher standards of privacy, accessibility, and comfort than are often found in gender-designated facilities. They are also intended to help mitigate common concerns regarding safety and privacy for various users. The design strategies are:

1. Strive for **inclusivity** and **access for all**
2. Use **openness** to **enhance safety** through activity and shared monitoring
3. Create **privacy** where most needed to **enhance comfort**
4. Welcome everyone with **signage** that **emphasizes function** and is clear, inclusive, and positive
5. Ensure **supportive** staff **operations** and communications

The provision of universal washrooms and change rooms in public and private spaces—either alone or alongside gender-designated facilities—is an opportunity to embrace the evolution of our communities’ needs, and champion inclusivity and accessibility for all.
The Growing Case for Universal Washrooms and Change Rooms
BACKGROUND

Many designers and building operators are reconsidering how washrooms and change rooms are configured. They have typically been gender-designated, that is built for men and women separately. This separation is part of a complex history of access and inclusion in our shared spaces, and their reflection of our evolving social values.

Regulations and guides such as building codes and accessibility handbooks have helped to make many spaces more accessible for those with disabilities. However, there is an increasing shift toward washrooms (single-user and multi-stall) and change rooms that are more inclusive for a wider range of users. These facilities are often called universal or all gender—with the term 'universal' emerging as best practice. Universal washrooms and change rooms are being provided either alone or alongside gender-designated facilities across a wide range of private and public buildings, from recreation centres to schools to private businesses.

Some of this shift has been sparked by families and people with disabilities asking for facilities that can better accommodate more users, including caregivers of all genders. There is also increasing recognition that many people are uncomfortable and unsafe using gender-designated facilities, including trans and non-binary (TNB) people (see page 11).

“I felt as safe and secure as in any other public venue... Having been a dad taking his daughter to such places it’s nice to see something more inclusive and respectful of privacy at the same time.”

Universal Change Room User
Regent Park Aquatic Centre, Toronto
Yelp Review

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA LEGISLATION

Bill C-16 was passed in June 2017. It updates the Canadian Human Rights Act and hate-crime and hate-speech provisions in the Criminal Code, clarifying that it is illegal to discriminate on the basis of gender identity or expression (see page 11). The bill protects the right of TNB individuals to use a washroom or change room corresponding to their gender identity (which has been supported by 20 years of case law). It has also enhanced discussions around designing for inclusivity.
1778
Gendered washrooms first introduced at a Paris ball as spectacle
(see “Everyone Goes” in Additional Resources)

Context for Universal Washrooms

Early 1900s
Legislation requiring women’s washrooms as women enter the workplace in greater numbers

Mid 1900s
Civil Rights Movement - abolishment of ‘coloured’ washrooms

2014
Document for Vancouver Park Board
Building a Path to Parks & Recreation for All: Reducing Barriers for Trans* & Gender Variant Community Members
(link to document in Additional Resources)

2017
Bill C-16 passed in Canada, legally supporting individuals to use the washroom that corresponds to their self-determined gender identity
(see page 7)

2017
Changes to 2018 International Building Code include fixture calculations and signage suggestions for universal washrooms
(see page 12)

Evolution of Change Rooms in HCMA Projects

Universal Change Room Area
Women’s Change Room Area
Men’s Change Room Area

1993
Eileen Dailly Pool and Fitness Centre
*family change area

1999
Walnut Grove Community Centre
*family change area

2006
Killarney Community Pool

2011
Hillcrest Centre

2016
Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre

?
INCLUSIVITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
Universal spaces accommodate people who use mobility aids such as wheelchairs, and those who have a caregiver of a different gender.

INCLUSIVITY FOR FAMILIES
Parents or caregivers can use the same change room or washroom as their child (i.e. a grandfather can use a change room with his granddaughter, or a mother with her non-binary child).

INCLUSIVITY FOR TRANS AND NON-BINARY PEOPLE
Universal washrooms and change rooms provide a safer and more welcoming space for TNB people, and can reduce feeling unsafe and instances of harassment and abuse.

