

QUEERING

The

family

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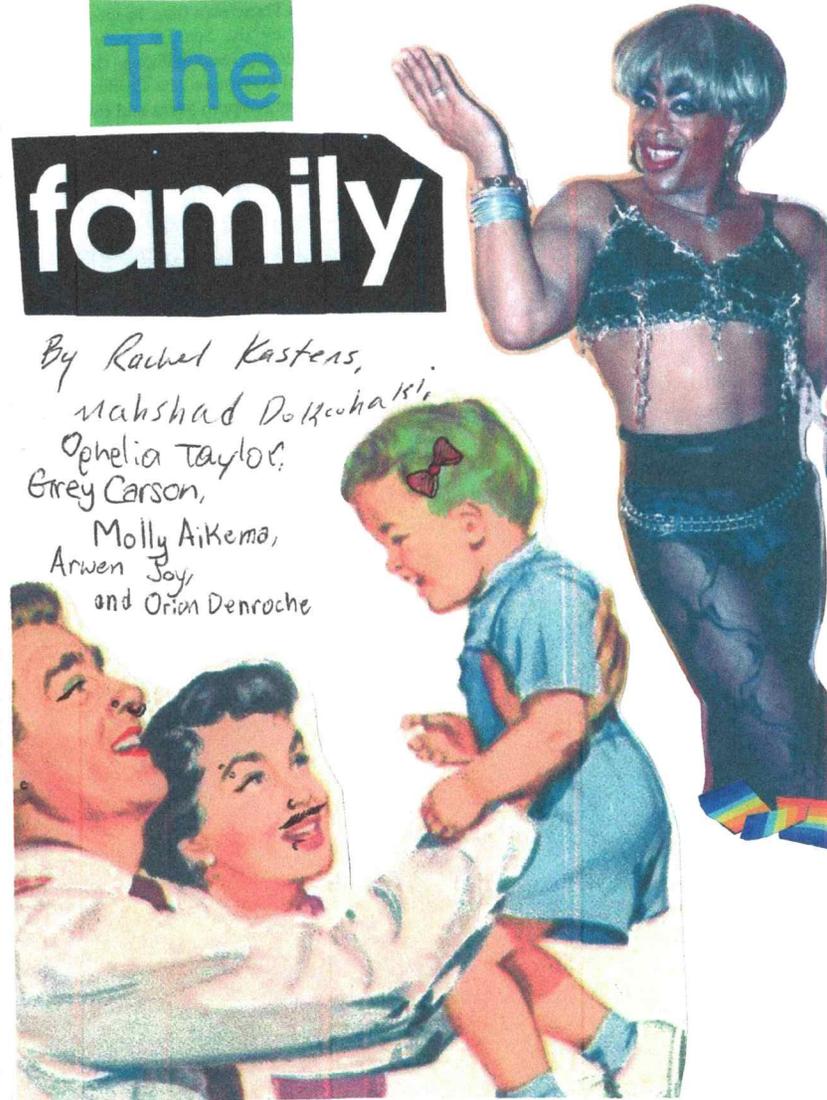
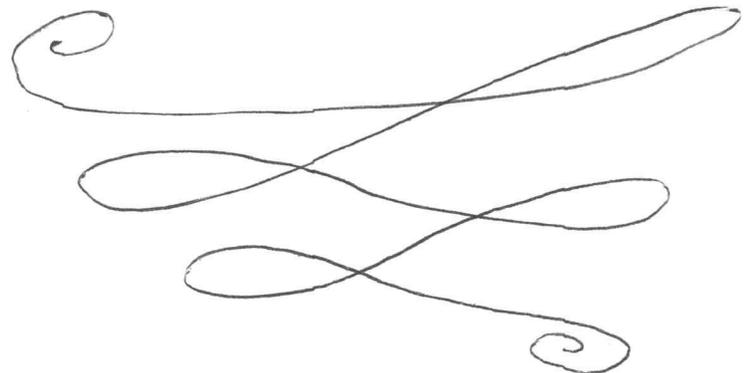


