

# C2C: TWO SPIRIT & QUEER PEOPLE OF COLOUR

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CALL TO CONVERSATION  
WITH LGBT & ALLIES



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20-22 OCTOBER /17

# WELCOME

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



On behalf of The University of Winnipeg, I would like to welcome all of you to C2C: Two Spirit & Queer People of Colour: A Call to Conversation with LGBT & Allies.

The University of Winnipeg is located on Treaty 1 land, in the heart of the Métis nation. In 2015, The University of Winnipeg officially adopted “Indigenization” as one of our strategic directions. Indigenization at The University of Winnipeg is about bringing

Indigenous people, perspectives, cultures, and traditions into every aspect of the academy. We are one of the top universities in the country for Indigenous participation, with approximately ten per cent of our student body comprised of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students.

As Winnipeg’s urban university, we have a unique role within our city. We foster dialogue and create inclusive spaces where ideas and experiences can be shared.

In this spirit, the Call to Conversation conference brings together scholars, community members, artists, students, youth, and traditional knowledge keepers to dialogue on the work being done in Two-Spirit (2S) and queer people of colour (QPOC) communities. Our intent is to create a space for meaningful conversation and action.

I would like to thank all of you for attending this conference and for bringing your experience and knowledge.

Sincerely,

**DR. ANNETTE TRIMBEE**

President and Vice-Chancellor, UWinnipeg

## MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE CHAIRS



As the conference co-chairs, we are delighted to welcome you to C2C: Two Spirit & Queer People of Colour: A Call to Conversation with LGBT & Allies at The University of Winnipeg.

We are gathered on Treaty 1 territory and in the homeland of the Métis Nation. Winnipeg was the location of the 1990 “Third Annual Inter-Tribal Native American, First Nations, Gay and Lesbian American Conference” where the term “Two Spirit” was affirmed. We are blessed to have some of the members from that conference here.

We would like to highlight that we have an Elders’ Council that has been a guiding light for this conference. We have an Elders/Wellness room where Two-Spirit and QPOC Elders will be offering support to conference delegates. QPOC Winnipeg started in 2014; however, QPOC communities were organizing long before. C2C is honoured to work with these community partners, especially Two-Spirited People

of Manitoba Inc. and QPOC Winnipeg, to strengthen our relations with each other.

We have nearly 150 registrants at this historic Two Spirit and Queer People of Colour gathering. Our conference endeavour is one that is centred on conversation with individuals, institutions, and communities to reconcile our relationships and strengthen our connections across our communities. We see this gathering as an act of relationship-building which began over the past year of planning. This conference calls for critical dialogue between 2S and QPOC communities and with LGBT and cisgender heterosexual allies about how best to move forward. After the plenary discussions, and during your roundtable discussions, we ask that you share your thoughts and recommendations about how to best move forward.

Dialogue led by 2S/QPOC will seek to address damage of the past, and how to achieve stronger, more loving, coalitionary community relations in future; these purposes are at the centre of this conversation and at the heart of this conference. This call to conversation requires us to listen to one another and to learn from each other.

It is in the spirit of reconciliation that we want to move forward.

Miiigwetch/Thank You!

**DR. CHANTAL FIOLA AND DR. SHARANPAL RUPRAI**

Conference Co-Chairs

## MESSAGE FROM TWO-SPIRITED PEOPLE OF MANITOBA (TSPM)



Welcome speakers and delegates who have responded to our call to conversation. The TSPM's advocacy and outreach began in 1986 after the sudden loss of two youth who had struggled to find acceptance and a home in Winnipeg. Our goal is to assume our rightful place within Indigenous families, communities, and nations so that Two-Spirit/Indigenous LGBTQ youth can start their life journeys with all the love, resources, and education they need. Secondary education institutions like universities have been complicit in erasing

from Canadian society the record and lived experience of Two-Spirit people, so it is just that the University of Winnipeg has stepped forward to reconcile this historic void. Untangling and dismantling the colonial binary gender construct that has caused so much harm to Indigenous beliefs and values systems will take generations; however, we are at a turning point where conversations can be held in safe, affirming, and spiritual contexts. We all have a purpose, a role, a destiny, and we all possess a divine gift. Let us share these gifts while we are together.

**ALBERT MCLEOD**

Co-Director, Two-Spirited People of Manitoba Inc.

## MESSAGE FROM QUEER PEOPLE OF COLOUR (QPOC) WINNIPEG



On behalf of QPOC Winnipeg, I'm pleased to welcome you to C2C: Two-Spirit & Queer People of Colour: A Call to Conversation with LGBT & Allies. Our organization started in 2014 in the hopes of addressing issues surrounding racism, representation and visibility in our LBGTQIA\* communities. An initiative that began with a single Pride dance has grown into countless gatherings, panels, artists' talks, GSA presentations, workshops, fundraisers, DJ class sponsorships, peer support, and partnerships to present renowned leaders and activists

such as Dr. Angela Davis (May 2017). Over the past eighteen months, QPOC has focused on providing resources and support for queer refugees and, now more than ever, spaces that centre both local and global 2S/QPOC issues are necessary. It's an exciting time for QPOC Winnipeg as we continue to grow, evolve and work to be a resource for QTBIPOC-Queer Trans Black Indigenous People of Colour in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

As an initiative that is committed to creating safer spaces, positive visibility and representation for QTBIPOC and allies, we are looking forward to taking up space, bringing inspired people together and building community here at C2C. We hope that the C2C conference empowers, informs, and provides an enriching experience for all who attend.

The conference is three days long but the work we do to highlight QTBIPOC happens year-round. We promise to listen carefully and continue our commitment to uplift our communities during and after our time here together.

If you'd like to get involved and/or support QPOC Winnipeg, please email us at [qpoc204@gmail.com](mailto:qpoc204@gmail.com). We'd love to hear from you.