INCREASED PRIVACY
Universal design strategies strive to increase privacy for all users, due to individuals' differing comfort levels with public nudity. Increased privacy also benefits those with individual health needs (for example, diabetics needing to inject insulin and dispose of medical waste privately).

INCREASED EFFICIENCY
They can handle higher overall usage loads than washrooms and change rooms separated into women's and men's, and reduce the wait times and lines often experienced by those using women's washrooms during events or other high-use times. They also facilitate cleaning by staff of any gender.

FORWARD-THINKING DESIGN
Demand for universal facilities is growing, and these spaces offer greater flexibility. Designs that prioritize gender-designated spaces may require renovation as community needs continue to evolve.
### Challenges and Concerns

**CONFUSION AROUND LANGUAGE**

Many people are unsure what the terms ‘universal washroom’ and ‘universal change room’ mean and that they are for everyone—rather than solely for families or those with disabilities. In the past, universal change rooms have been called family change rooms with expectations that families have priority in them. This has often resulted in individuals being told by families to use other change rooms, especially during high traffic times. Universal change rooms do not prioritize some users over others.

**CONFUSION AROUND DESIGN**

As the design of these facilities is not standardized, many assume that they all look the same as gender-designated ones. The design strategies in Part 4 promote key differences focused on privacy and comfort.

**CONFUSION AROUND USE**

Many people are unsure or unaware of how to use universal change rooms, especially as cultural expectations around nudity vary. This report describes universal change rooms as spaces where people change or shower nude only in private stalls. Signage and user education can clarify that clothing or swimsuits are required in all areas outside of these stalls.

**FEELING UNCOMFORTABLE**

Some people express that sharing washrooms or change rooms with members of another sex or with trans and non-binary people is uncomfortable or strange—it’s different than what they’re used to or may challenge cultural norms. Another concern is that gender-designated spaces are needed for the safety of women and children.

The best design processes involve consultation with a variety of user and advisory groups to try and mitigate concerns, while design strategies (see Part 4) can help increase comfort for as many users as possible. Designing toilet and change stalls to a higher standard of privacy than most gender-designated facilities can help achieve comfort, while creating openness in areas adjacent to stalls promotes safety and visibility.
On Gender: Trans and Non-Binary Inclusion

Washrooms and change rooms remain some of the last spaces where gender conformity is actively policed, though all individuals are now protected by law to use a washroom or change room that corresponds to their gender identity (see page 7).

Gender-focused advocacy has significantly advanced how we design for inclusivity. The definitions and information on this page clarify important language and context relevant to any discussion on universal washrooms and change rooms.

DEFINITIONS

Gender Identity: A person’s innate sense of their own gender.

Gender Expression: How a person expresses and presents their unique relationship to femininity and masculinity through attire, hair, speech, mannerisms, etc.

Cis / cisgender (person): A person whose gender identity aligns with their sex assigned at birth.

Trans / transgender (person): A person whose gender identity does not align with their sex assigned at birth.

Non-binary (person): A person who does not identify as either woman or man. Other words people may use are gender variant, gender fluid, gender creative.

TNB people: A shorthand term for ‘trans and non-binary people.’

Universal: Term used to indicate spaces that can be used by people of all abilities and genders. This includes multiple users, families, caregivers, and people with disabilities. There is an emerging best practice to use ‘universal’ instead of ‘gender neutral’ and ‘all gender.’

STATISTICS ON HEALTH AND SAFETY

A 2015 study of over 27,000 trans individuals in the U.S. found that 26% of all respondents were denied access to washrooms, had their presence in a washroom questioned, and/or were verbally harassed, physically attacked, or sexually assaulted in a washroom in the year prior to taking the survey.¹

59% of respondents of the same study avoided using public washrooms. 32% avoided drinking or eating so that they would not need to use the washroom, and 8% reported having a urinary tract infection or kidney-related medical problem as a result of avoiding washrooms in the past year.¹

A 2011 report of Canadian schools found that 52% of trans youth feel unsafe in gender-designated washrooms and change rooms.²


Major barriers to widespread adoption of universal washrooms and change rooms include the language and calculation tables of regulations that govern our built environments. Opportunities and timelines for change vary due to the jurisdictional nature of these regulations.

