**Speaker Information:**

Harlan Pruden (pronouns - anything said mindfully and respectfully) is Nehiyô/First Nations Cree who works with and for the Two-Spirit community locally, nationally, and internationally. Harlan is a co-founder of the Two-Spirit Dry Lab and the Indigenous Knowledge Translation Lead at Chee Mamuk, an Indigenous health program at the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control. Harlan is also the Managing Editor of TwoSpiritJournal.com and an advisory member for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research’s Institute of Gender and Health.

**Talk Information:**

**Relational Accountability/Being in Good Relations:**

*Two-Spirit and Indigenous Health Research as a Site of Reconcilia(c)tion*

This discussion examines some of the issues surrounding gender (roles and expression), sex and sexuality diversity that existed in many Indigenous communities prior to western/colonial ways, ways that still do harm to Two-Spirit peoples and communities. This presentation asserts the necessity for and importance of the centering of Two-Spirit and Indigenous experiences and ways as being critical for respectful, reciprocal, relevant and responsible health research and knowledge mobilization. The presenter offers and models pathways forward based on the work of the Two-Spirit Dry Lab on how the research process may be done in more culturally safe and affirming ways. So health research(ers) are given the opportunity to do better research and to be better researchers, so they may work to formulate health research to inform and support policies and programs that are inclusive and honoring of Two-Spirit people and communities. The hope of talk is for research(ers) to be sites of reconcilia(c)tion (reconciliation and action), or in other words, to be in good/better relations with one another.

This presentation will focus on health research for Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ Indigenous peoples and communities, specifically focusing on the following objectives:

- Define Two-Spirit and the unique position this group holds in relation to the LGBTQ+ community and Canadian Indigenous cultures and parallels to the US Indigenous cultures
- Outline unique health challenges faced by Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ Indigenous people, and the ways in which these communities have responded to mitigate them
- Discuss ways researchers may improve access to care for Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ Indigenous people
- Describe decolonizing research and knowledge mobilization practices and ways so there is an opportunity to be in good/better relations with one another