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Queerness

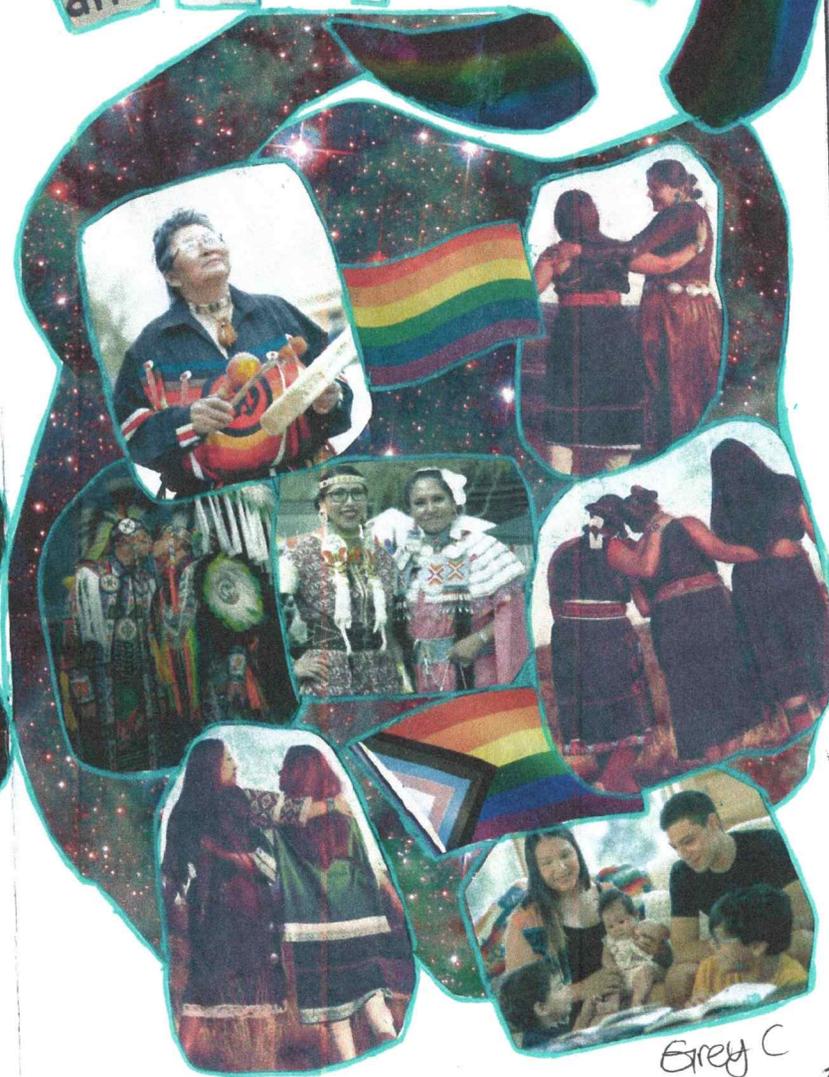
Colonialism, queerness, and the family are all concepts that intersect with each other. With colonialization, the Canadian government introduced laws and norms that criminalized non-heteronormative identities, forced families into the nuclear family structure, and reinforced traditional gender roles and marriage.

In "Ma-Nee Chacaby talks about Two Spirit Identities," Ma-Nee Chacaby shares her journey as an Anishnaabe Two-Spirit person. Through the guidance of her grandmother, she learned that Two-Spirit people have a rich history where they were highly respected and had specific roles such as medicine people, healers, visionaries, and messengers. Her grandmother also told her that she would have a difficult life because of her identity, but she also said that Two-Spirit people have both male and female spirits within them and "you have to listen to your heart, your minds, and your tummy" to find their true path in life (Chacaby, 2018).

