

### **GENDER AND SEXUAL DIVERSITY DEFINITIONS**

2SLGBTQIA+: An acronym that in this case stands for Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans\*questioning, intersex and asexual. There is a wide range of other terms often included in this and the acronym tends to vary depending on the source. The plus sign (+) indicates the inclusion of all sexual and gender identities

Asexual: A person who is not sexually attracted to any gender or sex. Asexual people may still be romantically attracted to people of a variety of genders and sexualities and have romantic, non-sexual relationships.

Binary: A cisgender or transgender individual whose gender identity is either male or Female.

Bisexual: A person who is attracted to both women and men. A bisexual person may experience stronger attraction to one gender while still having feelings for another; this ratio of attraction may vary over time.

Cisgender: A person whose gender identity is the same as the biological sex assigned at birth.

Gay: A person who is attracted to someone of the same sex and/or gender as themselves. This word can be applied to all genders of relationships but has primarily been used in reference to men.

Gender: A socially constructed concept of identity based on roles, behaviours, activities, and appearance such as masculine, feminine, androgynous, etc.

Gender Expression: The ways a person presents their sense of gender to others (for example, through clothes, hairstyle, voice modulation, mannerisms, etc.). How one expresses gender might not necessarily reflect one's actual gender identity.

Gender Identity: A person's internal sense of being male, female, both, in between, neither, or another understanding of gender. This is not the same thing as a person's biological sex and may not be consistent with how they are perceived by others.

Lesbian: A woman who is primarily physically and emotionally attracted to other women.

Non-binary: A person who does not identify within the male/female binary system.

Pronouns: The words one uses to refer to themselves in place of their name (e.g., he/him/his; she/her/hers; they/them/theirs; xe, xem, xyr, etc.).

Questioning: A person who is in the process of questioning their sexual orientation and

gender identity.

**Sexual Orientation:** Refers to a person's attraction towards a particular gender or sex. Sexual orientation is defined by feelings of attraction rather than behaviour.

**Transgender:** Transgender, often abbreviated to trans or trans\* (the asterisk is intended to actively include non-binary and/or non-static gender identities such as gender queer or gender fluid), is an umbrella term that can be used to describe people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from what they were assigned at birth. Some trans\* people may choose to medically transition by taking hormones and/or having surgery. Some trans\* people may choose to socially transition by changing their name, clothing, hair, etc.

**Two-Spirit:** An Indigenous term describing people with diverse gender identities, gender expressions, gender roles, and sexual orientations. Two-Spirited people are viewed differently in different Indigenous communities.

Reference: AP 319 Gender Sexual Diversity