**UZOMA CHIOMA**

Founder, QPOC Winnipeg

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



I am pleased to welcome everyone attending the inaugural C2C: Two Spirit & Queer People of Colour: A Call to Conversation with LGBT & Allies conference hosted by The University of Winnipeg in partnership with Two-Spirited People of Manitoba and QPOC Winnipeg. I particularly want to extend a warm Winnipeg welcome to those of you who may have travelled from out of town to take part in this three-day think tank.

The Conference has been called, “an invitation to dialogue with community members about how to address the damage of the past where possible; and how to achieve better, more coalitionary community relations moving forward at the many intersections of systems of gender, sexuality, race, religion, spirituality, and culture.” I think that Winnipeg — where we are trying our best to face racism and reconciliation, inclusion, and support — is an ideal place to host these potentially difficult conversations and talk about strategies for moving forward through research, scholarship, and learning. I wish everyone taking part in the Conference well in exploring the themes of history, origin, and resurgence; family; education; institutions; and creative practice.

On behalf of the City of Winnipeg and my City Council colleagues, I would like to recognize the hard work of the organizers and volunteers who have spent countless hours to create a supportive and positive conference environment, and to develop a barrier-free dialogue about these important topics.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Bowman'. The signature is stylized with a long, sweeping underline that curves to the right.

**BRIAN BOWMAN**

Mayor, The City of Winnipeg

C2C: Two-Spirit and Queer People of Colour: A Call to Conversation with LGBT & Allies is a three-day conference hosted by The University of Winnipeg (UW) in collaboration with Two-Spirited People of Manitoba Inc. and Queer People of Colour (QPOC) Winnipeg.

We aim to contribute to the development of a national network of 2S/QTPOC and LGBT/Allies. Our intent is to gather leading local and national 2S and QPOC scholars, and LGBTQ and cisgender heterosexual allies to engage in conversations that highlight where our communities intersect, what efforts are needed to reconcile our relationships, and celebrate our gifts and achievements. Our objectives include: listening to each other, collaborating, and drafting calls to action to be shared widely with individuals, communities, and institutions.

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### Plenary Conference

C2C is a plenary conference, organized around five thematic conversation panels. Each plenary will hold conversations for 90 minutes to 2 hours, and will then be followed by “roundtable discussion” at each table within the conference auditorium to discuss topics raised or introduce additional points for discussion. In this sense, the plenary will be leading the conversation that will continue among the delegates.

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### Round Table Discussions

After the plenary speakers we will continue the dialogue via round table discussions. These will begin with brief introductions (including names and preferred pronouns) around the table. We have provided the tables with suggested questions to start your conversations. Special attention will be paid to drafting potential calls to action.

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### World Café

The World Café presenters will be presenting from 4:30–5:30 pm on Friday and Saturday in Riddell Hall. The presenters will share their work (roughly 20 mins) followed by a discussion with the delegates at the table. There will be a facilitator and notetaker at each table.

*We recognize that we are diverging from traditional conference structure for C2C. We are doing so in an attempt to create an open space where a variety of voices can be heard in dialogue regarding important topics. As such, there may be some aspects of the presentations and conversations that we have not anticipated and we would be happy to hear about them.*

## ELDERS' COUNCIL

In recognition of the esteemed position of Elders in Indigenous and other communities, the C2C planning committee reached out to local Two-Spirit and Queer People of Colour Elders to form a council which would provide guidance and direction. Their wisdom was shared in the time leading up to the conference, during the conference, and will continue afterward. For example, the Elders have been instrumental in organizing the Wellness Room, as well as navigating sensitive issues that arose in the planning stages. We are indebted to their ongoing assistance.



**Barbara Bruce** — Barbara Bruce is a citizen of the Métis Nation. She is the President of All My Relations, Inc. and has served on numerous boards including the National Aboriginal Economic Development, the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business and the Top 40 Under 40 Board among others.

Her business sense and traditional practices and values have always been part of who she is and these qualities naturally meld and emerge in all of the projects she has been involved in. Barbara's experience and knowledge come from her Indigenous roots, family, relations, and business partnerships and clients. She has over 35 years of experience at national, regional and local levels in Indigenous cultural training, event planning, research project management, curriculum development, and strategic planning.

She is an excellent communicator with skill and experience in working across sectors. Her integrity, compassion, commitment and keen observation have led her to address social justice issues.

Her dedication to advancing the rightful place, recognition and acknowledgment of the Two Spirit community, Indigenous women, and children are an integral part of her life.



**Ma-Nee Chacaby** — Ma-Nee has faced numerous challenges in her life that have prompted her to embark on a path of spiritual healing through art. She was born in Thunder Bay, Ontario and was adopted by a French Canadian family. She was then found and returned home to her kokum at the age of two to be raised in Omabika, a community north of Lake Nipigon. Being a Two-Spirited Elder and a storyteller, she uses various media for personal and community spiritual healing. She is visually impaired and her art tells a story of the journey people face each day.

**dione c. haynes** — dione c. haynes [rampage!] is a writer/poet and comedian.

Co-founder of the WOKE Comedy Hour along with Elissa Black Wolf Kixen — an open mic for Indigenous Womxn and Womxn+NB folx of Colour, held twice a month in Winnipeg.

A regular contributor to from the root zine, which features art works from and for those of the African diaspora and others of the marginalized majority.

Performer and participant with QPOC Winnipeg and Black Space Winnipeg, dione most recently sat on the panel discussion for the film screening of *Get Out*.



**Dr. Reece Malone** — Dr. Reece Malone is a third spirit, first generation Filipino and is the Founder and CEO of Sexuality Consultants and Support Services Manitoba, Inc. As a sexuality and gender consultant, certified sex therapist, and certified sexuality educator, he provides support and insight on a range of sexual health and wellness topics including attraction, gender identity, consensual non-monogamy, sexual expression, body image, kink and BDSM, and physiological concerns. As a semi-regular commentator for Global television's Mark and Mandy Show, and contributor to several print media resources, his hopes are to engage and encourage audiences to have meaningful and sex-positive sexuality and sexual health conversations.



