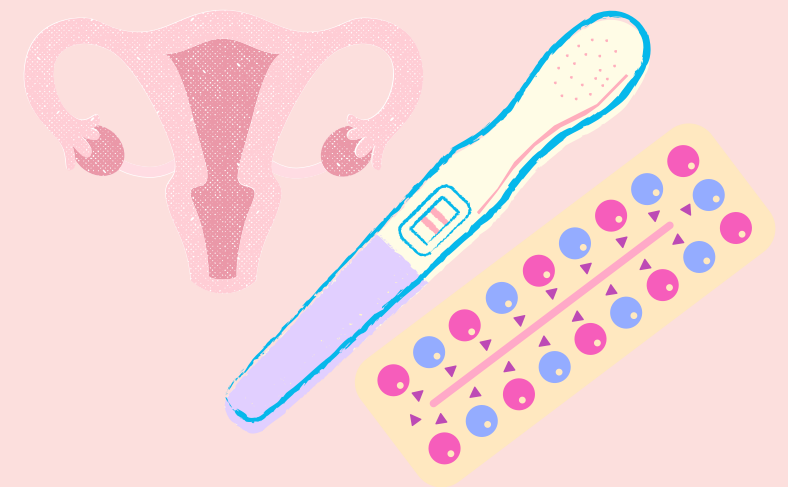




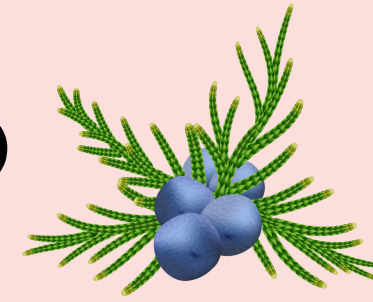
# BARRIERS TO ABORTION ACCESS FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN CANADA

Challenges and Paths Forward

Seren Friskie



# WHO AM I?



Seren Friskie

Grandparents Glen and Lori: Sto:lo and Cree

Daughter to a young mom

Reproductive Justice Advocate

Two-Spirit Researcher

Equity & Engagement Specialist in Youth Health

Board Member: Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada

Educator & Learner

A person who has had an abortion

# WHY THIS CONVERSATION MATTERS

- Reproductive justice includes the right to have children, not have children, and parent in safe environments.
- Indigenous people have been systematically denied all three.
- Abortion access is healthcare. It is sacred, political, and personal.



# SYSTEMIC AND HISTORICAL BARRIERS



- Colonial policies (e.g. Indian Act, Residential Schools)
- Coerced sterilizations and lack of bodily autonomy
- Racism and neglect in healthcare
- Jurisdictional confusion (federal/provincial/territorial)



# GEOGRAPHIC AND FINANCIAL BARRIERS

- Remote communities with no abortion providers
- Cost of travel, childcare, and time off work
- Lack of escorts or support for medical procedures
- Inadequate telehealth access
- Judgement, shame and stigma from others and internally



Stigma within communities and services

Language barriers and lack of cultural safety

Absence of traditional knowledge in care models

Religious interference and shame

# CULTURAL AND SOCIAL BARRIERS



# PATHS FORWARD - ADVOCACY AND ACTION

- Fund Indigenous-led reproductive health programs
- Normalize abortion in health education
- Train providers in cultural safety
- Challenge colonial healthcare systems



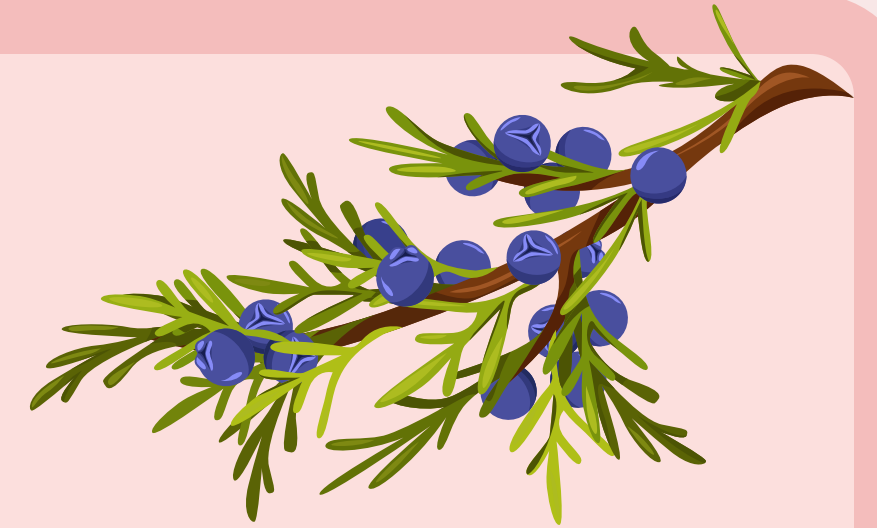


# WHAT CAN YOU DO

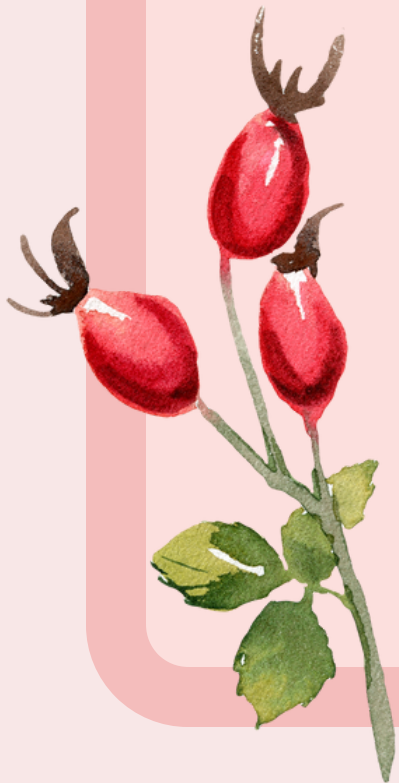
- Advocate for travel funding and telemedicine options in rural and remote communities
- Support Indigenous-led abortion doulas and reproductive health networks
- Push for cultural safety and anti-colonial training for all reproductive healthcare providers
- Include abortion in conversations about Indigenous health and sovereignty



# DISCUSSION



1. What barriers have you observed or experienced?
2. What role should service providers play?
3. What would be most helpful in your community?
4. Do you feel confident advocating for Indigenous abortion rights?



# RESOURCES AND SUPPORTS

## British Columbia

Abortion Support Collective (ASC)

ekw'í7tl doula collective

Huckleberry Midwives

Nesting Doula Collective

## Ontario

Aunties on the Road: Indigenous

Full Spectrum Doula Collective

Call Auntie Clinic

## Manitoba

Northern Manitoba Abortion

Support

## Northwest Territories

The Northern Birthwork Collective





THANK YOU

SEREN FRISKIE, SFRISKIE@FOUNDRYBC.CA