Barriers to Abortion Access for Indigenous Communities in Canada: Challenges and Paths Forward

April 24, 2025
1:30-3:00pm MDT

Access to abortion remains deeply inequitable for Indigenous communities across Canada due to systemic barriers, colonial healthcare policies, and geographic inaccessibility. This session will explore the realities Indigenous people face when seeking reproductive healthcare, including financial, social, systemic and cultural obstacles. We will also discuss ways to advocate for more accessible, culturally safe, and community-centered abortion services.

Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the historical and systemic barriers that limit Indigenous access to abortion care in Canada
- Recognize the intersection of colonialism, racism, and healthcare policies in reproductive healthcare inequities
- Identify strategies for advocacy, policy change, and culturally safe approaches to supporting Indigenous reproductive rights
- Explore resources and supports available for Indigenous individuals seeking abortion services across different provinces and territories

Speakers:

Seren Friskie (They/Them) is a Two-Spirit researcher and advocate committed to equity, inclusion, and justice. They lead work at the intersection of reproductive health, Indigenous rights, and anti-racism. Seren is a researcher at the Stigma and Resilience Among Vulnerable Youth Centre (SARAVYC) at the University of British Columbia and an Equity & Engagement Specialist at Foundry BC, where they focus on Two-Spirit, Indigiqueer, and Indigenous youth health. They have worked alongside communities to improve access to culturally safe healthcare and reproductive justice

Abortion Rights
Coalition of Canada

Target Audience: Indigenous peoples across Canada (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit), Healthcare Providers, Social Services Professionals, Educators, Advocates and policy makers working on reproductive health and Indigenous rights
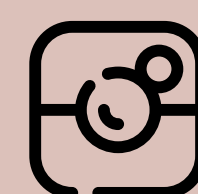
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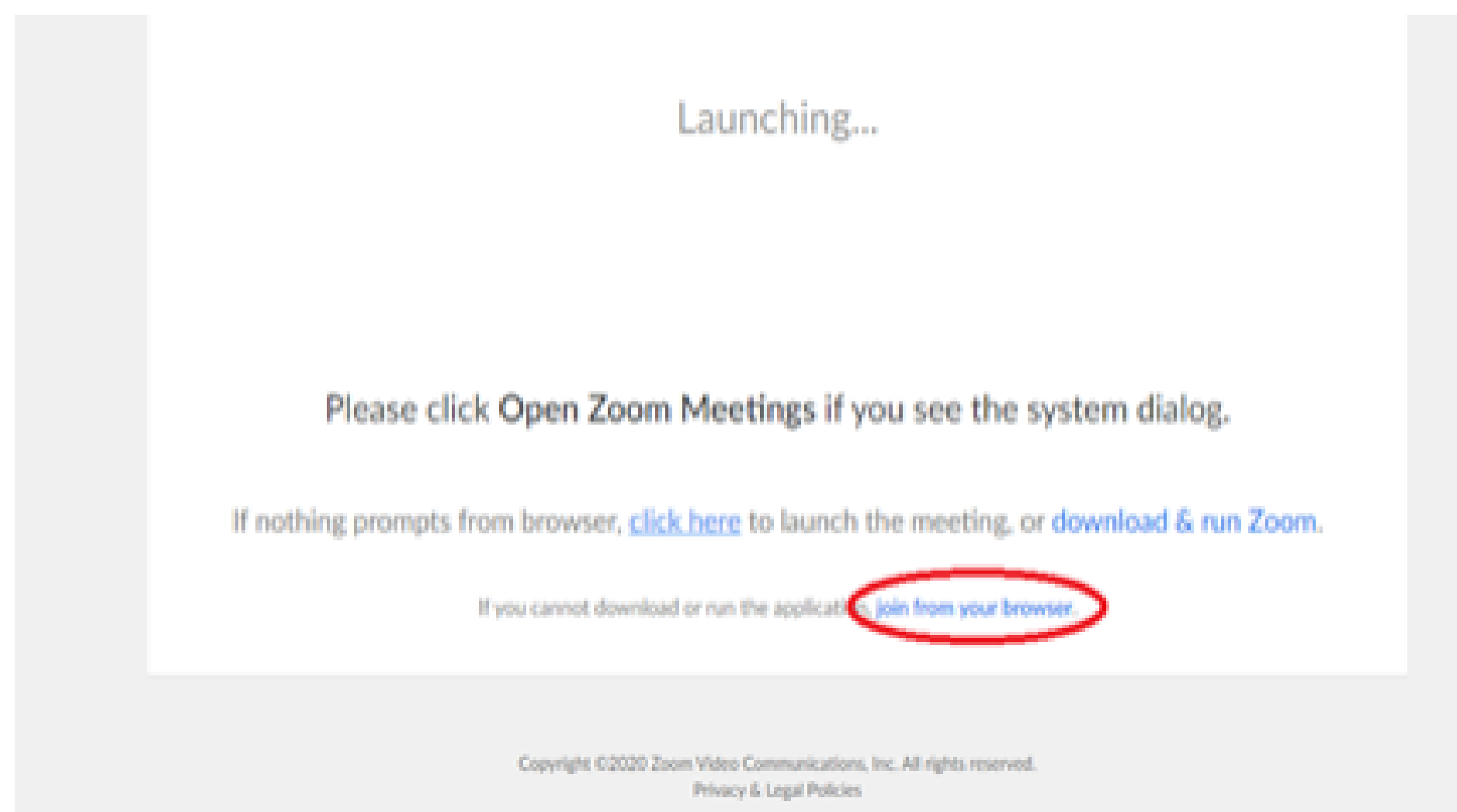3. Passcode: 594075
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