Ma-Nee Chacaby's story relates to colonialism, queerness, and the family because as a lesbian and a Two-Spirit person, Chacaby was told by her grandmother that her life was going to be difficult, and this is because of colonialism and how anyone not fitting into the heteronormative ideal is criticized by society. Additionally, she spoke about family structures and how Two-Spirit people would be the parental figures of those in the community who did not have parents.

Thus, Chacaby's story highlights the interconnectedness of colonialism, queerness, and the family, especially in the context of Two-Spirit people. It emphasizes how colonialism has resulted in the erasure of culture, identity, and family connections.

Colonialism and the Family



Esrey C

As of my writing of this, I have gone over a year of no-contact with my parents. My father did not trust me on how harmful

Having suspicions of their transphobia I made the decision to remain in the closet with them until I was able to access her transphobia was, or even that it was hormones. transphobia at all.
My suspicions were somewhat confirmed when my sister came out, and my parents' response was lackluster. I have no doubt that my parents love me They were supportive on paper yet pressured her to not medically transition.
An already fraying relationship was getting pushed to its limit. very much, but unless they are willing to
Joanne went on to express belief in a number of transphobic myths and conspiracy theories spread by the far right.
learn in good faith and be accepting of me
I left their house in a storm, later that night emailing her sources debunking her misinformation before blocking her
and my sister with no exceptions I cannot have a relationship with them.
Naturally her response was to send me even more conspiracy theories. They cannot be a part of my life if their support is conditional or partial.

