

# learn about TWO SPIRIT



## Did You know?

Prior to colonization, Two Spirit people held **significant and revered cultural roles** within their community.

Many Indigenous languages do not use gendered pronouns or any gendered language at all.

“Two Spirit” is a direct translation from the Anishinaabemowin term ***niizh manidoowag***.

It was adopted as an umbrella term in 1990 at the third annual Native American/First Nations gay and lesbian conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Two Spirit is an identity **term** used by some Indigenous people across Turtle Island to **describe their gender, sexuality and spiritual identity**. Two Spirit people are members of Indigenous communities who **transcend the typical gender roles** and/or occupy a third gender role.

This term **distinguishes Indigenous views** of gender and sexuality from the Western gender binary which was imposed on Indigenous communities through settler colonialism.



# MANY INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES HAVE THEIR OWN TERMS FOR TWO SPIRIT PEOPLE

## Denesutline

Nake ?jk'ószí Dēne

Dene Translation from Horace Adam

## Cree

### Did You Know

In Cree, nouns are classified between living and non-living; instead of being gendered like many Latin languages



**tastawiyiniwak**

(TASS-TAW-WIN-EE-WOK) the in between people

**napêw iskwêwisêhot**

(nu-PAYO ihs-gwayo-WIH-say-hoht)

a man who dresses as a woman

**iskwêw ka napêwayat**

(ihs-GWAYO ga nu-PAYO-wuh-yut)

a woman dressed as a man

**ayahkwêw**

(U-yuh-gwayo), a man dressed/living/accepted as a woman.

Also translated as neither man nor woman or a third gender

**înahpîkasoht**

(ee-nuh-PEE-gu-soot)

a woman dressed/living/accepted as a man

**iskwêhkân**

(IS-gwayh-gahn), one who acts/lives as a woman

**napêhkân**

(NU-payh-gahn), one who acts/lives as a man