



# **WE BELONG:** **CELEBRATING** **2SLGBTQ+** **HISTORY**



Participant Handbook

## Description of document:

This participant handbook describes the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity's (CCGSD) history program "We Belong." The package begins with a table of contents and then discusses We Belong's approach to history education. The next sections introduce the keynote presenters for each province, describe the workshops and their creators, and introduce the seniors and elders in conversation. The document then provides the forum's code of conduct and directions for joining the forum. The last section recommends support and mental health services and thanks our funder and participants. The final page has a final welcome message and lists contact information for the program.

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THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR  
**GENDER+SEXUAL  
DIVERSITY**



LE CENTRE CANADIEN DE LA  
**DIVERSITÉ DES GENRES  
+ DE LA SEXUALITÉ**

## ABOUT THE CCGSD

The Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity (CCGSD) intersectionally promotes diversity in gender identity, gender expression, and romantic and/or sexual orientation in all its forms on a national level through services in the areas of education, health, and advocacy. Our resources and programming can be used to uplift gender and sexual minorities, as well as give tools to wider populations in building allyship.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about our guiding principles and core values.

# TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The CCGSD is based on the unceded occupied traditional lands of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg. Participants in We Belong will be joining from different locations, and if you are not already familiar, we ask you to learn about the Indigenous lands upon which you are located. We also encourage you to learn and reflect on the reality that the ways territorial lines have been drawn on maps does not always provide a full picture of the changing custodians, groups, and relationships that Indigenous peoples have had over time to land. For more information you can look at the following website: <https://native-land.ca/>

We stand by all First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, and extend our respect for their invaluable past, present, and future contributions to these lands. We support their ongoing efforts for self-determination, sovereignty, safety, food and water security.

As an organization guided by the principles of diversity, intersectional feminism, and education, we believe it is crucial to teach about Indigenous peoples' resistance throughout history, and in current day as they continue to face violence and marginalization.

In this forum focused on 2SLGBTQ+ Black, Indigenous, and people of colour's history, we want to acknowledge how vital representation is as part of the decolonizing and unsettling mission, and ask settlers to evaluate and understand the differences between meaningful and true representation and appropriation and tokenization of Indigenous communities. We encourage people to learn more about Indigenous experiences and stories by listening to Indigenous voices directly.

# WELCOME!

## Welcome to **We Belong: Celebrating 2SLGBTQ+ History!**

We are happy to welcome students from Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec to participate in CCGSD's latest queer history programming.

### Reflection questions:

Why do you think we remember these moments most?

& What else is important to know about the past?

## RETHINKING HISTORY

The ways we discuss, understand, and celebrate the past are powerful. The histories that we consider important structure our understanding of the world around us. We hear lots about Canadian prime ministers, battles and wars, inventions and technology, but there are so many stories of people, places, and events in the past that we don't get to hear.

## WHO DECIDES WHICH STORIES ARE REMEMBERED?

Many of the histories we remember widely have been created by people in positions of power and privilege, and have erased the stories of people on the margins. These histories have been based on historic documents and books that have been kept in museums, libraries, and archives, and were chosen by a select group of powerful people. Many other documents, objects, and oral stories have been forgotten, destroyed, or changed, leaving only a few narratives that dominate what we are asked to consider when thinking of history.

# WHOSE STORIES ARE NOT TOLD?

When we learn history, we like to look for ourselves in the past. We search for the stories that reflect us, speak to our lives and families, and remind us that we are part of a community. But, in the histories we hear most, 2SLGBTQ+, Black, Indigenous, and people of colour are often absent. These students don't get to see themselves in the past, and miss out on these moments of belonging.

Sometimes it's said that 2SLGBTQ+, Black, Indigenous, and people of colour's histories are hard to find or did not exist. In this forum, you'll learn that these communities have long and rich histories all around the world. 2SLGBTQ+, Black, Indigenous, and people of colour have been revolutionaries, creatives, leaders, and thinkers. They've shaped the world we live in and their stories need to be told.

## RESISTANCE & CELEBRATION

Over the course of the forum, you'll hear difficult stories and conversations about the ways that society has erased, forgotten, and discriminated against 2SQTBIPOC. However, in the forum we'll be focused on the ways that they have resisted, built strong communities, and been joyful. We'll learn about the traditions, stories, and memories that are important to 2SQTBIPOC and why they should be widely remembered.