QUEER

Life NATION

Why I No Longer Talk To My Parents

by Ophelia Taylor

Double J-names

Affinity to Harry Potter

I lay claim to the blame

alienates a trans daughter

of my fucked up little brain

A lack of accountability

& abandonment of parental responsibility

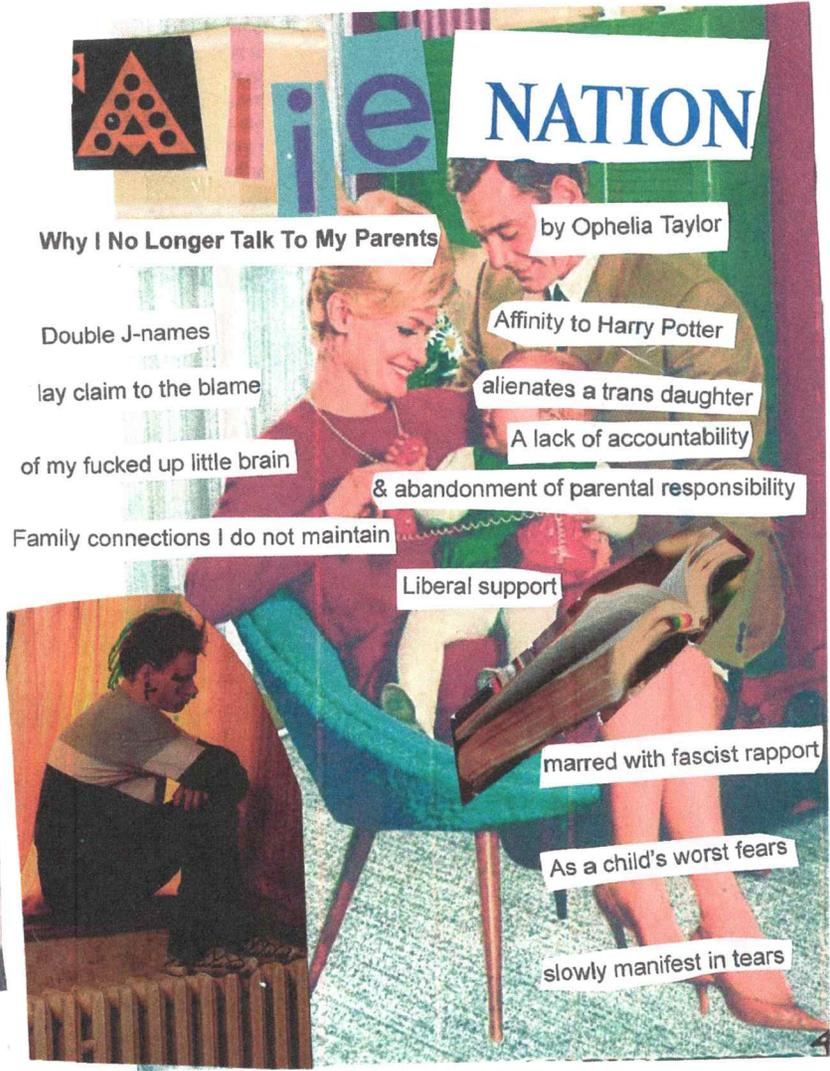
Family connections I do not maintain

Liberal support

married with fascist rapport

As a child's worst fears

slowly manifest in tears



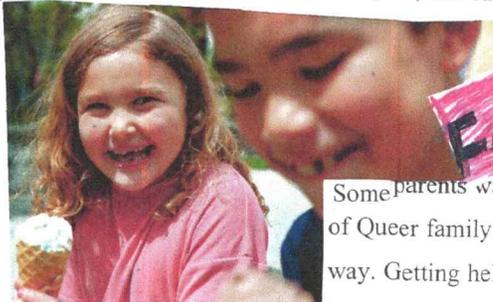
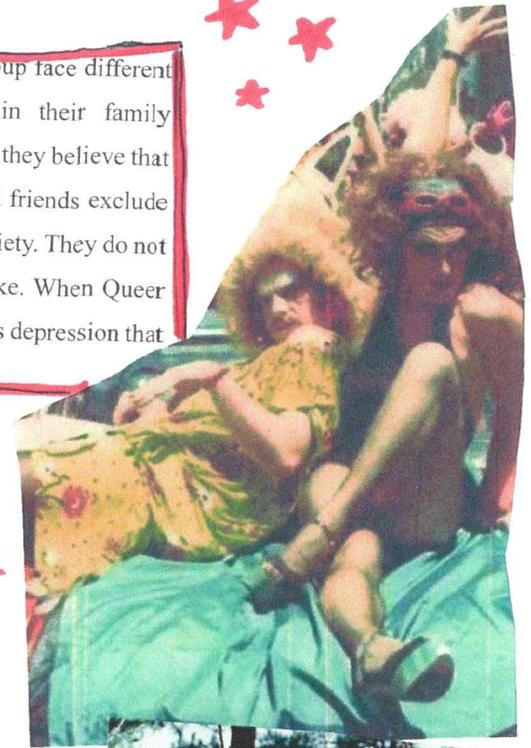
Queer Communication Via

Parents



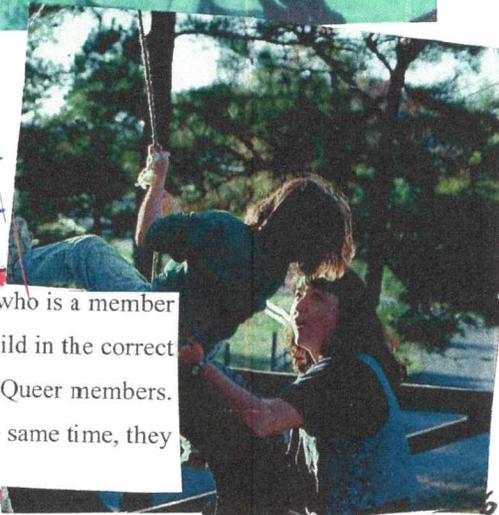
People who are members of the Queer community and as a minority gender group face different challenges like social discrimination, identity problems, and challenges in their family relationships. Some transgender persons fear disclosing their real gender identity. they believe that if they disclose their real gender identity to their family and friends, family and friends exclude them. therefore, transgender individuals hide their real gender identity in their society. They do not want to lose their family and friends' support even if they can not be as they like. When Queer people hide their real gender identity, they can face mental health problems such as depression that prevent them from experiencing normal life as well as other people in society.