**NATIONAL BUILDING CODE OF CANADA**

Canada’s National Building Code (NBC) is a model code that is adopted and modified by various jurisdictions throughout the country, including most provinces. It is updated approximately every five years, and the last version was released in 2015. It is uncertain how changes made to the 2018 editions of the The International Building and Plumbing Codes (IBC + IPC), which primarily govern codes used in the United States, may influence the next version of Canada's NBC. Changes to the IPC include new signage and toilet calculation provisions for universal washrooms, initially proposed by the American Institute of Architects.3

**BC BUILDING CODE**

The BC Building Code (BCBC) is substantially based on the NBC. Current code clearly defines proportioning building users into male and female counts to determine toilet requirements for each, with the intention to provide parity in wait times—particularly for women. There is no clear recognition in the current 2012 BCBC of toilets provided in universal multi-stall washrooms. Universal single-user washrooms count toward toilet requirements for small spaces such as cafes, but minimally contribute to requirements for large buildings.

The BCBC does not state that men’s and women’s washrooms must be physically separated. One strategy used to receive approval for universal multi-stall washrooms has been to indicate that total toilet counts are based on the assumed gender split of users—they are just co-located within a single shared space with no distinction or separation between users.

**VANCOUVER BUILDING BYLAW**

The City of Vancouver is one of the few municipalities in Canada to issue its own version of the building code, through the Vancouver Building Bylaw. The latest version was released in 2014, and does not specify a requirement for the physical separation of men’s and women’s washrooms. It also acknowledges the provision of universal washrooms with individual toilet stalls, under article 3.7.2.11.

**BC HEALTH ACT**

The BC Health Act establishes the amount of men’s and women’s change room space required for aquatic facilities. The Act allows for universal change rooms in addition to gender-designated ones.

Typologies and Precedents
INTRODUCTION

Universal single-user washrooms, multi-stall washrooms, and change rooms are being used in diverse project and building types across Canada.

A variety of design options are being implemented as alternatives to traditional gender-designated washrooms and change rooms. Some are fully universal, while others provide a combination of universal and gender-designated facilities.
Common Designs:

Universal Single-User Washrooms

OVERVIEW

Universal single-user washrooms consist of a single toilet and sink enclosed with a locking door and designated with appropriate signage. They are often provided individually or in pairs, but it is increasingly common to see several side-by-side.

- Many businesses, retail stores, and cafes provide this type of washroom, particularly where only one toilet is available. They are so prevalent that often people do not notice or care that they are not gender-designated.
- They offer a high degree of privacy and are easily adapted from gender-designated single-user washrooms. They are often accessible for those with disabilities.
- Yelp has added a ‘gender neutral restrooms’ category to listings for those who specifically seek them out.
- These washrooms can create stigma for TNB people if they are presented as their only option when gender-designated washrooms are also available (everyone, by law, can use the washroom corresponding to their self-determined gender identity).

EXAMPLES

- Simon Fraser University
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- University of British Columbia
- Carleton University
- McGill University
- Dalhousie University
- City of Vancouver
- City of Surrey
- The Vancouver International Airport
- The Ottawa Art Gallery
- Parliament Hill, Ottawa
Common Designs: Universal Multi-Stall Washrooms

OVERVIEW
These washrooms look like common multi-stall washrooms with shared sinks, but are clearly marked as universal with appropriate signage. The key difference is that they strive for greater privacy than most gender-designated multi-stall washrooms by providing full-height enclosures for toilets, creating individual ‘toilet rooms’ as opposed to stalls separated by partial dividers.

- This design is currently less common than universal single-user washrooms, but is gaining momentum.
- Select stalls can be made accessible and large enough to accommodate more than one person. This is important for those who are disabled or require assistance.
- Shared sinks can also be designed to be accessible to children and those in wheelchairs.
- Universal single-user washrooms can be included in multi-stall washrooms to provide users with more options.

