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TWO-SPIRIT AWARENESS & INCLUSION

Widening the Circle to Protect All Our Relations

As a Moose Hide Campaign Steward, you hold a sacred responsibility to create safety. This guide helps you expand the pledge to explicitly include Two-Spirit, Indigiqueer, and gender-diverse relatives, who often face the highest risks of violence.

Understanding the Crisis Within a Crisis

We widen our circle because the data reveals a stark reality. Violence against Indigenous 2SLGBTQQIA+ people is not random; it is a direct result of colonial erasure.

- **Extreme Risk:** Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are **12 times more likely** to be murdered or go missing than non-Indigenous women.
- **Intimate Partner Violence (IPV):** An alarming **86%** of 2SLGBTQ+ Indigenous women have experienced IPV in their lifetime
- **Youth Impact:** Due to lack of safety, **23%** of Indigenous LGBTQ youth reported attempting suicide in the past year—significantly higher than their peers.
- **Pre-Colonial Truth:** Prior to colonization, Two-Spirit people were held in high regard and considered sacred. Colonialism imposed the binary that fuels today's violence. Every single culture had different gender roles and cultural roles, and the western colonial binary is a new phenomenon.



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Walking in a Good Way

Small, intentional actions can signal safety.

Language as Medicine

- **Expand the Call:** Expand "men and boys" to "men, boys, and people of all genders" or "two-spirit people".
- **Inclusive Greetings:** Replace "ladies and gentlemen" with "relatives," "family", "friends," or "folks".
- **Pronouns:** Introduce yourself with your pronouns (e.g., "My name is... and I use she/her and they/them pronouns"). This normalizes the practice and signals safety.
- **Don't be afraid to make a mistake,** if you misgender someone by using their incorrect pronouns, simply apologize, correct your language and move forward in a good way.

Creating Safe Spaces

- **Culture:** Introduce yourself with your own pronouns and remember to include Two-Spirit People when talking about MMIW2S+ and as much as possible.
- **The "Topic-Based Circle":** In workshops, avoid splitting groups into "men" and "women." Instead, offer Topic-Based Circles (e.g., "Media Stereotypes," "Healthy Relationships") so non-binary guests can participate safely.
- **Washrooms:** Advocate for or designate "All-Gender" washrooms at your venue.



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Essential Resources & Crisis Support

Indigenous-Specific Crisis Lines (24/7)

- **Hope for Wellness Help Line:** 1-855-242-3310 (Phone & Chat) - Culturally competent counselling for all Indigenous people.
- **Indian Residential School Survivor Crisis Line:** 1-866-925-4419.
- **MMIWG Crisis Line:** 1-844-413-6649.
- **Talking Stick App:** Anonymous, text-only chat with Indigenous peer advocates (my.talkingstick.app).
- **Kids Help Phone (Indigenous Support):** Text FIRST NATIONS, INUIT or METIS to 686868 (youth) or 741741 (adults) to connect with an Indigenous volunteer.

Two-Spirit & Inclusion Education

- [What is Two-Spirit?](#)

Mental Health & Youth Apps

- **One Stop Talk:** Free, immediate counseling for youth under 18 in Ontario (1-855-416-8255 / onestoptalk.ca).
- **Foundry BC:** Health and wellness resources for youth 12-24 in BC.

Inclusion is an act of decolonization. By honoring Two-Spirit kin, we restore the circle that colonialism tried to break.