



**SAMUEL CENTRE  
FOR SOCIAL  
CONNECTEDNESS**

**Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness  
2024 Fellowship Program  
Project Proposal**

**PARTNER ORGANIZATION:**

Qmunity Camp NWT

**PROJECT TITLE:**

Reviving Traditional 2SIQTIP Identity

## **Partner Organization: Qmunity Camp NWT**

Qmunity Camp NWT was created as a project in 2019 and officially became an organization in 2023, to better serve our community. Our vision is the celebration and honour of identities and tradition. We do this by healing our past and future through reconnection to the Land. Our mandate is to create a space where all people can explore gender and sexual identities without boundaries and build community through traditional Indigenous practices on the Land. Built on our values of safety, acceptance, nurturing belonging, reclaiming knowledge and access to the Land, celebrating self and tradition, exploring expression, and reconnection. We do this through:

- Providing safe & inclusive gathering opportunities for 2SLGBTQIPA+ youth throughout the North
- Celebrating identities and expression within the 2SLGBTQIPA+ community
- Encouraging and fostering the arts
- Providing 2SLGBTQIPA+ youth opportunities to connect with culture and the Land
- Supporting 2SLGBTQIPA+ youth on their journey of self-discovery

By providing these opportunities, we're challenging the gender binary and heteropatriarchy violently imposed upon Indigenous communities removing us from our traditional ways of being. Too often, we see 2SIQTIP community members leave their home community and territory due to the gender-based violence they experience, and we work to change this. We hope our efforts to bring these opportunities to the North will bring forward essential discussions on 2SIQTIP inclusion and safety in cultural and on the land spaces.

Learn more at: <https://www.qmunitycampnwt.com/>

## **PROJECT INFORMATION**

### **Location of the Project**

Our organization is located in Sòmba K'è , Denendeh (Yellowknife, NT), but employees can work remotely. Fellows will be requested to attend Qmunity Camp NWT programming as a part of their contract and project.

**Fellows based in the Northern Territories, Yukon, Nunavut, Nunavik and Nunatsiavut will be prioritized.**

### **Section 1: Description of the Project**

2SIQTIP (Two Spirit, Indigiqueer, Queer, Transgender Indigenous People) too often leave their home communities and territory due to gender-based violence, homophobia, and transphobia. While gender-based violence is widely understood to encompass the violence people experience due to their gender identity, as a society, we often lack the understanding that it also encompasses the violence imposed upon others for their gender expression and societal gender attribution. It is under the latter that 2SLGBTQIPA+ community members experience GBV, often unrecognized to the same degree that

of cisgender women, in turn further pushing the bias of the heteropatriarchy and transphobia that imprisons 2SLGBTQIPA+.

Unfortunately, there is a lack of statistical evidence to show this reality that 2SIQTIP face in Northern spaces, and in general, there is a lack of awareness of the inclusion of 2SIQTIP in gender-based violence studies in the North. However, it is a well-known experience and commonality faced within the 2SIQTIP community in the NWT. Qmunity Camp NWT is invested in creating inclusive communities and keeping intact 2SIQTIP connection to the Land, tradition, and culture – recognizing our gender and sexual identities should not impact our access to the Land and culture. Because of the lack of attention to this specific population group and their experiences in GBV, we want to understand better the impacts of GBV, homophobia and transphobia on 2SIQTIP community members in Northern spaces. In addition, we want to know how community members create spaces of connections, healing, and belonging amongst one another and within their broader communities.

2SIQTIP have a right to healing, reclaiming traditional identities, and maintaining a cultural connection. In this project, we first want to understand how settler colonial states historically and currently disrupt traditional Indigenous identities. Then, we want to hear from the community how they reconnect despite barriers and how they resist colonial notions of gender-binary, heteropatriarchy, and lateral violence. This project will address the macro-level impacts of colonization as it relates to GBV and recognize the power of individual and collective resistance.

Working closely with the Camp Director to understand the realities facing 2SIQTIP in the North, the Fellow will engage in both desk-based and community-based research. The selected Fellow is required to attend Qmunity Camp NWT programming in June and August. This project aims to explore deeper the gender-based violence 2SIQTIP community members' experience in the North, with the key question being how do settler colonial states disrupt Traditional Indigenous Identities? Beyond removing our ability to self-determination of identity, how have colonial tools imposed violent bias, separation within the community and isolation of 2SIQTIP community members within cultural settings?

## **Section 2: Goals of the Project**

This is an opportunity for a Fellow to contribute to research that will inform and help shape our future advocacy and programming. Our mission is to enhance connection and belonging for Northern 2SLGBTQIPA+ community members. This research will help us align our programming to meet the unique needs of the community members we work to serve and advocate to Northern leadership the need to mandate the inclusion, support and healing for these individuals. As mentioned, very little research has explored this impact on Northern 2SIQTIP.

In addition, we want to know the impact of Qmunity Camp on staff, and participants. We know our programming makes a difference but want to understand how community members articulate and experience that difference.