EXAMPLES
- North Delta Recreation Centre
- The Royal Ontario Museum
- Gibsons Elementary School
- LOCAL Public Eatery, Gastown, Vancouver
- University of Victoria
- University of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford
Common Designs:

**Universal Change Rooms**

**OVERVIEW**

Universal change rooms are shared spaces for all users of a facility. Typically, a central open space includes lockers, benches, and sinks. Private single-user (and often multi-user) change and shower stalls are provided, and clothing or swimsuits are required in all areas outside of these stalls.

Universal change rooms are similar to family change rooms, yet explicitly welcome all users. Sometimes they are available alongside men’s and women’s. Designs differ depending on the types of activities happening in the building and the presence of aquatic facilities.

- Universal change rooms are standard practice in many parts of Europe. They are increasingly common in Canada and are popular with a variety of users, including families, for the options and flexibility they offer. Growing demand is apparent in the increase of area dedicated to them in HCMA projects (see page 8).
- They provide a more efficient use of space when both mixed and single-gender groups use the facilities (a girls’ sports meet, for example).
- Some municipalities are moving toward incorporating universal change rooms in all new buildings and renovations.

**EXAMPLES**

*HCMA projects*

- Hillcrest Centre, Vancouver
- Killarney Community Pool, Vancouver
- West Vancouver Aquatic Centre
- Grandview Heights Aquatic Centre, Surrey
- Minoru Centre for Active Living, Richmond
- Chimo Aquatic and Fitness Centre, Coquitlam
- Legends Centre, Oshawa
- Complexe Aquatique de Laval

*Facilities that provide only universal change rooms*

- The North Delta Recreation Centre
- Regent Park Aquatic Centre, Toronto
- Queen Elizabeth Pool, Edmonton
- Remington YMCA, Calgary
Design Strategies
for Universal Washrooms and Change Rooms
**HCMA HAS DEVELOPED FIVE STRATEGIES FOR DESIGNING UNIVERSAL WASHROOMS AND CHANGE ROOMS**

These five key strategies demonstrate how good design can mitigate barriers to realizing inclusivity, equity, security, and adaptability.

They offer teams involved with the design of washrooms and change rooms a guide to top considerations. These strategies are intended to be explored, adapted, balanced, and applied within the unique context of each project—including its challenges and opportunities.

Most of these strategies highlight considerations that are generally applicable. While others are more specific in their application, it is useful to understand them all.

Many of the design strategies have been illustrated and visualized on example washroom and change room layouts.

**SYMBOLS**

The following symbols are used to indicate the relevance of points to the three common universal facility typologies:

- **S** single-user washrooms
- **M** multi-stall washrooms
- **C** change rooms
Strive for inclusivity and access for all

- Consider gender identity and expression, ability, age, culture, etc.

- Provide stalls that accommodate more than one person to support those who are elderly, young, or disabled in receiving assistance from caregivers or parents of any gender.

- Locate accessible amenities to enhance visibility and ease of use:
  - Accessible stalls that are part of a multi-stall facility should be located nearest to the entrance of the shared area.
  - Accessible single-user washrooms should be prominently located within the building.

- Ensure that communal sinks, lockers, hand dryers, soap dispensers, and hair dryers accommodate different ages and abilities to integrate and normalize diverse needs.

- Provide adequate quantities of toilet, shower, and change stalls to increase efficient use of space and reduced wait times (to minimize feelings of vulnerability or exposure).
Use **openness** to **enhance safety** through activity and shared monitoring

**SMC** Locate washrooms and change rooms adjacent to high traffic and prominent areas (such as reception desks and main hallways). Use openness between spaces to increase passive and active supervision with sight lines and acoustic connection.

**MC** Create openness in shared sink, shower, and locker areas within multi-stall washrooms and change rooms to encourage passive observation and a feeling of shared space.

**MC** Provide more than one entry/exit with open thresholds (no closed doors) to assist with circulation efficiency and ensure options for entering and leaving.

