



# 2SLGBTQQIA+

## Two-Spirit and 2SLGBTQQIA+

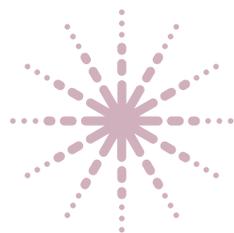
The Government of Canada committed to working together with Indigenous, provincial, and territorial partners on the development of the National Action Plan and to driving transformative change to end systemic racism and violence against Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. As such, the Core Working Group was supported by a number of Contributing Partners that will support the Core Working Group throughout development of the National Action Plan and its implementation by:



- ★ Build on the collective wisdom and networks of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ sub-working group members combined with National Inquiry.
- ★ Identify key stakeholders and federal, provincial, territorial, and Indigenous governments to work with.
- ★ Identify opportunities to address gaps regarding MMIWG 2SLGBTQQIA+ and the National Inquiry.
- ★ Liaise and engage with the Core Working Group and support Contributing Partners' activities related to 2SLGBTQQIA+ matters.
- ★ Identify and practice ancestral, cultural, and traditional Indigenous values and beliefs, teachings, language, rituals, and ceremonies that empower 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

The mandate of the National Inquiry for Missing Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ was initially designed to report on all forms of violence perpetrated against Indigenous women and girls in Canada, however Indigenous concepts of gender identity broadened the inquiry's mission to include Two-Spirit/Indigenous LGBTQIA+ people. This shift recognized that Indigenous cultures accepted and included diverse concepts of gender and sexuality prior to European colonization.

The terms, Two-Spirit and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual are modern post-contact non-Indigenous constructions that some 2SLGBTQQIA+ people may choose to identify themselves. The Sub-Working Group recognizes there are over 150 known words and terms in various Indigenous languages in North America that were used prior to contact to describe people who were gender diverse and 2SLGBTQQIA+.





Additionally, the 2S Sub-Working Group recognizes 2SLGBTQQIA+-specific words and terms that are being reclaimed and introduced as Indigenous languages continue to evolve. Indigenous peoples are constantly evolving. As we continue to access and reclaim our Indigenous knowledges through our lands and cultures, we must recognize that our languages are also in a constant state of evolution. The + at the end of 2SLGBTQQIA+ is a way to be inclusive, honor and celebrate how our languages are expanding and offering choices for our sexual and gender diverse relatives to identify. Thus, we also celebrate the diversity of ways our people choose to identify themselves.

Nothing about us, without us, is for us!

## Highlights/Current Progress

- ★ Comprehensive report for 2SLGBTQQIA+
- ★ 3 Targeted engagements completed:  
Trans/Non-Binary, Inuit, and Sex Workers/  
Sex Trade
- ★ Overlapping recommendations: justice system reformation, housing security, specific programs and services, education and increased resources.
- ★ 2SLGBTQQIA+ 32 Specific Calls to Justice
- ★ 4 Areas:
  - ★ Right to Culture,
  - ★ Right to Health & Wellness,
  - ★ Right to Security & Safety and
  - ★ Right to Justice

### **2 Spirited People of the First Nations**

<http://www.2spirits.com>

### **2 Spirited People of Manitoba Inc.**

<https://twospiritmanitoba.ca>

### **2 Spirits in Motion Society**

<https://2spiritsinmotion.com>

### **Edmonton 2 Spirit Society**

<https://e2s.ca/>

### **Four Feathers Society**

<https://fourfeathers.net/>

### **Greater Vancouver Native Cultural Society**

<https://www.facebook.com/gvnacs78/>

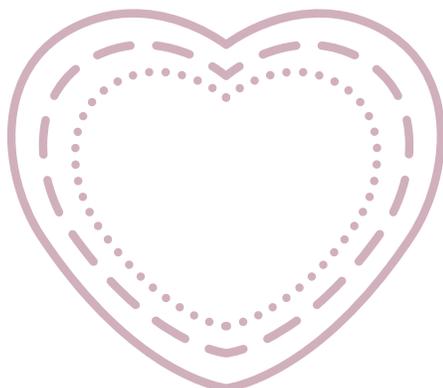
### **Wabanaki Two-Spirit Alliance**

<http://w2sa.ca/>

### **Two-Spirit Michif Local**

<http://2smichiflocal.ca>

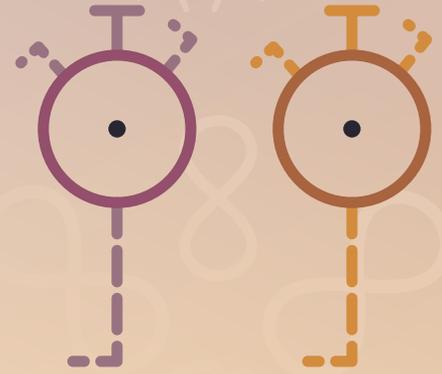
A growing number of 2SLGBTQQIA+ are developing.



## Priorities/Next Steps

The priorities evolve into next steps which are the following:

1. Implementation of the MMIWG2S National Action Plan.
2. Advocacy and implementation of federal legislation including the UNDRIP.
3. Expansion of 2SLGBTQQA+ programs and services that include gender-specific language.
4. Support ongoing capacity building and infrastructure development to support the increased need to have culturally relevant, safe and supportive 2SLGBTQQA+ facilities throughout the country.
5. Establish a 2SLGBTQQA+ national committee with the final objective to establish a 2SLGBTQQA+ Secretariat.



## Closing Statement

### The MMIWG 2SLGBTQQA+ National Action Plan:

Final Report is a call to action that ensures Two-Spirit, and Indigeequeer kin can return to our family/community/ceremonial circles, to be embraced for the sacredness we carry in our spirits and to take our rightful place in our respective Nations.

<https://mmiwg2splusnationalactionplan.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2SLGBTQQA-Report-Final.pdf>

The path to acceptance and the act of welcoming Two-Spirit, gender and sexually diverse Indigenous peoples back into communities and back into the sacred circle of our cultures will help close the sacred hoop that was torn open by colonization.

The narrative of being an after-thought or not being recognized as a strength for our nations is no longer accepted. We must continue to ask ourselves how we can use the recommendations in the report to advance our collective futures that honour our ancestral ways of knowing and being.

The deconstruction of western concepts of gender will require national programs, community development strategies, intergenerational intervention and action planning and knowledge gathering to eradicate violence against Two-Spirit community members rooted in the recovery and reclamation of Two-Spirit traditions and practices within Indigenous land-based, ancestral knowledge systems and protocols.

The MMIWG 2SLGBTQQA+ National Action Plan Final Report contains key recommendations that set the path towards that, and if applied, will “*make the Indigenous family, community, and ceremonial circle whole again*” (Richard Jenkins).