**Charlotte Nolin** — Charlotte Nolin is a parent, grandparent and great grandparent. Her journeys have taken her from small towns in southeastern Manitoba to the big cities across this nation. Charlotte has devoted her life to protecting those whose voices were silenced. In 2010, she received the "Spirit of the Earth Award" from Manitoba Hydro and in 2014 she received the "Keeping the Fires Burning Award" for her contribution to teaching about Cultural and Spiritual Traditions of her peoples. In 2015, Charlotte made the decision to complete her journey and on November 5th she will be flying to Montreal for her surgery.

## FRIDAY

20 OCT

## DAY ONE—

8:00 am–9:00 am

**Registration and Reception**

9:00 am–9:45 am

**Greetings and Opening Welcome**

10:00 am–12:00 pm

**Plenary Theme:** History, Origins, and Resurgence — The panel features long-time 2S/QPOC advocates sharing their knowledge and experience of the 2S/QPOC movements.

**Plenary Speakers:** dione haynes, Myra Laramée, Albert McLeod, Raven Heavy Runner

**Moderator:** Chantal Fiola

**Round Table Discussion #1**

12:00 pm–1:30 pm

LUNCH

1:30 pm–4:00 pm

**Plenary Theme:** Family: Sharing Our Stories — The Johnston and Sinclair families open up about the challenges and joys of having LGBT family members. This is an opportunity for local 2S and QPOC families to share their family story of acceptance and love within the family as well as ongoing struggles.

**Plenary Speakers:** Johnston Family and Sinclair Family

**Moderator:** Uzoma Chioma

**Round Table Discussion #2**

4:30 pm–5:30 pm

**World Café Presentations** (See pages 14–18)

5:30 pm–7:00 pm

DINNER

7:30 pm–9:00 pm

**QPOC — DROP the MIC** / The Good Will Social Club  
(625 Portage Ave)

**Speakers/Artists:** Hiromi Goto, Syrus Marcus Ware, Joshua Whitehead

## SATURDAY

21 OCT

## DAY TWO—

9:00 am–12:00 pm

**Plenary Theme:** Education Resurgence — The education system has the potential to be a transformative and empowering influence for 2S and QPOC communities, despite the ways it has contributed to the historical and ongoing erasure of 2S people and QPOC. The speakers on this panel will discuss efforts being made at primary, secondary, and post-secondary levels to correct this erasure and promote empowerment of 2S and QPOC students, as well as identifying the gaps within the education system where education has failed to live up to its empowering potential for 2S people and QPOC.

**Plenary Speakers:** Lori Campbell, OmiSoore Dryden, Camryn Harlick, Jade Peek, Alex Wilson

**Moderator:** Sharanpal Ruprai

**Round Table Discussion #3**

12:00 pm–1:30 pm

LUNCH

1:30 pm–4:00 pm

**Plenary Theme:** Institutions — The speakers on this panel will discuss efforts being made within their various institutions such as community health centers, Native Youth Sexual Health Network and academic circles. They will address the gaps and success regarding how their respective institutions have addressed 2S people and QPOC concerns.

**Plenary Speakers:** Emma Allan, Marjorie Beaucage, Peetanacoot Nenakawekapo, Destry Love Roan, Jack Saddleback

**Moderator:** Jarita Greyeyes

**Round Table Discussion #4**

4:30 pm–5:30 pm

**World Café Presentations** (See pages 19–23)

5:30 pm–6:30 pm

DINNER

7:30 pm–9:00 pm

**Red Rising Issue #7 Launch in partnership with INSURGENCE/ RESURGENCE** / Winnipeg Art Gallery (300 Memorial Blvd)

**Speakers/Artists:** Dayna Danger, Sadie-Phoenix Lavoie, Joshua Whitehead

## SUNDAY

### 22 OCT

## DAY THREE—

9:00 am–12:00 pm

**Plenary Theme:** Creative Practice — Creative expression, cultural production, and activism work in concert with each other in the impressive works by the speakers featured on this panel. At the core of these artists' approaches to creative practice and reconciliation are issues of identity, representation, and voice. Today, as cultural workers, they share their dreams for their communities and strategies for engagement with art and writing to empower and center 2S people and QPOC.

**Plenary Speakers:** Gwen Benaway, Rosanna Deerchild, Hiromi Goto, Syrus Marcus Ware

**Moderator:** Jenny Heijun Wills

**Round Table Discussion #5**

12:00 pm–1:30 pm

LUNCH

1:30 pm–3:00 pm

**Plenary Roundtable Summit Report**

**Plenary Facilitators:** Chantal Fiola and Sharanpal Ruprai (Conference Co-Chairs)

4:00 pm–6:30 pm

**Closing Feast** / Thunderbird House (715 Main St)

**Speakers/Artists:** Gwen Benaway, Rosanna Deerchild

## WELLNESS ROOM

(2M70, Second Floor, Manitoba Hall)

Given the sensitive nature of the themes and topics being discussed, C2C will be providing a Wellness Room in 2M70 (Second Floor, Manitoba Hall). Elders from the Elders' Council will make themselves available in the Wellness Room should delegates want a quiet space to debrief, meditate, or rest. Traditional medicines will also be available should delegates wish to smudge (purification ceremony). The Wellness Room will be open from 12:00–6:00 pm on Friday, October 20 and from 9:00 am–6:00 pm on Saturday, October 21 and from 9:00 am–3:00 pm on Sunday, October 22.