**MC** Ensure effective circulation flow through the entire facility to enhance efficiency and user comfort.
Create **privacy** where most needed to enhance comfort

**SMC** Use full-height enclosures and doors to create visual/acoustic/olfactory separation:

- Use solid walls for maximum privacy.
- Mitigate security concerns with design adjustments, such as translucent panels, small gaps under doors, and vents that allow for monitoring of use by staff.
- If stall enclosures and doors are not full-height, ensure they are of adequate dimension to prevent looking under/over them (even when standing on in-stall benches).

**MC** Create gradations of privacy and reduced-exposure areas (for vanity, baby change, etc) through the strategic placement of partial walls/dividers and screens.

**SMC** Specify door lock fixtures that clearly indicate whether or not stalls and rooms are occupied to increase user comfort while facilitating staff monitoring.

**MC** Provide waste receptacles in each toilet stall to ensure privacy around personal health and hygiene.

**MC** Provide hooks in each toilet/shower/change stall to ensure clothing and personal items are within reach.
Welcome everyone with signage that emphasizes function and is clear, inclusive, and positive.

- Emphasize function of space over identity of users.
- Use temporary signage to help educate users about new washrooms and change rooms.
- Ensure easy way-finding and understanding of universal washrooms and change rooms with clear signage, especially when gender-designated or inaccessible options are also available.
- Include signage near building entrance to help users identify what types of washrooms and change rooms are available and how to find them.
- Carefully consider terminology and keep it up-to-date as best practices evolve:
  - 'Universal' has emerged as the recommended term over 'all gender' or 'gender neutral.'
  - 'Shared' is a positive term that can be considered as an alternative to 'universal' (depending on context, it may not be as distinct or understandable).
- Include key messages in languages most prevalent in the local area.
- Use signage to help clarify and reinforce appropriate use of shared space to (for example):
  - Indicate that clothing is required in communal locker areas.
  - Remind everyone to be mindful of how much time they are occupying stalls/showers.
ADDITIONAL SIGNAGE GUIDELINES FOR TRANS AND NON-BINARY INCLUSION:

- Use the term ‘universal’ instead of ‘family’ for washrooms and change rooms, and support single users in using these spaces, even during times of high traffic.
- Consider including ‘Trans people welcome’ on signage for all washrooms and change rooms when gender-designated facilities are provided.
- Work with transgender-informed translators to avoid problematic terms in other languages.
Ensure **supportive staff operations** and communications

**SMC** Provide staff with education and awareness training to equip them with the best practices, tools, and strategies to orient users, champion conversations around inclusivity, and mitigate potential conflicts.

**SMC** Prioritize cleanliness with adequate cleaning operations to promote user adoption and respect towards washrooms and change rooms.

**SMC** Use of universal washrooms and change rooms by staff promotes their normalization and active monitoring.

**SMC** Provide information on the website and all event/advertising materials so that users are aware of available amenities or are able to look them up.
Visualizing Design Strategies

Universal Single-User Washrooms

1. Strive for inclusivity and access for all

2. Ensure supportive staff operations and communications

3. Create privacy where most needed to enhance comfort

Universal Multi-Stall Washrooms

4. Washrooms are located near the reception desk, facilitating staff assistance and monitoring.

5. Full-height doors and solid walls provide sound/smell separation, while translucent door panels allow for monitoring of use by staff. Door lock fixtures clearly indicate vacancy.

Partial walls create gradients of privacy from the corridor into the shared sink and vanity/baby change areas.

Universal single-user washrooms with sinks are located for ease of visibility and access for those with mobility requirements, as well as those who want more space and/or privacy.

Shared sinks can accommodate all users.
Welcome everyone with **signage** that emphasizes function.

Signage that emphasizes function over user identity helps everyone feel welcome.

Use **openness** to enhance safety through activity and shared monitoring.

Main circulation and lobby areas are adjacent to the two open entrances/exits. This promotes passive monitoring and options for entering and leaving the space.