**Ideally the final research report will serve three functions:**

**1. Articulate Colonial Impacts [Past & Present]:**

- Understand how do settler colonial states disrupt Traditional Indigenous Identities
- Research how colonial tools have imposed violent bias, separation within the community and isolation of 2SIQTIP community members within cultural settings

**2. Understanding & Evaluating Our Impact**

- It will be used to articulate the impact of Qmunity camp programming on individuals
- Help us evaluate the unique delivery and function of our programs.

**3. Help Our Advocacy**

- Through researching and articulating the intersection of GBV and 2SLGBTQIA + communities, we hope to use this research to advocate to Northern leadership.
- Demonstrate the strength of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities in creating their own sense of belonging and connection

**Section 3: Guiding Questions**

While other questions will come up during the research process, some initial questions for the Fellow to consider are:

1. What barriers exist for Northern 2SLGBTQIPA+ community members?
2. How have colonial structures impacted Northern 2SLGBTQIPA+ community members?
3. How do Northern 2SLGBTQIPA+ community members resist settler-colonial notions of gender and sexuality?
4. How do spaces, like Qmunity camp, foster relationships amongst people, but also to the Land and traditional practices?
5. What role does fostering connection to culture and traditional territories play in 2SIQTIP sense of belonging?
6. How can we celebrate 2SIQTIP strength and resistance, while actively combating the ongoing harms of colonization, and impacts of lateral violence?

**Section 4: Key Deliverables**

- **1 blog post** (500 – 1,000 word), posted to SCSC’s website
- **A Community Engagement Initiative** (CEI) in support of the Final Output(s)
- **2 Final Outputs**
  - A creative component - applicants will take a lead role in designing this creative component with the support of NWT Qmunity Camp & SCSC.
  - One complimentary research paper, 18 – 25 pages composed of primary and secondary source research, that targets the key research questions
- **A Final Presentation** with the cohort

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

### Key Attributes and Skills in the Applicant:

Priority will be given to 2SIQTIP+ applicants who reside in or are connected to Northern Regions (Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Yukon, Nunavik, Nunatsiavut).

- Interest or experience in land-based education.
- A passion for, or experience working in 2SLGBTQIPA+ rights and inclusion.
- Understanding, experience or interest in:
  - mental health education
  - traditional healing programs
  - Indigenous culture revitalization.
  - GBV with an emphasis on 2SLGBTQIA+ experiences
- Applicants **MUST** be able to travel and attend programming at Qmunity camp in June & August\*
- The selected applicant **MUST** submit a Vulnerable Sector Check, supported by a letter from Qmunity Camp and/or SCSC.

### **Additional Assets:**

- Experience working with youth.
- Trauma informed training.
- A valid driver's license.

\*Applicants travel will be supported in part by NWT Qmunity Camp.

### About the Fellowship/What the Fellowship Offers

The Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness (SCSC) Social Connectedness Fellowship empowers young people and people with a variety of different types of lived experience to partner with groundbreaking organizations from around the world to carry out innovative research on social isolation and belonging.

SCSC defines belonging as connection to the 4 Ps: people, place, power, and purpose. This is to say that belonging comes through our relationships with other people as well as through our rootedness in nature, our ability to influence social, political and economic decision-making, and our capacity to find shared meaning and purpose in our lives. The Fellowship offers a unique opportunity to apply the lens of Belonging, thinking intersectionally, and holistically about the problems of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

These are paid positions, starting on **May 6, 2024**, and ending on **September 27, 2024**. From **May – August the position is full time, 35 hours per week** and in **September the hours are reduced to part time, 10-20 hours per week**.

### **SCSC Offers:**

- Competitive wages adjusted according to each Fellow's geographic location and experience.

- o Applicants to this project can expect a rate of \$28 - 32 CAD per hour. Applicants in NT, NU, YK can expect \$32 per hour.
- Opportunity to work with national & international community partners
- Capacity building, skills development, & mentorship
- Ability to network, and be part of an international cohort
- All Fellowship works are published on the SCSC website
- The Fellow's work will be supported by regular supervision meetings with both organizations, and a 1-week long orientation at SCSC.

### **Program Requirements:**

- Be able to work at least 4 hours per day (in alignment with the 9-5 workday) in Eastern Standard Time to ensure overlap with the Toronto-based team.
- Be ready to engage in regular online meetings, check-ins, capacity building sessions, and work remotely.
- Ability to take initiative, manage their time effectively, work independently, and draw from different resources to support their work.
- Have a passion for research and building a more inclusive, belonging-oriented world.

## **EQUITY STATEMENT**

The Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness is an equal opportunity employer, and we encourage applicants to apply even if they do not meet all the criteria. We believe all candidates have something to bring to the organization and the role. If you have skills outside the job description that you think can benefit the project, let us know in your cover letter. We encourage all equity-seeking groups, such as immigrants, Black and Indigenous communities, people of color, women, young people, 2SLGBTQ+ community members, people with disabilities, and people who have been justice-impacted to apply.

**Please tell us if you need accommodation throughout the application process and we are happy to support you.**

**You can email any accommodation requests to [scfellowship@scscglobal.org](mailto:scfellowship@scscglobal.org)**