## TEST ROOM

(2M67, Second Floor, Manitoba Hall)

Please visit the Nine Circles table while at the conference. Nine Circles Community Health Centre, with expertise in HIV, Hep C and other STIs, delivers primary care, social support, education and prevention services. A STI Testing Nurse and a Health Educator are at the conference to provide information and resources on safer sex, safer drug use and STI testing. They're offering free external condoms, internal condoms, sex dams, and lube and a private drop-in space for an HIV rapid test, allowing people to be tested for HIV and receive results within minutes. They also offer community workshops on Everyday Sexual Health and HIV 101 throughout the year.



## WORLD CAFÉ PRESENTATIONS

## DAY ONE—



TABLE 1

**Black and Indigenous Alliances on Turtle Island**

This discussion will explore and complicate conversations around Black and Indigenous community mobilizing on Turtle Island. The discussion will begin with a historical take on the countless moments of queer Black and Indigenous mobilizing throughout the history of the Americas as examples of the great promise of this cross-community work and embodiment of kinship and meaningful relationships for our collective health and wellbeing. We will then complicate this conversation by looking at the underlying tensions and conflicts such as anti-black racism within many Indigenous communities and the erasure of Indigenous peoples and histories within Black and POC communities that facilitate the legitimation of settler societies. Further, we will explore the experiences of people

mixed with both African diasporic and Indigenous ancestry and what truth and reconciliation means for these communities.

**Ciann Wilson** is an Assistant Professor in Community Psychology at Wilfrid Laurier University. Her lived experience as a Black woman has shaped her research interests in CBR with African diasporic and Indigenous communities; anti-colonial and critical race theories.

**LLana James** (not pictured) is the Research Manager of High Impact Field based Interventions (Hi Fi) Lab located in the Centre for Urban Health Solutions, St. Michael's Hospital. LLana works within a decolonizing framework that recognizes Blackness, indigeneity, the living earth, queerness and diverse gendered representations as intersections of joy and sites of resistance.

**Martez Smith** is an African in Diaspora in America for several generations and a researcher examining kinship and health disparities among African diaspora queer communities.



TABLE 2

**Opportunities for Inclusion: In Learning and the Lodge**

In the process of ensuring that the experiences of Two-Spirit people are included in postsecondary curricula we must first focus our attention on reaffirming the traditional roles of Two-Spirit people within our communities and within ceremonial spaces. Two-Spirit people were traditionally valued for having distinctive responsibilities and

roles within our communities and these roles have been devalued and diminished through the process of colonization. This has resulted in Two-Spirit people having disproportionately higher instances of mental illness and suicide. Only by providing opportunities for the gifts of Two-Spirit learners to be acknowledged and valued can we support their health and wellbeing, and ultimately, their academic achievement. Discussion of Two-Spirit “Bridgecloth” project.

**Benny Michaud** is a Two-Spirit, Eagle Clan, Michif woman currently living in Ottawa and working as Indigenous Cultural Liaison for Carleton University. Originally from Winnipeg, her families' traditional territory extends from St. Boniface to Qu'Appelle Valley, Saskatchewan. She is a skabewusukwe, president of the Ottawa Region Métis Council, a community organizer and committed to creating ceremonially safer spaces for Two-Spirit youth.



TABLE 3

**Black Love Can Know No Limits: Centering the Subjugated Voice and Experience of Pride and Well-Being of a Black Queer Woman**

This presentation provides unique insight into the lived reality of a black queer woman as it creates an intricate picture of what oppression entails. Auto-ethnography is used to discuss some experiences that black queer women face, as they strive for authentic

selflove and wellness in a social climate of adversity. Personal transformative recollections are used to allow readers to gain an in-depth understanding as to why black queer women systemically struggle to experience authentic belonging in the queer and black communities. The powerful stories are shared in hopes of raising critical awareness and empathy within readers as they interact with black queer youth throughout society.

**Jessica Booker** is a Black Latinx Queer youth. She is a Masters of Social Work Candidate at Ryerson University. Active in research and frontline work with QTBIPOC communities, people affected by HIV and AIDS, and people who use drugs.



TABLE 4

### Lived Experiences of Canada's LGBTQ Sikhs

Though there is a growing interest from academics, artists, and activists alike, about the diverse experiences of South Asian LGBTQ folk in North America, the lived religious experiences of Canadian Sikhs are significantly underrepresented in this discourse. Our research project compares the intersections of identity (religion, race, gender, class, age) as experienced by individual LGBTQ Sikhs living in two major Canadian cities with particular Sikh immigrant/settler histories – Vancouver and Toronto. In what ways do Sikhs come to understand their gender and sexual identity in light of their religious identity? At the heart of our research, we seek to understand how LGBTQ Sikhs organize and build political coalitions with other non-Sikhs.



**Zabeen Khamisa** (she/her) is a doctoral candidate in the joint Laurier-Waterloo PhD in Religious Diversity in North America. Her research interests focus on the religious experiences of young Canadian Sikh engaged in social innovation and entrepreneurship.

**Dr. Sharanpal Ruprai** (she/her) is an Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at The University of Winnipeg. Ruprai's debut poetry collection, *Seva*, was shortlisted for the Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry by the Alberta Literary Awards in 2015. As an interdisciplinary humanities scholar, her research and teaching interests include: Indigenous and critical race feminism, religious and cultural studies and artistic practice.



TABLE 5

### CPATH's Guidelines for Research Involving Trans and Gender Diverse People

Research involving transgender, gender non-binary, and Two-Spirit people is increasing along with increased visibility of our communities. Whether such research is conducted by students, community-based researchers, or faculty; whether it is conducted by transgender,

cisgender, gender non-binary or Two-Spirit people, ethical considerations apply. To promote greater research integrity and to aid all of those involved in research, as participants, researchers, or researcher-participants, the Canadian Professional Association for Transgender Health is developing ethical guidelines for research involving trans people with an explicit focus on addressing intersectionalities.

CPATH's Research Committee has developed a draft of recommended ethical guidelines over a two-year period and is continuing the process of community consultation. Ultimately, the guidelines will be submitted for approval to CPATH and made available as recommended practices to researchers and granting councils as well as institutional Research Ethics Boards. The guidelines will be publicly available online and circulated in community and public organizations working with trans people across Canada allowing us to make informed decisions about whether or not to participate in particular projects.

