

# How Indigeneity & SOGI Intersect: Understanding IndigiQueer

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# Territory Acknowledgement for Maple Ridge

We would like to acknowledge that we are learning on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Katzie and Kwantlen First Nation. We thank the Katzie and Kwantlen First Nations for taking care of the lands and waters since time immemorial.



# Who am I?

**Tansi!** My name is Maxine Jackson (She/Her) and I am a Queer, Lesbian Métis Educator living and working in the Coquitlam School District (SD43), on the core territory of the kwikwəłəm First Nation.

I am a citizen of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), and am Métis on my Dad's side, and have Irish ancestry on my Mom's side.

I have been an educator for 4 years and have previously worked as an Indigenous Resource Teacher (K-12) within Indigenous Education, and now currently teach English & English First Peoples at Riverside Secondary School in Port Coquitlam. I am also a BCTF Social Justice Workshop Facilitator.



# Who are you?

Let's go around in a circle and answer the following:

1. Your Name
2. Pronouns
3. Where do you teach?
4. What do you hope to learn today?

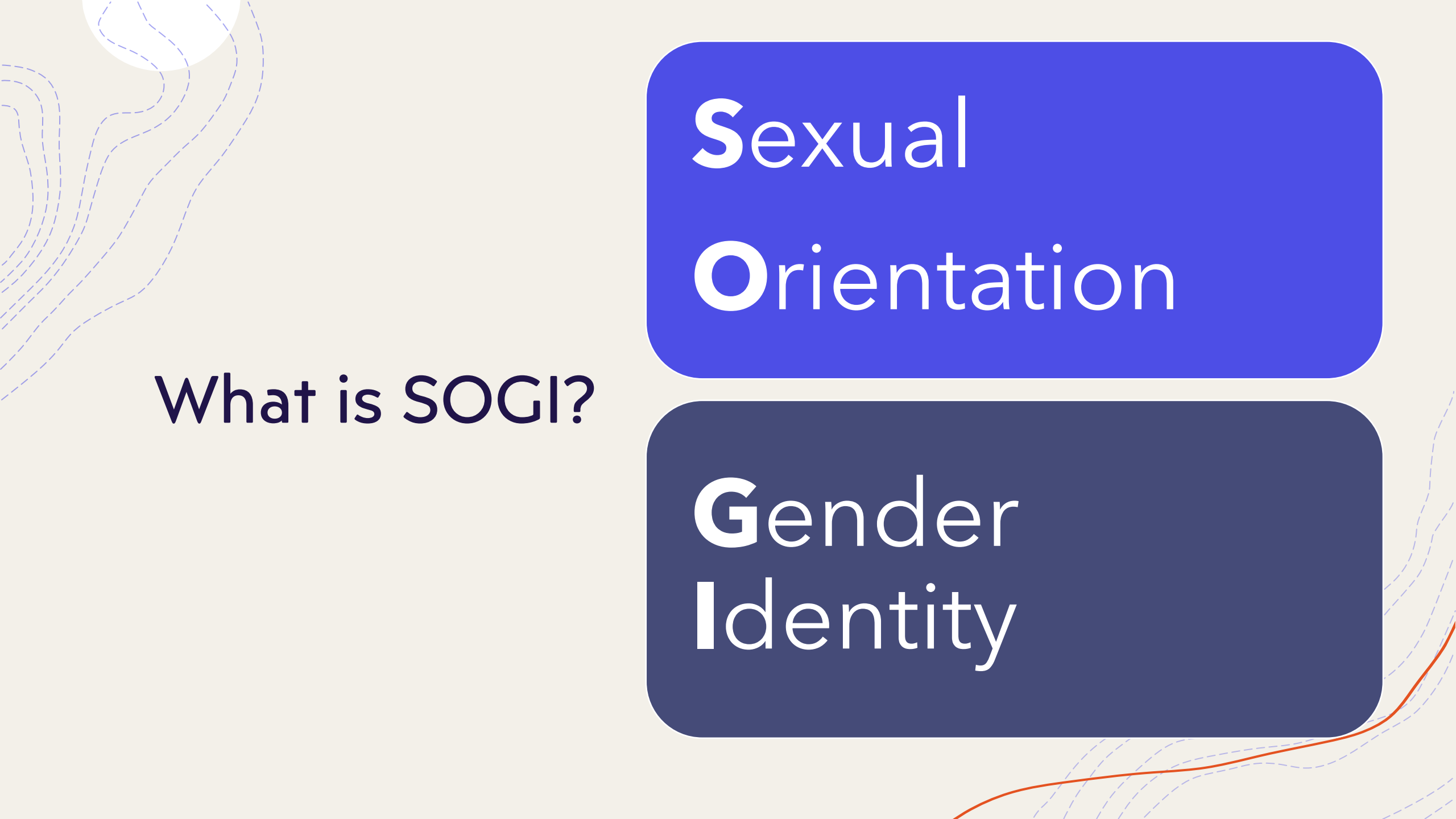


# Defining Indigenous

First  
Nation

Métis

Inuit

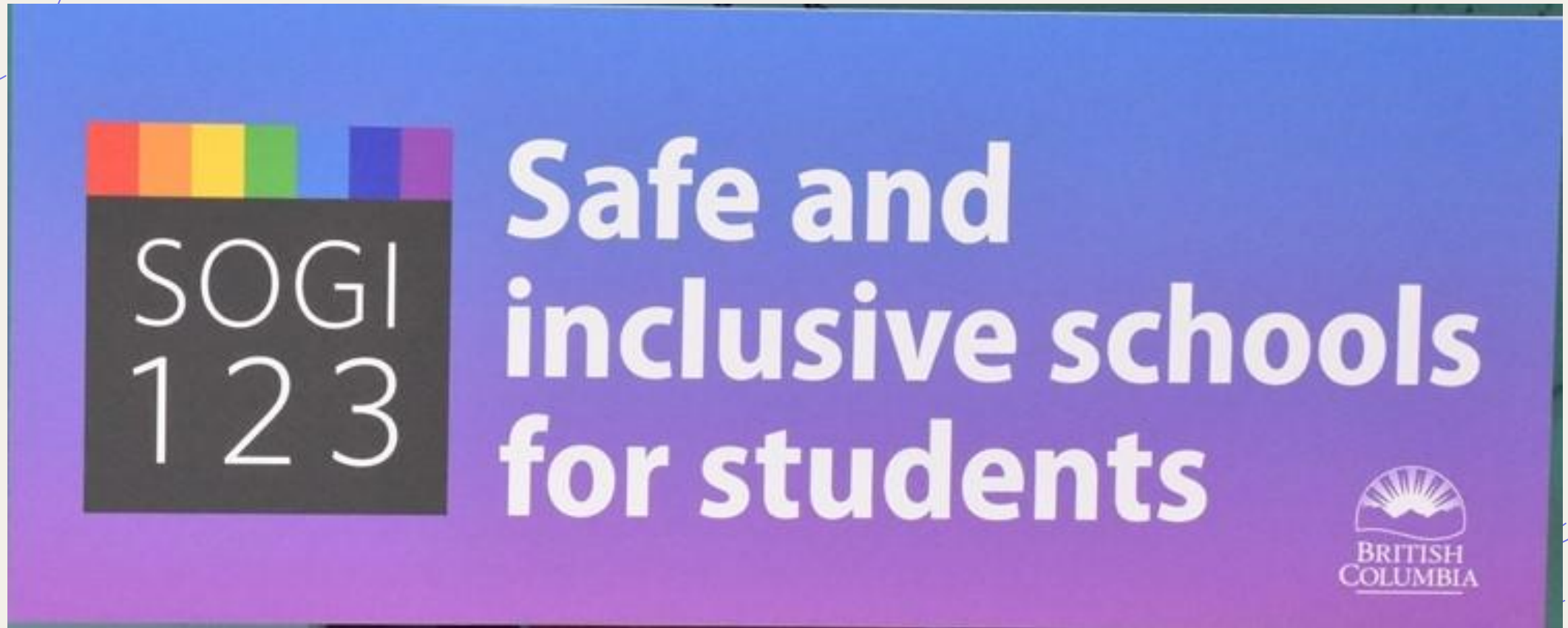


What is SOGI?

**S**exual  
**O**rientation

**G**ender  
**I**dentify

# What is SOGI Education?



# 2SLGBTQIA+...What does it mean?

**2** Spirit (Two Spirit), **L**esbian, **G**ay, **B**isexual, **T**ransgender, **Q**ueer/Questioning, **I**ntersex, **A**sexual +

...But what do these words mean?

And were still missing more!



# WHAT IS 2SLGBTQ+?

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



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

**2S** **Two Spirit:** A term used within some Indigenous communities, encompassing cultural, spiritual, sexual and gender identity; reflects complex Indigenous understandings of gender and sexual diversity in Indigenous cultures.

**L** **Lesbian:** A term usually used by women whose primary sexual, romantic, and/or emotional attraction is towards other women. Some non-binary people also identify as lesbians.