Openness in the central shared area also promotes active and passive monitoring.
Welcome everyone with signage that emphasizes function.

Signage can designate clothing as required in the central area, encourage efficient use of showers, and emphasize function over user identity to help everyone feel welcome.
1. Strive for **inclusivity** and **access for all**

Larger shower/change stalls increase accessibility and provide spaces that accommodate multiple users.

2. Use **openness** to **enhance safety** through activity and shared monitoring

Openness in the central shared area and multiple open entrances/exits adjacent to main circulation areas promote activity, passive monitoring, and options for entering and leaving.

3. Create **privacy** where most needed to **enhance comfort**

Change/shower stalls with full-height doors and solid walls provide maximum privacy, while translucent door panels allow for monitoring of use by staff. Door lock fixtures will clearly indicate vacancy.
Improving
Gender-Designated Facilities

Design strategies for universal washrooms and change rooms are an important part of the evolution of facilities and their best practice considerations. Improving the design of gender-designated facilities is also important due to their prevalence and familiarity, and the fact that their provision alongside universal facilities may be the best option for many spaces.

The Vancouver Park Board Trans* and Gender Variant Inclusion Working Group developed recommendations to improve the design of existing or new gender-designated washrooms and change rooms. Suggestions are intended to increase privacy within gender-designated multi-stall washrooms and change rooms—to the benefit of all. Many reiterate strategies described for universal washrooms and change rooms:

- Increase the number of private toilet, shower, and change stalls, paying special attention to men’s washrooms or change rooms where private spaces may typically be omitted.
- Provide waste receptacles in each toilet stall to ensure privacy around personal health and hygiene.
- Incorporate door locks that indicate ‘vacant’ and ‘occupied.’
- Extend stall doors and walls from floor to ceiling.
- Extend privacy dividers between urinals further out from the wall and increase their height.

4 See “Building a Path to Parks & Recreation for All” in Additional Resources.
Additional Resources

GENERAL MATERIAL

Everyone Goes: Why It’s time to reimagine sex-segregated washrooms
Erin Anderssen, Globe and Mail, March 2016

The Politics of Bathrooms
Joshua Rothman, The New Yorker, May 2016

Building a Path to Parks & Recreation for All: Reducing Barriers for Trans* & Gender Variant Community Members
The Trans* and Gender Variant Inclusion Working Group, for the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, April 2014
https://transgendervariant.files.wordpress.com/2014/05/building-a-path-to-parks-recreation-for-all-2.pdf

DESIGN-FOCUSED MATERIAL

Architects Propose Design Solutions for Equitable Restrooms
Anna Fixsen, Architectural Record, June 2016
http://www.architecturalrecord.com/articles/11749-architects-propose-design-solutions-for-equitable-restrooms

The Simple Design Solutions That Can Make Bathrooms Better—For All Genders
Lisa Selin Davis, Quartz, March 2017

Why Architects Must Rethink Restroom Design in Schools
JoAnn Hindmarsh Wilcox & Kurt Haapala, Metropolis Magazine, November 2016

An Unexpected Ally of Gender-Neutral Restrooms: Building Codes
Ian Spula, Architect Magazine, September 2017

TRANS INCLUSION ASSESSMENT MATRIX FOR FACILITIES DESIGN

TransFocus Consulting is a firm that provides practical transgender inclusion measures to organizations in five key areas, including facilities design, gender data, human resources, communications, and products and services.

TransFocus has a tool to quantify the level of transgender inclusion and safety as a way to highlight strengths and opportunities for improvements to washroom and change room facilities (whether existing or planned).

TransFocus’ assessment criteria informed the design strategies in Part 4 of this report. TransFocus offers additional details about the unique considerations and variables that collectively ensure smoother experiences for transgender people with benefit for people of all genders.

Request the tool on the TransFocus website:
www.TransFocus.ca
“It is critical that we embrace the challenge to rethink even our most familiar spaces. We have a responsibility to use design to support basic rights for everyone and the evolving needs of our communities.”

Darryl Condon
Managing Principal
HCMA Architecture + Design