



(An introduction to)

# AN INTRODUCTION TO INDIGENOUS FEMINISMS

**A SHARABLE HANDBOOK OF  
RELEVANT TERMS AND CONCEPTS**







# WHAT ARE INDIGENOUS FEMINISMS?

Indigenous feminisms are resurgent and future-oriented politics which draw attention to the intersecting systems of oppression that continue to structure Indigenous peoples' lives. Indigenous feminists are concerned with how colonialism influences gendered power and labour relations.





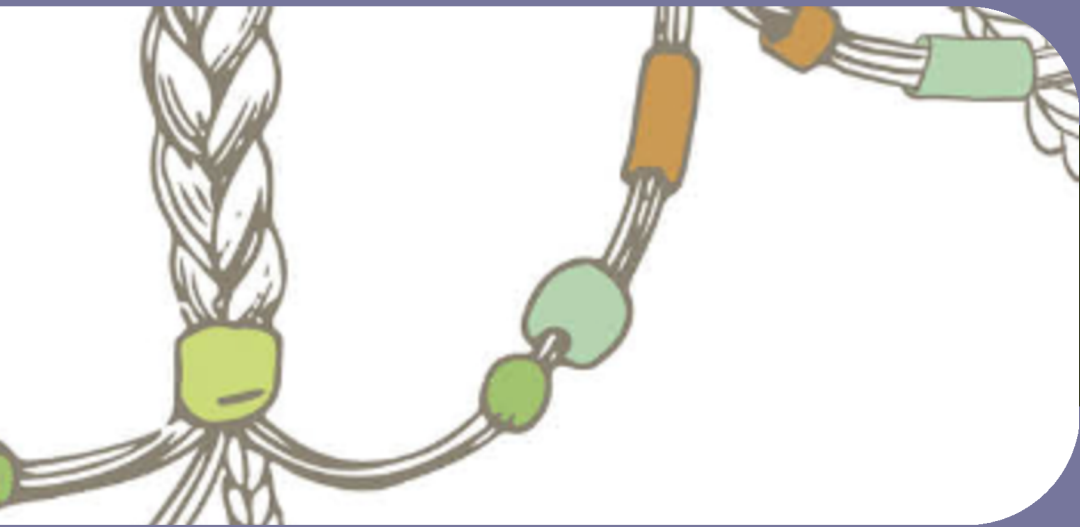
## KEY TERMS



**Indigenous peoples:** The many Indigenous Nations that have existed on this land long before European colonizers arrived. It is important to recognize that despite sharing many similar practices and experiences before and during colonization, Indigenous peoples are not one homogenous group, rather a collection of groups.

**Feminisms:** The advocacy for fair treatment for women and non men from within a system which devalues them. Race, sexuality, class, disability, and location are all factors impacting the lives of women differently across these intersections of identities. Just as many women are oppressed in different ways, using the plural term feminisms accounts for the diversity of women's experiences.





## KEY TERMS

**Settler colonialism:** A form of colonization in which replaces Indigenous Nations land and governance with those of an invasive settler society. This is not an event that happened, it is an ongoing process and social structure which continues to harm Indigenous peoples.

**Decolonization:** The process of resisting colonization by reconnecting with Indigenous ways of of being. Decolonization is centers and validates the laws, governances, knowledges, and practices of Indigenous nations, many of which predate those of the Canadian settler colonial state's.