## WHAT IS 2SQTBIPOC HISTORY?

'2SQTBIPOC' stands for Two-Spirit, queer, trans, Black, Indigenous, and people of colour and is a term used to describe a diverse group of identities. People within this community live a unique experience because of both their gender/sexual identity and their race.

\*Note: We group together all of these people with the term '2SQTBIPOC' but not everyone has the same experience. Each person lives different levels and kinds of discrimination, and each person has a unique relationship to their culture and identity.

# FORUM AGENDA

The forum will be one day long from 9:00am to 3:30pm. There will be a one-hour break for lunch from 12:10am - 1:10pm, as well as two short breaks throughout the day. We will hear a mix of video presentations and workshops from a variety of creators. You'll get the chance to reflect on some of the content you'll be hearing throughout the day, and hear more about how you can get involved in your own community at the end.

## **Forum for last We Belong (April 29)**

**9:00 - 9:25:** Introduction (25 mins)

**9:25 - 9:55:** Two-Spirit Workshop (30 mins)

**9:55 - 10:05:** Land acknowledgement & reflection

**10:05 -10:15:** Break (10 mins)

**10:15 - 10:30:** Breakout rooms

**10:30 - 11:15:** 2SLGBTQ+ Seniors video (45 mins)

**11:15-11:25:** Break (10 mins)

**11:25 - 12:10:** Live Q&A with Michele? (45 mins)

**12:10 - 1:10:** Lunch (1 hour)

**1:10 - 1:35:** Live Keynote (25 mins)

**1:35-2:35:** Live Drag performance and workshop (1 hour)

**2:35 - 2:45:** Break (10 mins)

**2:45- 3:00:** Breakout rooms (15 mins)

**3:00-3:05:** Short survey

**3:05-3:30:** Closing remarks



## DEBBIE OWUSU-AKYEEAH

Debbie is an award-winning Black feminist with over 8 years of local and international advocacy experience in a variety of roles ranging from programming and counseling to policy analysis and project management. She became the new Executive Director at the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity (CCGSD) in July 2020. Debbie holds an M.A. in International Affairs. She has had the pleasure of bridging her passion for social justice with international development at Oxfam Canada and Global Affairs Canada. Additionally, through volunteering and leading feminist initiatives with organizations like the Ottawa Dyke March, Harmony House Women's Shelter, and Planned Parenthood Ottawa. When she isn't yelling into a megaphone at protests or organizing events, Debbie is probably on a field somewhere playing rugby. Or baking a cake.



## WORKSHOPS:

Two Spirit- The term two spirit has become an almost buzzword within communities and yet, very few people understand its complexities and the sacredness this term carries within Indigenous communities. We will explore the historical background of this term dating back thousands of years ago to contemporary uses and meanings, including the teachings of the 8 genders roles that Cree people and Anishinabeg people practice within community.

## Two Spirit History Workshop

presented by:

# GABE CALDERÓN



Gabe Calderón (they/them, kiin/wiin) is nij-manidowag & îhkwew (two spirit/trans), queer and Mi'kmaq/L'nu, Algonquin/Omamiwinini, mixed white/Scottish and French Canadian thriving with disAbilities and neurodivergence. They currently live in Treaty 6 territory's Amiskwacîwâskahikan (Edmonton) as an author, poet, mixed media artist, activist and educator.

## WORKSHOPS:

In this hour-long presentation, Horus will take participants through a local and global history of drag, focusing on presentations of masculinity and what they mean for the people who express them. He will also give a mini performance to showcase his specific style of drag and give participants the opportunity to ask questions and learn about the history of gender performance from a living and local legend.

## Drag King Workshop & Performance

presented by:

# HORUS BEN



Horus Ben is a local legend and kingly thing who loves to traipse about town dancing and singing and swinging for his queer and trans family. He takes many forms, sometimes silly, sometimes frilly, but always downright dandy. A King for the people and international man of mystery, Horus wants you to know that there are infinite ways to be a man and they all matter. As this drag King says, clothes do not make a man, but they sure do help!

# SENIORS & ELDER IN CONVERSATION:

## LEZLIE LEE KAM



“I am a world majority, Brown, trini, Carib, Indo, Chinese, callaloo, differently-abled, queer DYKE, Elder/Senior. I have been a community DYKE activist for the last 45 years. I live my life and work from an anti-oppression, anti-racism, anti-colonial, intergenerational and intersectional perspective. I advocate for 2 Spirit folX, queer and transgender youth and SENIORS of colour. I am a workshop facilitator, community connector/networker, storyteller and sometime actor. I enjoy dancing, doubles, dim sum, a cold beverage and a hot ‘trini lime’ anytime. My EXISTENCE is my RESISTANCE!!”