**G** **Gay:** A term used to describe people whose primary sexual, romantic, and/or emotional attraction is towards people of the same gender. It is also used to refer to men who are attracted to other men.

**B** **Bisexual:** A term used to describe people who are sexually, romantically, and/or emotionally attracted to two or more genders.

**T** **Transgender/Trans:** A term used to describe any person who has a gender identity that is different from the gender they were assigned at birth.

**Q** **Queer:** A term that was historically a slur against non-heterosexual and non-cisgender people. Some people have reclaimed the word queer as an identity term, though not all people in the 2SLGBTQ+ community use 'queer' to describe themselves.

**Intersex:** An umbrella term to describe a wide range of biological characteristics that do not fit into the conventional definitions of biological male or female.



**Asexual:** An umbrella term used to describe individuals who do not experience sexual attraction, or do so at a low level.

**Pansexual:** A term used to describe a person who is sexually, romantically, and/or emotionally attracted to people regardless of their gender identity.

# #4: SEX VS. GENDER

## SEX ASSIGNED AT BIRTH



When you were born, the doctor labeled your sex based on the appearance of your genitals. Many people have a combination of reproductive organs (internal/external), meaning they are intersex! This is a fixed category, unless surgery is involved.

Terms: male (AMAB: Assigned Male At Birth), female (AFAB), intersex

## GENDER IDENTITY



This is the way you think about yourself. Picture this as the "brain" part of your identity: how do you see yourself? What label do you use for yourself? For some people this is fixed, but for others it's fluid!

Terms: girl/woman, boy/man, non-binary, genderfluid, cisgender, transgender, etc.

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION



This is who you're attracted to. This is separate from your sex, gender, and gender identity: you're not necessarily attracted to women if you're a man, if you're masculine, etc. For some people this is fixed, but for others it's fluid!

Terms: gay, straight, bisexual, pansexual, queer, asexual, etc.

## GENDER EXPRESSION



This is the way you present yourself to the world. How do you dress? Do you wear makeup? What is your hair like? Do you present as masculine, feminine, androgynous, a mix? For some people this is fixed, but for others it's fluid!

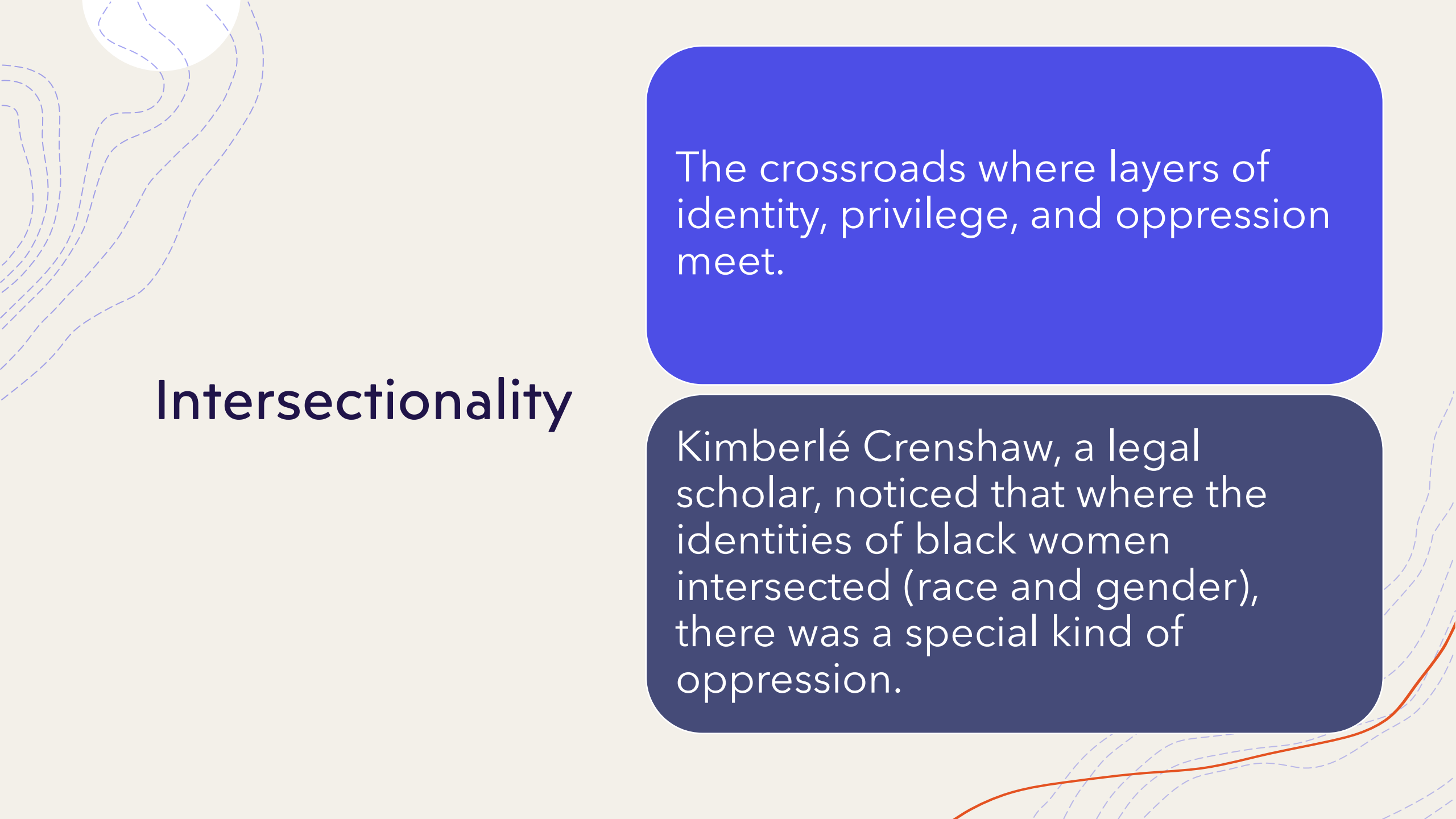
Terms: masculine, feminine, androgynous, etc.



