

TWO-SPIRIT RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Prepared by Harlan Pruden (Cree) on behalf of the National Confederacy of Two-Spirit Organizations

December, 18 2012

National Confederacy of Two-Spirit Organizations

At the 2012 Tulsa Two-Spirit Gathering held at Osage Hills State Park, a national Two-Spirit leadership talking circle was convened. At this talking circle there were three main topics:

- Creation of National Two-Spirit organization;
- Report out of current work and projects from Two-Spirit participating organizations; and
- Current challenges and barriers that organizations are facing.

There was broad-base community support for the creation of the National Confederacy of Two-Spirit Organizations. The mandate has two major components: an internal view – where members assist one another; and an external view - where we collectively present a unified message of: who we are; what does our organizations do; and what are the needs and requirements of the membership. Each goal will take them up in turn.

Internal (membership and community benefits, privileges and responsibilities). The content of this section is offered to member organizations

- Central coordination for actions and communication
 - One central 2S community calendar of events and action
 - Collective agreement/policy/guidelines on what can be posted to this calendar
 - One email address
 - Funding advocacy, resource requests, and grant writing coordination discussion
 - Capacity building assistance
- Development of best practices document and offered as a resource to members of this organization. Below is a list of items/topics that would be addressed in this document:
 - Diversity practices on then inclusion and engagement of:
 - Female-Identified or Female-Bodied Two-Spirit members and leadership,
 - Natives who identify as transgender, and
 - Native/Two-Spirit seniors/Elders
 - Governance models and examples of constitutions and by-laws
 - Fiscal management
 - Board development and retention
 - Inclusion and participation of ceremonies at 2S gathering – what is the best way to gage someone offering to run ceremony for you group.
- Development of mentoring program and leadership development support.
- Development of public education tool kit on Two-Spirit people – many expressed that much of the larger community does not know who we are as a people.
- Policy and responsibilities for member organizations to govern their participation within the Confederacy
- Process for the development of collective policy statements and statement of support and opposition

External View (Including: governmental agencies, Federal Administration, and other policy makers, the boarder funding community, other National organizations and partners). This is the public section of the Confederacy.

- Complete list of membered organizations, with a brief description of their service area(s) and list programs and services.
- Statement of who the Two-Spirit community is and what does Two-Spirit mean
- History of the Two-Spirit movement
- Elders stories on the Two-Spirit movement

- Dissemination of collective policy statements and statement of support and opposition from the Two-Spirit community to the boarder community.
- For message dissemination of information and questions to the Two-Spirit community, this organization would be one stop shop for general inquiries.
- Official and sanctioned list of speakers that will represent the Two-Spirit community to the boarder community.
- Resource guide for starting a Two-Spirit organization.
- Funding advocacy, resource requests, and grant writing coordination
- One email address and contact information - Including a physical mailing address and phone number
- Genealogy resources
- Job postings for Native positions

The formation of this national organization is still in its development and discussion stage. However, participating members have taken collective action since this meeting. The Confederacy was instrumental in obtaining some collective letters of support. Notable, a letter of support was sent to the Chicago City Council in support of the Legacy Project's Two-Spirit plaque. At the unveiling ceremony of this plaque on October 14, 2012, a leader from the Indiana Two-Spirit Society based in Bloomington, IN read a collective statement from the Confederacy.

The Confederacy has also signed a letter of support for the grant submitted by Prairieland Addiction Transfer Technology Center to Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, a federal agency. This grant has a significant Two-Spirit component and this leadership of this organization has proven to be a strong ally to our movement resulting in letter of support.

Finally, this resource directory is one deliverable of the Confederacy as well as some of the other information included in it.

For more information, to assist with the work of the Confederacy or to request a speaker, contact Harlan Pruden, at harlan@ne2ss.org or 646.351.7360.