The guidelines aim to speak clearly to considerations of diversity, power, marginalization and representation, such as the application of OCAP™ for all research involving Indigenous people and communities. They ask researcher to attend to who is being recruited and included or excluded in studies, taking into account racialization, sex work, Indigenous identity, immigration status, age (youth and seniors), ethnicity, ability status, geographic location, religion, poverty and other vectors of difference. The draft guidelines also point to the necessity to design and analyze research in ways that recognize the wide range of gender identities transgender people hold, including nonbinary and culturally-specific identities, and the heterogeneity of lived genders and gender expressions.

The presenter will introduce the draft guidelines on behalf of the CPATH Research Committee and facilitate a discussion of the recommendations to solicit feedback and suggestions on the consultation process.

**Matthew Heinz**, Vice Provost, Research and Interdisciplinary Studies, Royal Roads University



TABLE 6

### From the Museum Margins

I have worked as a guide at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights since its opening. The museum frames its content as a journey “from darkness to light.” As a QPOC, it is not lost on me that this space mirrors a society that too often leaves us in the margins. Through a close analysis of museum content including exhibit text, digital

content, and the spatial placement of stories, I will contextualize the CMHR's representations of black bodies within the pervasive narrative that describes them as emerging from the darkness and being brought into the light.

**Thiané Diop** is a QPOC with roots in West Africa and Europe. She loves being in those rare spaces where she can comfortably inhabit all of her intersecting identities. Thiané is an avid reader and educator of young people, consciously trying to decolonize our understanding of the past and present.

**TABLE 7****Outsourcing Racism: The Transnational Politics of Prairie Pride**

In 2017, Inspector Gord Friesen justified the decision of police to not march in uniform by claiming that newcomers who “come from places where the police don't conduct themselves the way we do” would be adversely affected by their presence. My presentation will focus on the ways in which local and gay media use popularized

understandings of Other places as particularly homo/transphobic and violent in order to “outsource” localized racism. It will be couched in media analysis of queer asylum seekers who have recently and ‘illegally’ crossed the colonial border to Manitoba from the US through a decolonial, feminist, and queer critical race lens.

**Corinne L. Mason** (she/her) is a white settler cisgender queer feminist and an Associate Professor of Gender and Women's Studies and Sociology at Brandon University.

**TABLE 8****Coercive Sterilization as Land Dispossession**

In this talk I will discuss the links between the coercive sterilization of Indigenous women in Canada and dispossession of Indigenous lands. I seek to provide a critical analysis of the ways in which Indigenous women have historically been labelled as disabled by medical professionals and the long term effects this has had. I will consider

the need to label Indigenous women as disabled in order to sanction forced sterilization and the ways queerness and deviance influence the labelling of disability.

**Violet King** is of Mi'kmaq and European decent. She is a feminist and Indigenous studies student at York University. She was born and raised in Newfoundland and is interested in critical examinations and historical retellings of Newfoundland history.

## WORLD CAFÉ PRESENTATIONS

### DAY TWO—

**TABLE 1****Fat, Femm, Asian.... and MUSLIM!! — Intersectionality, Privileges, and Teaching Moments**

Find out how an individual navigates their intersectionality and uses identity privileges and experience to sensitize society. Carrying the identity of Cisgender, Male, Person of Color, Gay, Muslim, and Immigrant is a unique blend of pros and cons. Learn how to use

privileges and disadvantages to combat stigmas and understand the diverse LGBT2SQ+ community. The speaker will share his experiences from around the world, how he breaks the ice at work, and engages others in respectable dialogue about LGBT2SQ+ intersectionality. Additionally, understand how he's learning to combat Islamophobia within the community and how this continues to affect him.

**Muhammad Ahsan** has 15 years of experience of Right Activism and training including 8 years of research, post-secondary teaching, and adult education. He has facilitated a wide variety of learning interventions and policy consulting assignments, with numerous clients worldwide (U.S. State Department, U.K.-Aid, European Union, and British Council). He has a master's degree with double majors in Human Resource Management and Marketing. He also has certificates in training, facilitation, and strategic quality management.

**TABLE 2****Nations and Voices: A Photo Project**

Nations and Voices is a year-long travel project that will help to share the stories of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) folks and Two-Spirit / Queer folks through photos. It is my hope that these photos create conversation, trigger emotions, change perceptions, and communicate a message that BIPOC folks have many stories to

tell which is often silenced by white privileged world travelers.

**Shawn Johnston** is a Two-Spirit Anishinaabe originally from Couchiching First Nations. They are currently the Events Coordinator for the Waterloo Aboriginal Education Centre at the University of Waterloo. In their free time, they are a public speaker, advocate, and community organizer for Idle No More.

**TABLE 3****Making Inclusive Space: Transforming the CLGA**

The Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives (CLGA), is the largest independent LGBTQ2+ archives in the world. However, CLGA is not as representative as it should be and has rightly been called out for the 'whiteness' of the organization. This paper will examine and discuss how the CLGA is moving forward as an inclusive space for all LGBTQ2+ community.

**Raegan Swanson** is the Executive Director at the CLGA. Her PhD research focuses on community archives in First Nation and Inuit communities.

**Two-Spirit Rising: Archives and Indigenous Reclamation of the Two-Spirit Identity**

The University of Winnipeg Archives is home to the Two-Spirited Collection, a multimedia collection documenting the two-spirit movement and its peoples in Manitoba and throughout North America. The dearth of records documenting two-spirit people is reflective of how two-spirit people have been marginalized not only in

the documentary heritage supporting the colonially-biased historical narrative of Canada, but their further marginalization within Indigenous and LGBTQ histories. This paper will discuss the collection in some detail and how, through its stewardship, the University of Winnipeg Archives hopes to assist Indigenous people in the ongoing decolonization process by facilitating reclamation of this proud element of their history, culture, and spirituality.

