

# The Context of the Study

- Thirteen LGBQ+ women who birthed in rural Nova Scotia participated in the study.
- The LGBQ+ women participants presented their sexual orientation(s) and/or gender identities as diverse and fluid over time.
- None were partnered monogamously with male-identified persons at the time of the interviews.
- Ten participants identified as White and the remaining three identified as First Nations, African-Nova Scotian/White and Scottish/French/First Nations.
- Ages ranged from 18 to 42 years of age.
- Data collection included conversational and dialogical semi-structured interviews with each participant having freedom to narrate their own storied birth experiences in rural Nova Scotia and their relationships with perinatal care providers.
- Recruitment criteria for participants were specific to woman-identified persons who had birthed. All participants were cisgender, meaning they identified with the sex they were assigned at birth<sup>9</sup> and were aligned with socially constructed expectations of gender. The

research team wish to note their recognition and understanding of the inclusion of transgender people to be necessary when they engage in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) research studies within larger contexts. These communities are an important representation of the diversity found within LGBTQ+ communities.

- When working with LGBTQ+ communities, language is an essential consideration and point of clarification. Thus, it is important to attend to the use of the acronym, LGBQ+, in the context of this study. The researchers recognize the limitations on, and complexities in, using language to represent the diverse experiences within what are also referred to as “Queer” or “Rainbow” communities. It is with this acknowledgement and understanding that the acronym, LGBQ+, is used to represent how the participants in the study identified.
- Recognizing the complex and diverse ways in which LGBTQ+ persons navigate the daily constraints of heteronormativity, there is both understanding and experience of these constraints shared amongst team members, as some also hold membership in LGBTQ+ communities.