TWO-SPIRIT GROUPS of the UNITED STATES

Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits (San Francisco, CA)

www.BAAITS.org

Central Oklahoma Two Spirit Natives (Oklahoma City, OK)

Contact: Corey Taber at okienativeboy@yahoo.com

Indiana Two-Spirit Society (Bloomington, IN)

Contact: Nathen at Natstein@indiana.edu

Indigenous Peoples Task Force (Minneapolis, MN)

www.indigenouspeoplestf.org

Montana Two-Spirit Society (Browning, MT)

www.mttwospirit.org

NativeOUT (Phoenix, AZ)

www.nativeout.com

Navajo Aids Network (Chinle, AZ)

Contact: Melvin at NANmharrison@aol.com

NorthEast Two-Spirit Society (New York, NY)

www.ne2ss.org

Northwest Two-Spirit Society (Seattle, WA)

Contact: Raven at raven_hr@hotmail.com

Portland Two Spirit Society (Portland, OR)

Contact: portlandtwospiritsociety@gmail.com

Red Circle Project (Los Angeles, CA)

www.apla.org/native_american/rcp

Texas Two Spirit Society (Dallas, TX)

Contact: Barry at barry.layton@texaswospirits.com

Two-Spirit Society of Denver (Denver, CO)

www.denvertwospirit.com

Two-Spirit Society of Indian Canyon (Hollister, CA)

Contact: Holy Old Man Bull at mountainlion57@hotmail.com

Two-Spirit Society of Washington, DC (Washington, DC)

Contact: Marlon Fixaco at nativetouchdc@gmail.com

Tulsa Two-Spirit Society (Tulsa, OK)

Contact: John at hawknesw@yahoo.com

Wichita Two-Spirit Society (Wichita, KS)

Contact: Pam Harjo at pharjo@hunterhealthclinic.org

TWO-SPIRIT GROUPS of CANADA

2 Spirits of the 1st Nations (Toronto, Ont)

www.2spirits.com

2-Spirited People of Manitoba (Winnipeg, Man)

www.twospiritedmanitoba.ca

Dancing To Eagle Spirit Society (Vancouver, BC)

www.dancingtoeaglespiritsociety.org

Two-Spirit Circle of Edmonton Society (Edmonton, AB)

Contact: Ed Lavallee at edlavallee@shaw.ca

Regina Two-Spirited Society (Regina, Sask)

www.allnationshope.ca/Two%20Spirits.htm

NorthEast Two-Spirit Society's Daily Words of Wisdom:

Daily words of wisdom are daily Native/Two-Spirit devotional, meditation, and other words of spiritual wisdom and encouragement that is morning day. Email info@ne2ss.org to subscribe.

SAMHSA's Native American Center for Excellence's TWO SPIRIT PEOPLE THEN AND NOW: Sex, Gender and Sexuality in Historical & Contemporary Native America Webinar – September 10, 2012

Native American Center for Excellence (NACE) is a national resource center for up-to-date information on American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) substance abuse prevention programs, practices, and policies. An initiative of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), NACE also provides training and technical assistance support for urban and rural prevention programs serving AI/AN populations. One such was a TWO SPIRIT PEOPLE THEN AND NOW: Sex, Gender and Sexuality in Historical & Contemporary Native America Webinar. To watch this recorded webinar visit NACE's site at <http://nace.samhsa.gov/TTA/TrainingDocs.aspx>

Reclaiming Our Voices: Two Spirit Health & Human Service Needs in New York State

Download a copy of this report at the following link:

http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/reports/native_people/docs/reclaiming_our_voices.pdf

Honor Project, a National NIMH funded Two-Spirit Multi-year and site research project

Contact Information: Karina Walters at kw5@u.washington.edu or visit this website: www.IWRI.org

Additional Research Papers based on the Honor Project Data:

- Simoni, J.M., Sehgal, S. & Walters, K.L. (2004). Triangle of risk: Urban American Indian women's sexual trauma, injection drug use, and HIV sexual risk behaviors. *AIDS and Behavior*, Vol. 8, No. 1, March, pp 33-45.
- Cassels, S., Pearson, C.R., Walters, K., Simoni, J.M., & Morris, M. (2010). Sexual Partner Concurrency and Sexual Risk Among Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender American Indian/Alaska Natives. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*, Volume 37; No.12, December, pp 1-7.
- Lehavot, K, Walters, K.L., & Simoni, J.M. (2009). Mastery, and Health Among Lesbian, Bisexual, and Two-Spirit American Indian and Alaska Native Women. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, American Psychological Association, Vol. 15, No. 3, 275–284.
- Walters, K.L., Mohammed, S.A., Evans-Campbell, T., Beltrán, R.E., Chae, D.H., & Duran, B.(2011). Bodies, don't just tell stories, they tell histories, Embodiment of Historical Trauma among American Indians and Alaska Natives, *Du Bois Review*, 8:1, 179–189.