**Brett Loughheed** is University Archivist/Digital Curator at The University of Winnipeg Archives. His research interests include examining the intersections between reconciliation and digital archives.

**Distortion in the Mirror: The Limits of Archives in Reflecting People Who Identify as LGBTQ\***

History and Archival Studies, University of Manitoba Archives are sometimes described as a mirror that reflects society back to itself. For most of the twentieth century, the archival mirror mostly failed to reflect people who identified as LGBTQ\* — or worse, only reflected back state campaigns of surveillance and persecution. People who

identify as LGBTQ\* responded by creating archives of their own, by reading official archives against the grain and by validating other means of telling LGBTQ\* histories. My presentation

will explore the strengths and weaknesses of mainstream archives in representing LGBTQ\* histories and records, with reference to local archival collections such as the Manitoba Gay and Lesbian Archives, now held at the University of Manitoba Archives and Special Collections, and the Two Spirit Collection held by The University of Winnipeg Archives.

**Greg Bak**, Associate Professor, Master's Program in Archival Studies University of Manitoba, Department of History

**TABLE 4****"It Will Be The Artists Who Give Them Their Spirit Back"**

Indigenous LGBTQ people have been relatively invisible in North America's gay liberation movement despite the Gay American Indian organization being active in the late 1970s and academic books about the historical berdash identity. At the height of the

North American HIV pandemic in 1990, the coining of the term "Two-Spirit" galvanized a generation of indigenous LGBT people and reframed how Indigenous people view gender and sexual orientation.

This presentation will explore the work of various Two-Spirit artists, writers and photographers who contributed their artistic vision to the indigenous LGBT liberation/rights movement. Much of their work draws on a combination of traditional Aboriginal art, LGBT culture and aesthetics, and contemporary art/media techniques. The work of artists like Tomson Highway (writer/composer), Kent Monkman (artist/performance), Chrystos (poetry), Waawaate Fobister (actor/writer), Rosalie Favell (photographer), and Muriel Miguel (actor/story teller), will be included in the presentation and narrative.

**Albert McLeod** is a Status Indian with ancestry from Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and the Métis community of Norway House in northern Manitoba. He has over thirty years of experience as a human rights activist and is one of the directors of the Two-Spirited People of Manitoba. Albert lives in Winnipeg, where he works as a consultant specializing in HIV/AIDS and Indigenous peoples, cultural reclamation, and crosscultural training. [albertmcleod.com](http://albertmcleod.com)

**Roger Roulette** is an Anishinaabe oral historian from McGregor, Manitoba who taught Anishinaabe language courses at the University of Manitoba for twenty years. Roger currently translates and transcribes Anishinaabe interviews and writes documents for the Indigenous Languages of Manitoba and works closely with the Manitoba Museum and the Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Education Centre.



TABLE 5

### Towards a De/Colonizing Borderlands Identity: Implications for Queer Desi/South Asians in Canada

This paper draws on doctoral research exploring how queer Desi/"South Asian" young adults understand and negotiate their queer ethno-racial identity in Toronto, a global city. I argue that the queer diasporic Desi body is a borderlands (Anzaldúa, 2012)

identity. But how does this body, whose diasporic self is shaped by 300 years of colonization (Long, 2003), understand and negotiate de/coloniality on stolen land? Through Smith (1999), Tuck and Yang (2012), and Bhattacharya (2016), I question what it means to be/do "de/colonial" in these borderlands. Using personal narrative as well as research data, this paper begins a conversation.

**Dirk J. Rodricks** (he/him) is a "landed," transnational, queer, Desi/Brown PhD Candidate at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto. His research interests include critical race theory, de/colonial pedagogies, and examining issues of multiply-marginalized diasporic Desi/"South Asian" identity through applied drama research.



TABLE 6

### Institutions, Patient Narratives, and TRANSgressive Healthcare

Trans, nonbinary, and two-spirit (2S) patients report avoiding healthcare and have poor health outcomes. This avoidance is a result of experiences with healthcare providers that are frequently traumatic. Current literature recognizes that healthcare providers receive inadequate training to appropriately interact with these patients;

however, there are gaps in patient-informed research to determine what trans, nonbinary and 2S people need for safety in accessing healthcare. This study aims to interview people from these populations to increase knowledge about their experiences in healthcare institutions. This study uses an intersectional lens to explore how reconciliation must be part of healthcare for people who are transgender, nonbinary and 2S.

**Jonathan Ford** is a Mi'kmaw medical student at Memorial University. Their interests are social justice and intersectionality with an emphasis in healthcare systems and institutions.



TABLE 7

### The Mashkiki Collective: Crafting Cross-Community Solidarity Through Decolonial Plant Medicine Magick

In the face of sustained systemic and internalized violences, Two Spirit, LGBTIQA+, genderqueer, and womxn IPOC and POC community members are increasingly revitalizing land-based and ancestrally-informed roles and responsibilities as plant medicine

healers, spirit workers, and knowledge holders. In crafting wellness, protection, and empowerment, folx are reclaiming ceremonial, sacred, and everyday spaces to safely honour their existences and to mobilize networks of healing solidarity and knowledge exchange. This presentation will identify — and propose pathways through — challenges to these community partnership initiatives. Points of tension and calls to action explored include spiritual and medicinal appropriation and dispossession enacted by potential partners or allies, the importance of honouring ancestral inheritance in collectively working with our plant relations, and the need for conversations around positionality and restitution in undertaking decolonial cross-community medicinal coalition building. Collectively, we will explore questions of how we can create communities of support and solidarity around the revitalization of our medicinal and spiritual practices while navigating the boundaries of our localities.