# SOGI Curriculum Content from K-12



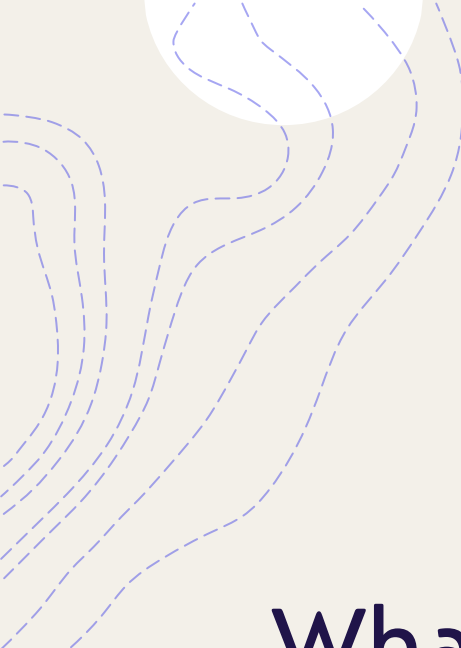
|              | Sexual Orientation (SO)                                                                                          | Gender Identity (GI)                                                                                                                |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Primary      | Family diversity<br>Same-sex families<br>Using “gay/lesbian” appropriately<br>LGBT people, history, human rights | Gender stereotypes<br>Gender is in your head<br>You feel your gender<br>Gender as a spectrum<br>Trans people, history, human rights |
| Intermediate | Global LGBT rights<br>Sexuality as physical/emotional attraction<br>Discrimination<br>Contributions              | Global trans rights<br>Gender identity as separate from sexuality<br>Discrimination<br>Contributions<br>Artistic expression         |
| Secondary    | Artistic expression<br>Political<br>Legal<br>Literature                                                          | Political<br>Legal<br>Literature                                                                                                    |



# Intersectionality

The crossroads where layers of identity, privilege, and oppression meet.

Kimberlé Crenshaw, a legal scholar, noticed that where the identities of black women intersected (race and gender), there was a special kind of oppression.