Indigenous Ways of Knowing Tribal Equity Toolkit

“This Toolkit provides us with an opportunity to...enshrine, in policy and Tribal Law, our continued commitments to justice and to demonstrate, to the larger public, Equity as an enduring community value.” Robert Kentta

Native American Program of Legal Aid Services of Oregon, the Indigenous Ways of Knowing Program at Lewis & Clark Graduate School of Education and Counseling and the Western States Center, the Pride Foundation and Basic Rights Oregon collaborate on the nation’s first guide for Two Spirit and LGBT equity in Indian Country.

In 2009 IWOK began working on Two Spirit and LGBT Equality issues in Indian Country through a generous grant from the Western States Center’s Gender Justice Program. During this early partnership IWOK redesigned activities from the Center’s Uniting Communities Toolkit and re-framed many of the curriculum tools to reflect the unique worldview of Tribes and Tribal People. IWOK also re-articulated the issue within the essential frames of sovereignty, self-determination and culture and rooted our work for equality in this core belief:

The work of decolonization can’t thoroughly happen without also addressing issues of Two Spirit & LGBT Justice. Colonization taught Tribal communities a great deal about homophobia and transphobia, and as we work to consciously reclaim and return to our traditions we must also reexamine how the effects of colonization remain enshrined in Tribal Policy, Law and Structure. For Tribal Nations, LGBT Equality and Decolonization are inextricably linked, one cannot be truly be achieved without the other.

Download the Tribal Equity Toolkit at:

<https://graduate.lclark.edu/live/files/12737-tribal-equity-toolkit>

Indigenous Ways of Knowing Project (IWOK)

Lewis & Clark

0615 S.W. Palatine Hill Road, MSC 93

Portland, OR 97219

Email: iwok@lclark.edu

Phone: 503-768-6155

Two Spirit Youth - prepared by Jessica Danforth of the Native Youth Sexual Health Network

Native Youth Sexual Health Network (NYSHN) -

www.nativeyouthsexualhealth.com is an organization by and for Indigenous youth that works across issues of sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice throughout the United States and Canada. NYSHN is the only organization in North America whose staff and advisories are all Indigenous youth under the age of 30, many of them Two-Spirit and otherwise Indigenous LGBT identified. An example of their numerous projects and front line work by and for Two-Spirit youth include this Healthy Sexuality and Fighting Homophobia and Transphobia Native Youth project.

We R Native

<http://www.wernative.org/TopicDetails.aspx?Id=22&type=SexualHealth>

We R Native is a comprehensive health resource for Native youth, by Native youth, providing content and stories about the topics that matter most to them. They strive to promote holistic health and positive growth in local communities and nation at large. The website linked above brings you to their LGBT and Two Spirit youth resources

Celebrate Life

<http://nativeyouthleadership.org/2012/09/09/michelle-sherman-how-we-can-take-a-stand-for-two-spiritlgbt-youth/>

Based on the Navajo reservation in Shiprock, New Mexico Celebrate Life honors individuality among Native youth by creating safe spaces for Two-Spirit/LGBTQ Youth through skateboarding, art, music, and writing.

Safe and Caring Schools for Two Spirit Youth

<http://www.nnaapc.org/publications/TwoSpiritBook.pdf>

This is a toolkit on creating safer spaces for Two Spirit youth in schools created by the Two-Spirit Circle of Edmonton.

