Gender Diversity Access, Inclusion, and Safety
Important Terms to Know

Certain terms relate to one another and fit together to form a larger picture of Indigenous Anti-Racism comprehension. Instead of alphabetical order, the terms are presented in an order recommended for the best possible learning and development.

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Gender Binary

"A view that there are only two genders (girls/women and boys/men) that are separate and unchanging".

Non-Binary

"This umbrella term refers to diverse people whose gender identity is neither female nor male. Some individuals self-identify as non-binary, whereas others may use terms such as Gender Non-conforming, Genderqueer, or Agender. Non-binary people may or may not conform to societal expectations for their gender expression and gender role, and they may or may not seek gender-affirming medical or surgical care".

Cisgender (also cissexual)

"Used in reference to people who feel their gender identity matches their assigned sex at birth; non-trans".

Gender Identity

"Our deeply held, internal sense of self as male, female, a blend of both, or neither; who we internally know ourselves to be (GenderSpectrum.org)".

Sex

"Biological attributes and legal categories used to classify people as male, female, intersex or other categories, primarily associated with physical and physiological features including chromosomes, genetic expression, hormone levels and function, and reproductive/sexual anatomy".

Trans (Transgender)

"An umbrella term that describes a wide range of people whose gender identity differs from their assigned sex at birth".

Gender Diverse

"Gender roles and/or gender expression that do not match social and cultural expectations; gender non-conforming; gender variant".

Gender-Inclusive Pronouns

"The inclusive pronouns they/them can be used instead of the gender binary pronouns (she/her, he/him) in order to avoid making assumptions about an individual's gender or sexuality. For example, "I have not met the new nurse. Have they started work? Would it be okay to contact them?" Note, some people use they/them as their own pronouns, finding that they/them more accurately reflects who they are, than binary pronouns do (she/her, he/him)".

LGBT2Q+

"An evolving acronym for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Two-Spirit, Queer, and additional identities. There are many variations of this acronym" (Trans Care BC, n.d).

Two-Spirit (2-Spirit or 2S)

"A term used within some Indigenous communities, encompassing sexual, gender, cultural, and/or spiritual identity. This umbrella term was created in the English language to reflect complex Indigenous understandings of gender and sexuality and the long history of sexual and gender diversity in Indigenous cultures. This term may refer to cross, multiple, and/or non-binary gender roles; non-heterosexual identities; and a range of cultural identities, roles, and practices embodied by Two-Spirit peoples" (definition used with permission from Battered Women's Support Service).

All terms and their definitions provided by:

Trans Care BC (n.d) *Gender Basics and Education, Terms and Concepts, Glossary*
Retrieved from:
http://www.phsa.ca/transcarebc/gender-basics-education/terms-concepts/glossary#entryS

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