# What is Intersectionality?

Intersectionality is different from diversity

Everyone has intersecting identities

Some intersecting identities are more privileged than others

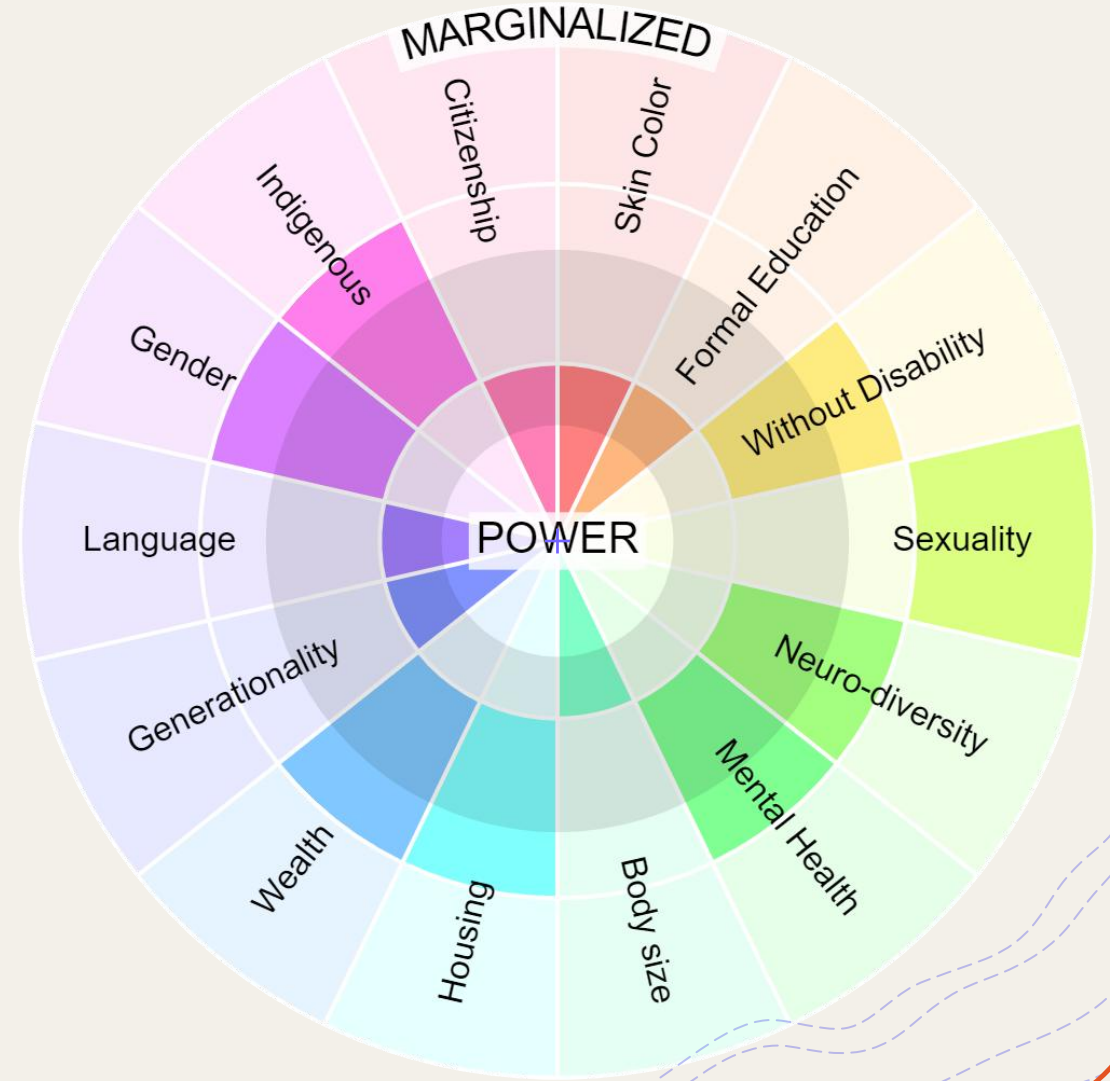
You can experience both oppression and privilege based on your identities