Everyone needs family support in life. Queer people can be excluded from their family support because of their different gender identity. Also, they can face a problem communicating with their parent. Queer people and their family challenges are rooted in a lack of knowledge about gender issues. Both parents and Queer people need to acknowledge the gender issue. In this way, they can better understand different gender identities. According to Queer theory, when we behave with all people in the same way, we ignore their differences and empowerment. This theory suggests we should consider people's differences and celebrate them. this view shows that people despite their differences such as their gender identity can live peacefully together in society. Based on this view, if Queer people and their families accept each other differences, they can have a normal family relationship that depends on love, respect, and support.



FAMILY QUEER

Some parents want to have effective and useful communication with their child who is a member of Queer family. However, they do not know how to communicate with their child in the correct way. Getting help from psychologists and clinicians is helpful for families with Queer members. Phycologists can guide these families to protect their family relationships. At the same time, they guide parents to support their chide in the best way.



PARENTAL ROLES

If they're your kids you don't get paid.

In a nuclear family, the mother is expected to take on the brunt of the care work. They don't get paid for this type of work unlike teachers, day care workers, and nannies to name just a few. Women are pushed to pursue these intensive jobs that are classified as traditional "women's work" in which they are shown to be paid less than "men's work" (Albanese, 2023). The father's role is to be a breadwinner, but in today's society that is not a sustainable way of living. The cost of living in today's day and age has greatly increased which has resulted in more dual-income households than the nuclear family structure popularized in the 1950's (Kang et al., 2017).

Mothers are expected to:

- Care for the children
- Clean
- Cook
- Garden
- Be the household nurse
- Support their husbands
- Support their children's emotional needs

Fathers are expected to:

- Lead the family
- Bring in the income
- Control the finances
- Mow the lawn
- Do the heavy lifting
- Protect their family

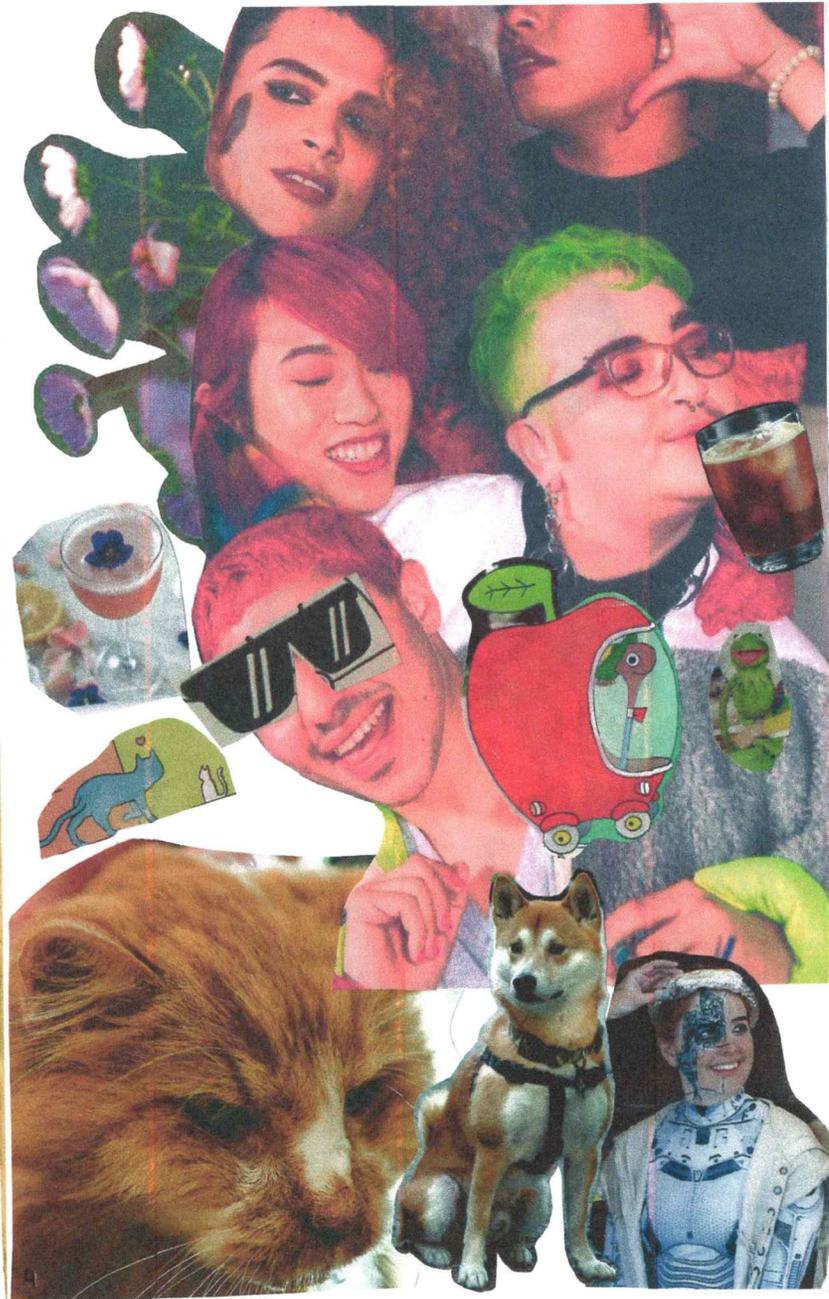
"I grew up in a nuclear family where my mother did almost all the care work while doing a full time job. I saw how much of a detriment the amount of work that she did had on her. If the care labour was split up between both parents I believe it could have been much more sustainable."

