

**Applicant**

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**Project Title**

Understanding Two-Spirit aging and informing Two-Spirit inclusion in the CLSA: informing the Two-Spirit evolution of the Indigenous peoples self-identity module in the CLSA

**Project Summary**

We are working in collaboration with the Two-Spirit Program of the Community Based Research Centre to establish a circle of advisors from Two-Spirit networks across Canada. The term Two-Spirit refers to an Indigenous construct that transcends the Eurocentric definition of sexuality, sex assigned at birth, gender identity, gender roles, and/or gender expressions for Indigenous Peoples. At present, there is no opportunity to identify as Two-Spirit in the CLSA. The primary aim of our work is to analyze the CLSA to respond to the gaps in information noted by Two-Spirit community advocates about the strengths and challenges related to aging for Two-Spirit community members, particularly related to mental health resiliency. A secondary aim of our work is to inform the opportunities for CLSA to improve the way that sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation can be reported by Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Inuit, or Métis) in the CLSA Tracking and Comprehensive cohorts.

**Keywords**

Indigenous, aging, Two-Spirit, gender, mental health