# SOGI 123 Intersectionality

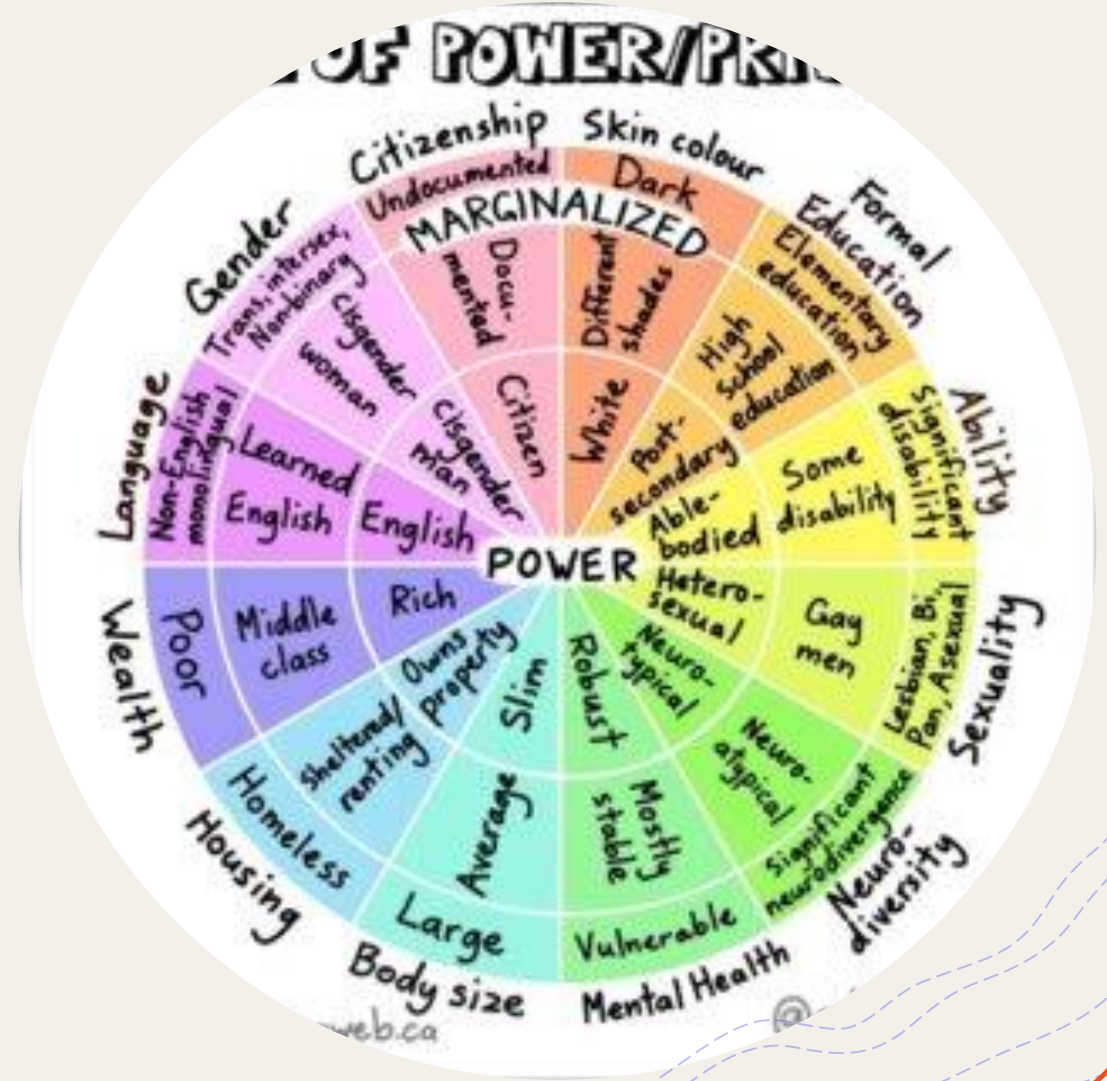


# Wheel of Power & Privilege



# Understanding Positionality

Positionality describes the unique set of beliefs, values, and location in time and space that shape how a person interacts with and perceives the outside world. It is interwoven in the dynamics of privilege and power.



# What is Indigeneity?

The term Indigeneity has emerged to describe the state of being Indigenous, or related to Indigenous-ness. As Indigenous Peoples, we recognize our Indigeneity, our Indigenous-ness, our identity.

# IndigiQueer & Two Spirit



# What does “Two Spirit” mean?



# Origins of Two Spirit

- + Myra Laramie, coined the term in 1990.
- + Understandings of Two-Spirit differs depending on the Individual & Community



# Origins of IndigiQueer

- + Indigiqueer is another term sometimes used alongside or to refer to the Two-Spirit identity; more often it is a term used by some LGBTQ+ Indigenous people who do not self-identify as Two-Spirit, or by those who identify with both.
- + TJ Cuthand is an Indigiqueer 2S Filmmaker who coined the term Indigiqueer in 2004.



# Important IndigiQueer Figures



Jordan Abel,  
Queer Nisga'a  
Poet



Billy-Ray Belcourt, Queer  
Cree Poet



Cherie Dimaline,  
Queer Métis Author

**How can we  
support our  
2SLGBTQIA+  
students and  
staff?**



# Being an Ally



What is an Ally?

Allyship is “an active, consistent, and challenging practice of unlearning and re-evaluating, in which a person of privilege seeks to work in solidarity with a marginalized group”.

Allyship in the context of supporting Indigiqueer people means unlearning what you have been taught about gender identity. Allyship requires that you **challenge stereotypical ideas** about Indigiqueer or 2SLGBTQ+ people. It also means accepting that there are many ways a person may express their gender identity and that **gender and sexuality are different characteristics.**



# Being a **Good Ally**

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Acknowledge Privilege

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Accepting Criticism

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Listen

---

Sit with the discomfort

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Take opportunities for learning

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# Respecting Pronouns

Respecting and using someone's correct pronouns is an important way of affirming someone's identity and is a fundamental step in being an ally. Common pronouns include she/her/hers, he/him/his, and they/them/theirs.