- Molly

"I've had several conversations with friends where we have discussed the topic of wanting kids or not. I've heard from my female friends the comment of how exhausting the work of raising kids is and how that was a factor in them not wanting them. With the amount of work I've seen my own mother and mothers around me put into raising children and how exhausting it is to do so it's understandable why being a mother is not appealing to many. Especially in today's society where more mothers are needing to work full time while also taking on the care labour."

- Rachel

FOUND FAMILY



Arguably one of the most important elements in the process of queering the family is the acceptance of non-biological families in all forms. One such form is the found or chosen family. This familial arrangement has been around since time immemorial, but is often associated with the queer community, due to the frequency that queer youth are rejected by their biological family in countries like Canada. For two-spirit people like Britney Perkins found families can help foster connections with two-spirit elders that aid them in their self-discovery (Enriquez, 2021). For other people, found families can take the form of an extended group of close friends who choose to live together and share life experiences. Found families are often an asexual arrangement, and as Dr. TallBear speaks to in episode four of her podcast *Feral Visions*, this sort of asexual cohabitation is an essential step in decolonializing colonial narratives about the primacy of the nuclear family. Thusly, found families play an important role both in queering and in decolonizing the family structure.

community

as

FAMILY

Community as family is an important support system for many people especially in the Queer community, though it is far from unique to this community.

People who do not fit into the societal normative expectations of being, living, or loving often have to create family and systems of support for themselves. For people in the Queer community this is especially true because so many of us face disenfranchisement and rejection from parents and biological family. Chosen family and friends are just as valid as biological family (Butts, 2019), and can even better than biological because people are actively choosing to support and care for each other, with no feeling of obligation motivating their love.

The nuclear family structure and societal expectations of family is based cis-heteronormative, couple centric colonial ideas. Prior to colonization Indigenous people lived extended kin groups, often including forms of plural marriage (TallBear, 2014), these created close-knit community and large systems of support.

"The people we love and who love us change our lives" – Aiko Yashimaro (2015)

I grew up in a small community, this was incredibly impactful for me because when my younger sister had cancer my family was supported by our home community in so many ways throughout her many years fight. I met many other families in that cancer ward who were incredibly isolated and had no community. I can't even imagine how much more difficult our situation would have been without the love and support from our community. – Arwen