Understanding the Health and Wellness Needs of Two-Spirit Youth and Other Tribal Youth with LGBT Identities and the Provision of Care within Systems of Care

<http://www.promoteprevent.org/resources/webinar-understanding-health-and-wellness-needs-two-spirit-youth-and-other-tribal-youth-lg>

This resource is an online webinar hosted in 2010 with the same name that includes supporting documents to reference.

Two Spirit Youth Speak Out!

<http://www.unya.bc.ca/downloads/glbtcg-twospirit-final-report.pdf>

This is a resource created by the Urban Native Youth Association (UNYA) in Vancouver, British Columbia with a needs assessment of Two Spirit youth throughout BC through survey results and associated projects and outreach.

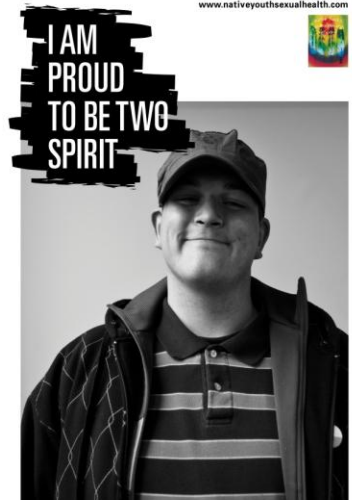
Migration Within Canada: 2 Spirit and Trans Youth

<http://www.actoronto.org/research.nsf/pages/migrationincanada>

These are the research findings produced into 6 fact sheets from a study done with Two-Spirit and Trans youth 18 to 25 across Canada who had moved to Toronto.

Two Spirit Movies

The Native Youth Sexual Health Network
Healthy Sexuality and Fighting Homophobia
Native Youth Photography Project
www.nativeyouthsexualhealth.com



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Native Youth Photography Project
www.nativeyouthsexualhealth.com



Ansbacher, H. (Producer), & Nibley, L. (Director). 2010. **Two Spirits** [Motion picture]. USA: Say Yes Quickly Productions.

Basmajian, S. (Producer), & Alberta, C. (Director). 1999. **Deep Inside Clint Star** [Motion picture]. Canada: National Film Board of Canada.

Chaiken, J. (Producer), & Bezucha, T. (Director). 2000. **Big Eden** [Motion picture]. USA: Chaiken Films.

Estes, L., Rosenfelt, S. (Producers), & Sherman, A. (Director). 2002. **The Business of Fancy Dancing** [Motion picture]. USA: Falls Apart Productions.

Jenkins, R. (Producer), & Unknown. (Director). 2003. **Two Spirits in Motion** [Motion picture]. (Available from Two Spirit Circle of Edmonton Society, Edmonton, Alberta).

Maurice, G. (Producer), & Manzano, J. (Director). 2000. **Johnny Greyeyes** [Motion picture]. Canada: Nepantla Films.

Unknown. (Producer), & Santiago, C. H. (Director). 1983. **Stryker** [Motion picture]. Philippines: HCI International.