# What if you make a mistake?

1. Apologize! Apologizing is the best first step. ...
2. Correct yourself. Use the person's pronouns and name correctly right away.
3. Commit yourself to doing better. Practice using the person's pronouns correctly. ...
4. Keep growing. Growth can be uncomfortable.

# Gender Inclusive Language

Using Gender Inclusive Language can be more inclusive of students and their pronouns.



# When greeting others

Avoid:

**ladies gentlemen ma'am sir girls guys** etc.

Consider using instead:

“Thanks, **friends**.  
Have a great  
night.”

“Good morning,  
**folks!**”

“Hi, **everyone!**”

“And for **you?**”

“Can I get  
you **all**  
something?”

**Why?**

Shifting to gender-inclusive language respects and acknowledges the gender identities of all people and removes assumption.

## Be mindful of language

# Support for Students

- + Reach out to your schools SOGI Lead regarding a 2SLGBTQIA+ Club for Students.
- + Discuss SOGI topics and practice inclusivity in the classroom.
- + Reach out to Youth Workers and the Counselling Team.
- + Practice Gender Inclusive Language in the classroom, and during reporting.

# Support for Staff

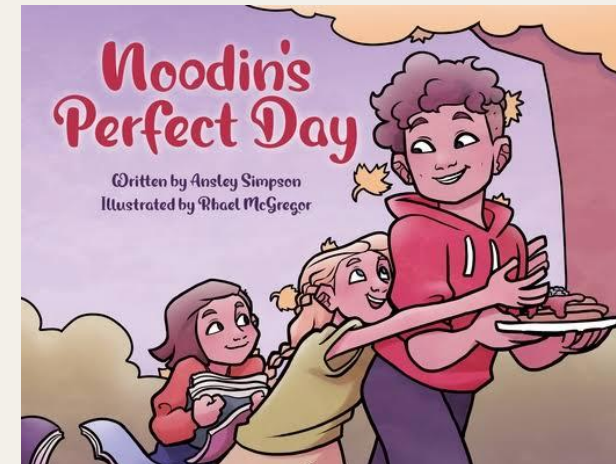
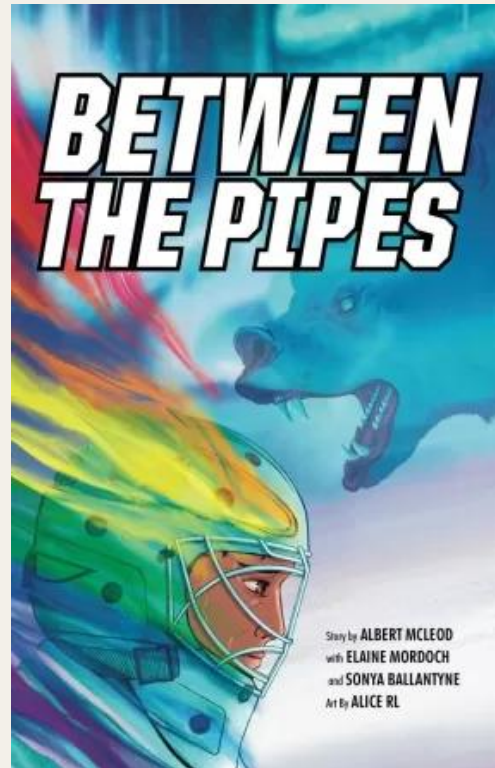
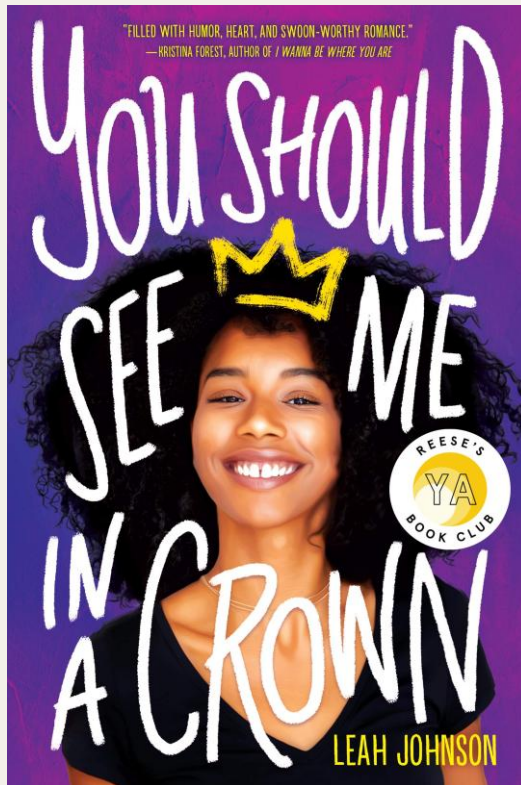
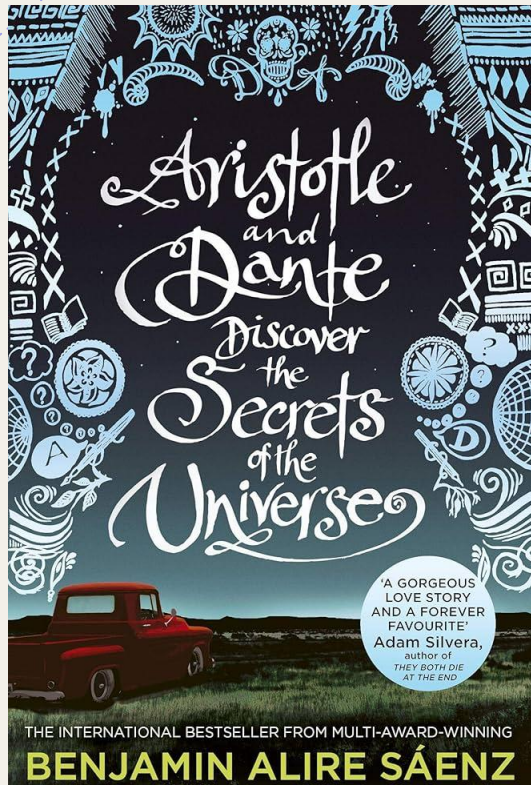
- + Respecting Pronouns among Staff
- + Be a **good** ally
- + Practice Gender Inclusive Language
- + Be supportive and respectful when SOGI topics arise during Staff Meetings
- + Recognize one's **positionality** and continue to learn about **intersectionality**.
- + Speak up when you see and/or hear something that is Homophobic or Transphobic