**Nicole Davies** is a Sauteaux Métis niizh manidoowag femme kwe (Two Spirit femme womxn). She is currently completing her MA at the University of Victoria, and she holds a BA (Hons.) in Anthropology and Indigenous Studies from McGill University. Her time is currently dedicated to a plant medicine knowledge revitalization and reclamation project for Anishinaabe and Métis Two Spirit, LGBTIQA+, genderqueer, and womxn community members that operates in healing solidarity with QTPOC communities



TABLE 8

### Exploring Chosen Kinship and HIV among Indigenous and African Diaspora Communities

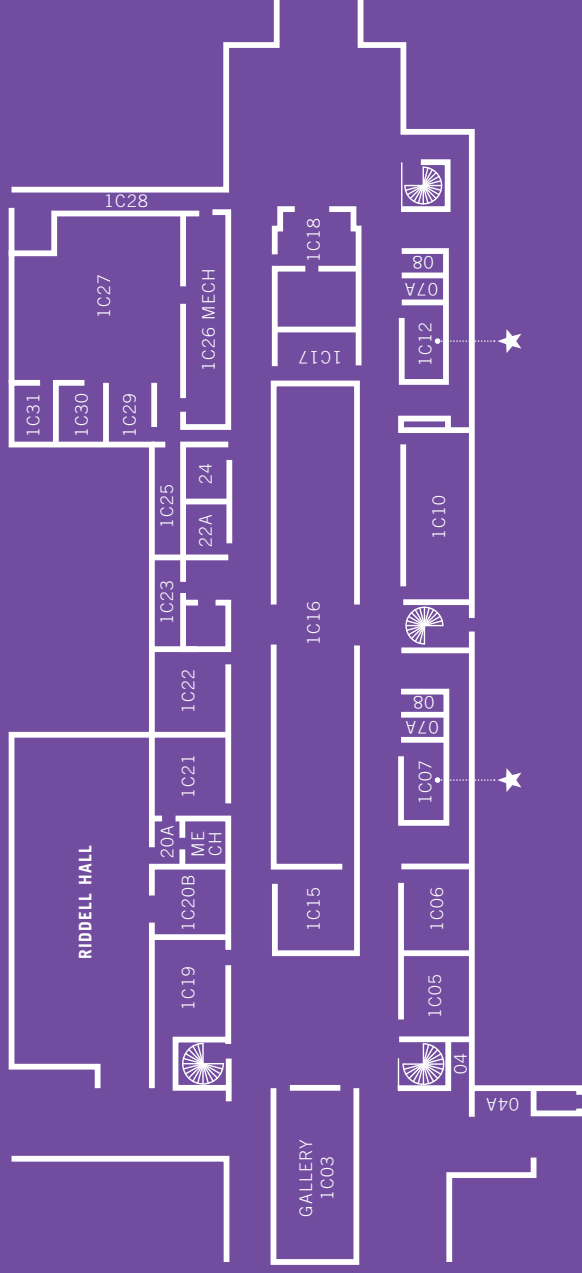
Disproportionate rates of HIV infections continue to impact indigenous communities of Turtle Island and African diaspora communities globally. Mutually chosen LGBTQ kinship structures, common within queer communities, are central to an emerging body

of literature on HIV prevention and intervention in the United States. Chosen kinship structures consist of "mothers" and "fathers" who mentor their members ("children") in various aspects of life. Research on chosen kinship and HIV among Indigenous people of Turtle Island and African diaspora Canadians remain scant. This poster will explore extending such research to these populations.

**Martez Smith** is an African in Diaspora in America for several generations and a researcher examining kinship and health disparities among African diaspora queer communities.

# GENDER NEUTRAL WASHROOMS

## CENTENNIAL HALL



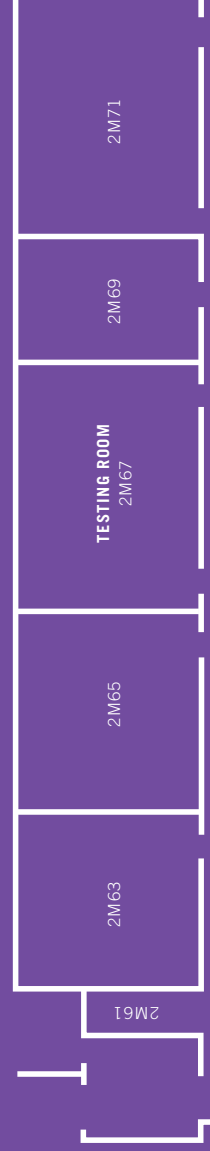
MANITOBA HALL

ROOMS 1C07 & 1C12

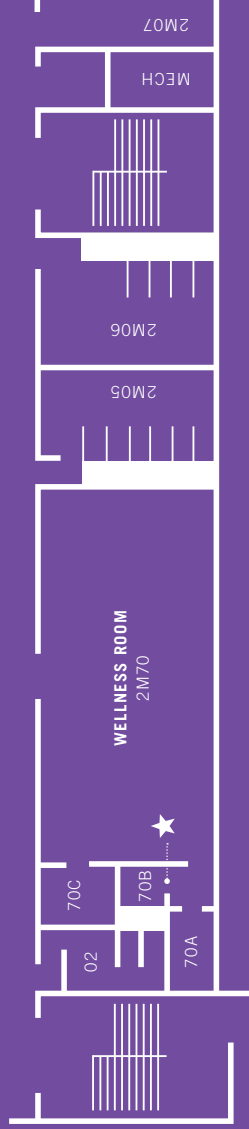
# GENDER NEUTRAL WASHROOMS

## MANITOBA HALL (SECOND FLOOR)

### CENTENNIAL HALL



ASHDOWN HALL



ROOM 70B (LOCATED WITHIN THE WELLNESS ROOM)

## C2C COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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**Sharanpal Ruprai** — Assistant Professor, Women's and Gender Studies, UW

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**Christopher Campbell** — RISE Research Program Coordinator, Education, UW