Two Spirit Books

- Allen, P. G. 1989. *Spiderwoman's Granddaughters*. Columbine: Fawcett.
- _____, ed. 1991. *Grandmothers of the light: A medicine woman's source book*. Boston: Beacon Press.
- _____, ed. 1992. *The sacred hoop: Recovering the feminine in American Indian traditions*. Boston: Beacon Press.
- _____, ed. 1997. *Life is a fatal disease: Selected poems 1962-95*. Albuquerque, N.M.: West End Press.
- _____, ed. 2003. *Pocahontas: Medicine woman, spy, entrepreneur, diplomat*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco.
- Brant, B. 1988. *A gathering of Spirit, a Collection by North American Indian women*. Toronto: Women's Press.
- Brown, L. B. 1997. *Two Spirit people: American Indian lesbian women and gay men*. Philadelphia: The Haworth Press, Inc.
- Deschamps, G. 1998. *We Are Part of a Tradition: A Guide on Two Spirited People for First Nations Communities*.
- Driskill, Qwo-Li, Finley, Chris, Gilley, Brian Joseph, Morgensen, Scott Lauria (Editors). 2011. *Queer Indigenous Studies: Critical Interventions in Theory, Politics, and Literature*, University of Arizona Press.
- Jacobs, S. E., Thomas, W., & Lang, S. 1997. *Two Spirit people: Native American gender identity, sexuality, spirituality*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.
- Lang, Sabine. 1998. *Men as women, women as men: Changing gender in Native American cultures*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.
- Proulx-Turner, S. 2008. *She walks for days inside a thousand eyes: A two spirit story*. Winnipeg: MB. Turnstone Press.
- Rifkin, Mark. 2011. *When Did Indians Become Straight?: Kinship, the History of Sexuality, and Native Sovereignty*, Oxford University Press.
- Rifkin, Mark. 2012. *The Erotics of Sovereignty: Queer Native Writing in the Era of Self-Determination*, University of Minnesota Press.
- Roscoe, W. 1988. *Living in the Spirit: A gay American Indian anthology*. New York: St Martin's Press.
- _____, ed. 1998. *Changing ones: third and fourth genders in Native North America*. New York: St. Martin's Griffin.
- _____, ed. 1991. *Zuni Man-Woman*. New Mexico: University of New Mexico Press.
- Trexler, Richard. 1995.C. *Sex and Conquest: Gendered Violence, Political Order, and the European Conquest*. Cambridge, U.K.: Polity Press.
- Spanbauer, T. 1992. *The Man who Fell in Love with the Moon*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers.
- Williams, W. L. 1988. *The Spirit and the Flesh: Sexual diversity in American Indian culture*. Boston: Beacon Press.
- Williams, Walter L. & Toby Johnson. 2006. *Two Spirits: A Story of Life with the Navajo*. Maple Shade, NJ: Lethe Press.

Two-Spirit Specific Training:

“Two-Spirit Then and Now: Reclaiming Our Place of Honor” is designed to enable participants who are working as behavioral health, mental health, substance abuse and HIV/AIDS care providers to work more effectively with Two-Spirit people. This training is also easily modified to our populations like grant-makers. This training is offered in several formats: half day, full day or intensive day and half training.

The workshop provides participants, both Native and non-Native, with an opportunity to examine and discuss how historical trauma led to the dissolution of the role and the displacement of Two-Spirit people from within their tribes and native communities. The connection between the displacement of Two-Spirit people from their heritage, and who routinely experience stigma and discrimination in both in both Native and mainstream society, is presented and discussed in terms of the subsequent impact on their health and mental health risks, health disparities and recovery support needs.

The workshop examines intervention and healing approaches that utilize traditional practices, including those that incorporated the special role of Two-Spirit people in traditional Native communities. The work of Dr. Joseph Gone and Dr. Alex Wilson on the integration of traditional practices, Two-Spirit identity and role affirmation, and current behavioral health interventions with examples of this work in Native treatment centers in Canada and USA. Practice case studies are used to apply this knowledge of these trainings to make this an interactive and engaging workshop session for participants.

The workshop also provides participants with resources for further learning and links to Two-Spirit organizations in Canada and USA. For more information on these workshops or on Two-Spirit organizations and additional resources, contact me: Harlan Pruden at training@ne2ss.org or at [646.351.7360](tel:646.351.7360).

About the trainers:

Sharon M. Day, (Ojibwe) is the Executive Director and co-founder of the Indigenous Peoples Task Force, in Minneapolis, NM and a member of the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe: an artist, musician, educator and community activist. For the past 25 year, Sharon has been leading the charge in the fight of stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS in our Native community. Some examples of her work were directing the Ogitchidag Theater Project for youth and created the Manidoowahdak Odena Housing Village for families living with HIV/AIDS in Minneapolis. Sharon has years of executive director experience and is particularly skilled in creating collaborations of people from diverse backgrounds to work on social justice issues and ensuring Native American leadership opportunities.

Harlan Pruden, (First Nations Cree) is a co-founder of the NorthEast Two Spirit Society based in NYC, where he works organize the two-spirit (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Native) community. After committing himself to sobriety almost 26 years ago, Harlan became the first person in his family to attend university and now devotes his life to First Nations community organizing and other progressive causes.