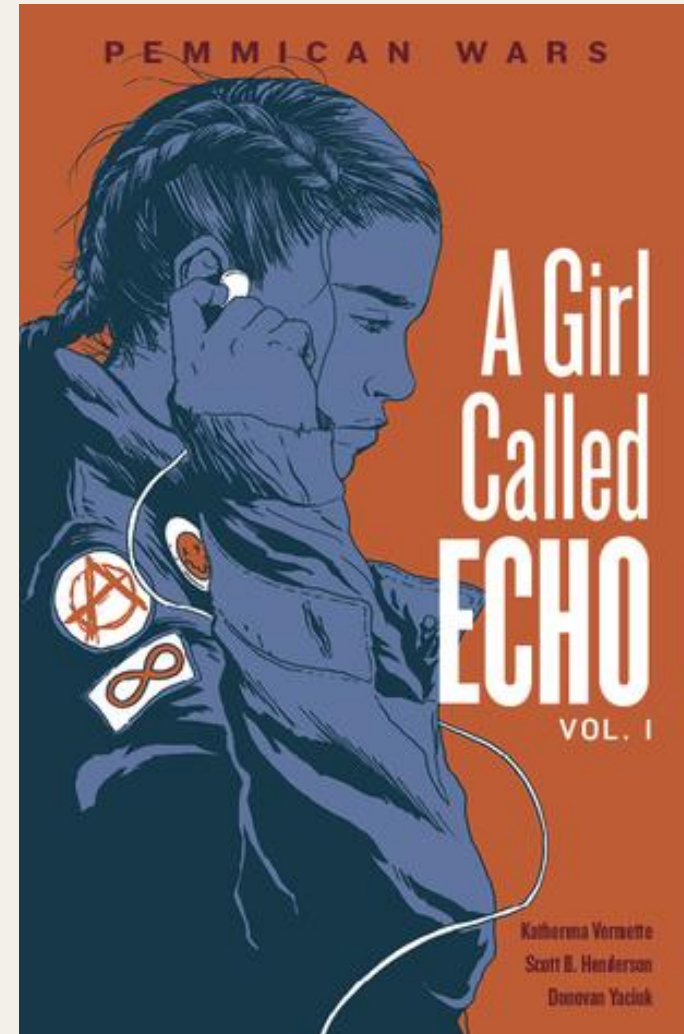
# Resources

**SOGI 123**

**RISE:**  
Queering Teacher Education



# More Resources (EFP Focused)



# Questions

Do you have any questions  
relating to today's workshop?



# Closing Circle: The Last Word

Let's take a deep breath (or stretch) and spend a moment to think about **one word** that describes how we are feeling about today's workshop.



LOVE IS LOVE



Thank You!  
Marsi 😊