**Uzoma Chioma** — QPOC Winnipeg

**Roewan Crowe** — Associate Professor, Director of the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies, UW

**Michael Dudley** — Librarian, UWinnipeg Library

**Janelle Gobin** — Policy Analyst, External Relations, UW

**Jarita Greyeyes** — Director of Community Learning and Engagement, UW

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**Sadie-Phoenix Lavoie** — Red Rising Magazine

**Albert McLeod** — Two-Spirited People of Manitoba

**Heather Milne** — Associate Professor, English, UW

**Chris Minaker** — Senior Executive Officer and Advisor to the President, President's Office, UW

**Julie Nagam** — Associate Professor, Chair in Indigenous Arts of North America, and History of Art Coordinator, UW

**Susan Reid** — Manager, Conferences and Events Services, UW

**Kevin Settee** — Red Rising Magazine

**Narumi Taniguchi** — Program Director, Marriage and Family Therapy Program, UW

**Catherine Taylor** — Associate Dean of Arts, Professor of Rhetoric and Communications and Education, UW

**Jenny Heijun Wills** — Critical Race Network, Assistant Professor, English, UW

## FILMING AT THE CONFERENCE

Please do not photograph and/or post images on social media without permission from the individual(s). No video or audio recording during the conference. We are pleased to have Amanda Kindzierski and crew joining us; they will be filming the conference panels. This footage will join the Two-Spirit Archives in the UWinnipeg Library and will be available for all. If you do not want to be filmed throughout the conference, please inform us at the registration/information table.

## TWO-SPIRIT COLLECTION

The University of Winnipeg Archives is a proud steward of the records of the Two-Spirited Collection, which documents the Two-Spirit Movement in Manitoba and throughout North America. A goal of the Archives is to add to the Two-Spirited Collection and become a hub of Two-Spirit research in Canada. Through the stewardship of these records, the Archives hopes to contribute to the ongoing decolonization process by supporting Indigenous peoples in reclaiming this element of their history, culture, and spirituality through research by and about Two-Spirit people.

If you are interested in contributing your records to the Two-Spirited Collection at The University of Winnipeg Archives, please contact University Archivist, Brett Lougheed, at [b.lougheed@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:b.lougheed@uwinnipeg.ca) or by phone at 204.786.9914.

To access the Two-Spirited Collection description, visit [main.lib.umanitoba.ca/atom/index.php/two-spirited-collection](http://main.lib.umanitoba.ca/atom/index.php/two-spirited-collection). For more information about the Archives, visit us at [archives.uwinnipeg.ca](http://archives.uwinnipeg.ca).

## QPOC — DROP THE MIC

**OCTOBER 20, 7:30–9:00 PM** / The Good Will Social Club (625 Portage Ave)

Drop the Mic usually happens twice a year, coinciding with Genderfest Winnipeg and Winnipeg Pride. The event involves a fabulous lineup of 2S/QPOC performers.

Drop the Mic serves as an opportunity for queer and trans people of colour to take up space, be heard, and share parts of themselves. Recognizing the marginalization QTPOC face for their multiple oppressions (namely race, sexuality and/or gender), this is a celebration of identity and a resistance to oppression.

We view structural inequality as not only abstractly caused by higher levels of power, but also as upheld and perpetuated by our very own POC, feminist, and queer(LGBT) circles everyday. Let us be conscious of how a decolonizing antiracist intersectional feminist lens can broaden our perspectives, allow us to learn from each other, care for each other, listen, and build solidarity. Let us fill the room with power, resistance, vulnerability, generosity, and mutual respect.

Drop the Mic celebrates queer and trans artists/writers/performers of colour. Stick around for the DTM After Party feat DJ Syrus Marcus Ware and QPOC Winnipeg DJs!

**Organizers:** Uzoma Chioma and Christina Hajjar

**Host:** Chimwemwe Undi

**Speakers/Artists:** Hiromi Goto, Syrus Marcus Ware, Joshua Whitehead & local performers

## RED RISING ISSUE #7 LAUNCH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INSURGENCE/RESURGENCE

**OCTOBER 21, 7:30–9:00 PM** / Winnipeg Art Gallery (300 Memorial Blvd)

Red Rising Magazine Issue #7: Two Spirit is about gathering the voices of those most marginalized by the ongoing colonialism and assimilation resulting in gender and sexual-based violence and oppression. This issue of Red Rising Magazine is intended to uplift Two-Spirit voices and creative expression to spark dialogue on why and how we need to decolonize how we treat gender and sexuality within our communities. Red Rising Collective members acknowledge the beauty, value and resistance of our two-spirited relatives, as they are impacted in many ways by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. As we embark on our collective journey of decolonization, we must not forget to honour Two-Spirited people for all their gifts Creator has given them. We will hear from amazing speakers including Albert McLeod, Joshua Whitehead and talented Indigenous artist Dayna Danger, who is also featured within the WAG's new collection INSURGENCE RESURGENCE curated by Jaimie Issac and Julie Nagam.

**Speakers/Artists:** Dayna Danger, Albert McLeod, Sadie-Phoenix Lavoie, Joshua Whitehead

## CLOSING FEAST

**OCTOBER 22, 4:00–6:00 PM** / Thunderbird House (715 Main St)

The C2C conference planning committee, in partnership with Two-Spirited People of Manitoba Inc. and Queer People of Colour (QPOC) Winnipeg, is happy to host a closing feast to be held at the Thunderbird House (715 Main St.) on the final day of the conference. Come laugh, share, eat, and listen to 2S poets Gwen Benaway and Rosanna Deerchild share their latest works!

Parking will be available at the Neeginan Centre (181 Higgins Ave), free of charge.

Bus service from UWinnipeg to the Thunderbird House is available at 3:30 pm, returning at 6:30 pm.

**Speakers/Artists:** Gwen Benaway, Rosanna Deerchild, Southern Thunderbird Drum Group



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THANK YOU!