Website - [lezlieoutofthecloset.com](http://lezlieoutofthecloset.com)

Email - [trinicariblmk@rogers.com](mailto:trinicariblmk@rogers.com)

# SENIORS & ELDERS IN CONVERSATION:



## BARABRA WATERFALL



Barbara Waterfall is a Two-Spirit Being. S/He carries Two Spirit Names: White Buffalo Woman, & Yellow Thundercloud Woman. S/He is from the Crane Clan, descends from Anishnaabe/metis, German & French ancestry. S/He lives in North Bay, Ontario. North Bay is on the land of the Nipissing First Nation, and is also part of the Robinson-Huron Treaty Territory. Barbara's pronouns are: S/He, They.

# SENIORS & ELDERS IN CONVERSATION:



## MICHELLE MATHURIN



Michele Jacqueline Mathurin is mixed race Black and white, born in Castries St. Lucia WI. She moved to Ottawa in 1968 and became a Canadian citizen in 1971. She has a degree in Film Studies and Women's studies from Carleton and works at WIS INTL.

Her principle of life is to  
"Do no harm but take no  
shit"

-Moira Fowley-Doyle

# CODE OF CONDUCT

In order to create and ensure a safer space, facilitators and participants will actively collaborate in creating a space following the code of conduct.

- Facilitators and participants will treat others with dignity, empathy, and respect. Harmful language and behaviours on the basis of gender identity, orientation, race, class, ability, size, age, culture, and religion will not be tolerated.
- Facilitators and participants will use correct pronouns when referring to others.
- Facilitators and participants will respect each other's privacy
  - What is said in the room stays in the room
  - Respect each other's boundaries (re: disclosure of information, "opt-ing in" to personal interactions, not connecting on social media)
  - No personal information about any participants can be shared outside of the forum.
- Facilitators and participants will approach varied perspectives and experiences with curiosity and an open mind.
- Facilitators will encourage everyone to participate, but recognize and respect that not everyone will feel comfortable doing so.
- Facilitators will be conscious of the language used by themselves and participants, as certain words and references can be triggering and disrespectful.
- Facilitators and participants will listen to each other, and be mindful of leaving space for others to speak.
- Facilitators will use prompting questions and active listening to further conversations and continue to make space for participants.



- Facilitators and participants will be actively inclusive.
- Facilitators and participants will respect another's choice to sit out of a conversation or activity if they feel uncomfortable.
- Facilitators will be conscious of the power dynamics in a room, and be aware of the consequences of their own words and actions as forum leaders.
- Facilitators will speak up if a participant does not follow the code of conduct or behaves disrespectfully. Harassment or bullying will result in immediate removal from the online space and possible removal from the program.

If you witness or experience any (in) direct form of discrimination during the event, please message the forum organizers.

## Online Safety & Conduct

- The online forum is for registered participants only. Please do not share links or passwords to access the event.
- Participants are not permitted to record forum content themselves, or take photos of the forum.

## Directions for joining

**Before the forum, you'll receive a Zoom link via email.** The link will be unique to the forum you've signed up for and we ask that you keep any links and passwords to yourself in order to protect the safety of all participants. If you have any trouble joining the forum from your computer, you can follow the instructions provided to dial in by phone.

If you require any technical assistance, reach out to [myloe@ccgsd-ccdgs.org](mailto:myloe@ccgsd-ccdgs.org).

# SUPPORT SERVICES

If you need mental health support, you can reach out to the following services via phone call or text:

[Kids Help Phone](#) provides free and confidential e-mental health services available 24/7 for all youth across Canada.

[LGBT youthline](#) provides free, confidential and 2SLGBTQ+ affirming peer support from Sunday to Friday, 4:00pm - 9:30pm.

[Interligne](#) is French hotline available 24/7 to support and inform folks concerned with issues of sexual and gender diversity.

[Trans lifeline](#) is an English and Spanish peer support phone hotline run by trans people for trans/questioning people.



## THANK YOU!

Thank you to our funding partner, Canadian Heritage, for supporting our work, and a BIG thank you to YOU for being a part of our mission to build a world without discrimination!

**We are excited to welcome you to this series of forums and are looking forward to celebrating 2SQTBIPOC history together!**

Contact the Program Coordinator for specific information or questions:  
[myloe@ccgsd-ccdgs.org](mailto:myloe@ccgsd-ccdgs.org)