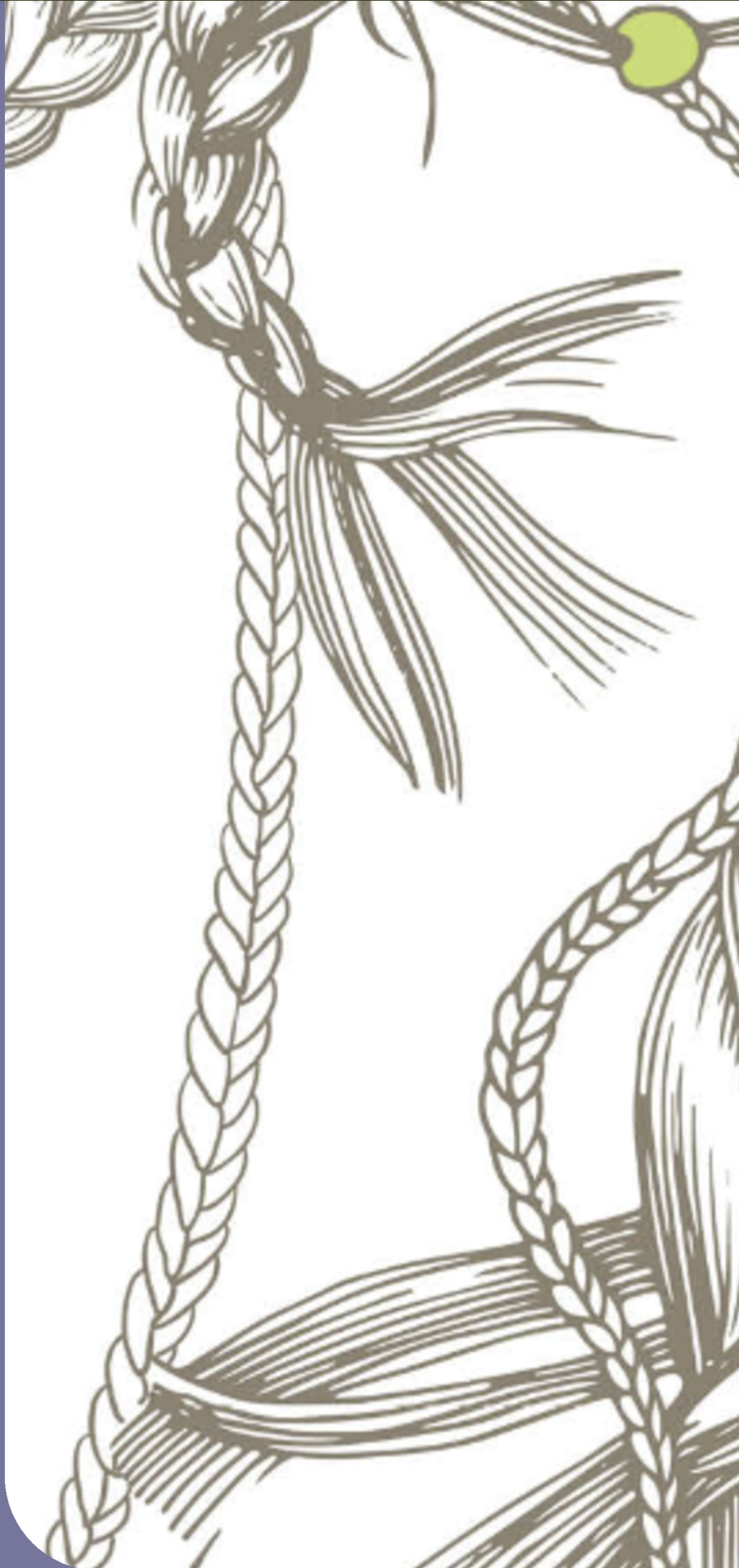
**Patriarchies:** Hierarchical social structures which empowers men and subordinates women as their dependents. Like any hierarchy, patriarchies create unfair circumstances for some people by assigning social status to their bodies.





# INDIGENOUS EPISTEMOLOGIES

Indigenous feminisms provide alternative ways of interpreting knowledge and experiences. The information we accept as empirically true is nonetheless shaped by settler colonial distinctions between facts and fiction. Thinking critically about what counts as knowledge opens us up to better accept the validity of other's stories, experiences, and ways of being in the world.







## WHY INDIGENOUS FEMINISMS?



Decolonization is in the best interest for Indigenous peoples and health of the planet. It's not just about restoring Indigenous self-determinance, it's also about dismantling the systems of oppression that negatively effect everyone in some way or another, even non-Indigenous settlers.

The systems of colonialism, racism, classism, sexism, cis/heteronormativity, and disablism are connected and must be abolished together.





## HOW TO PRACTICE INDIGENOUS FEMINISMS

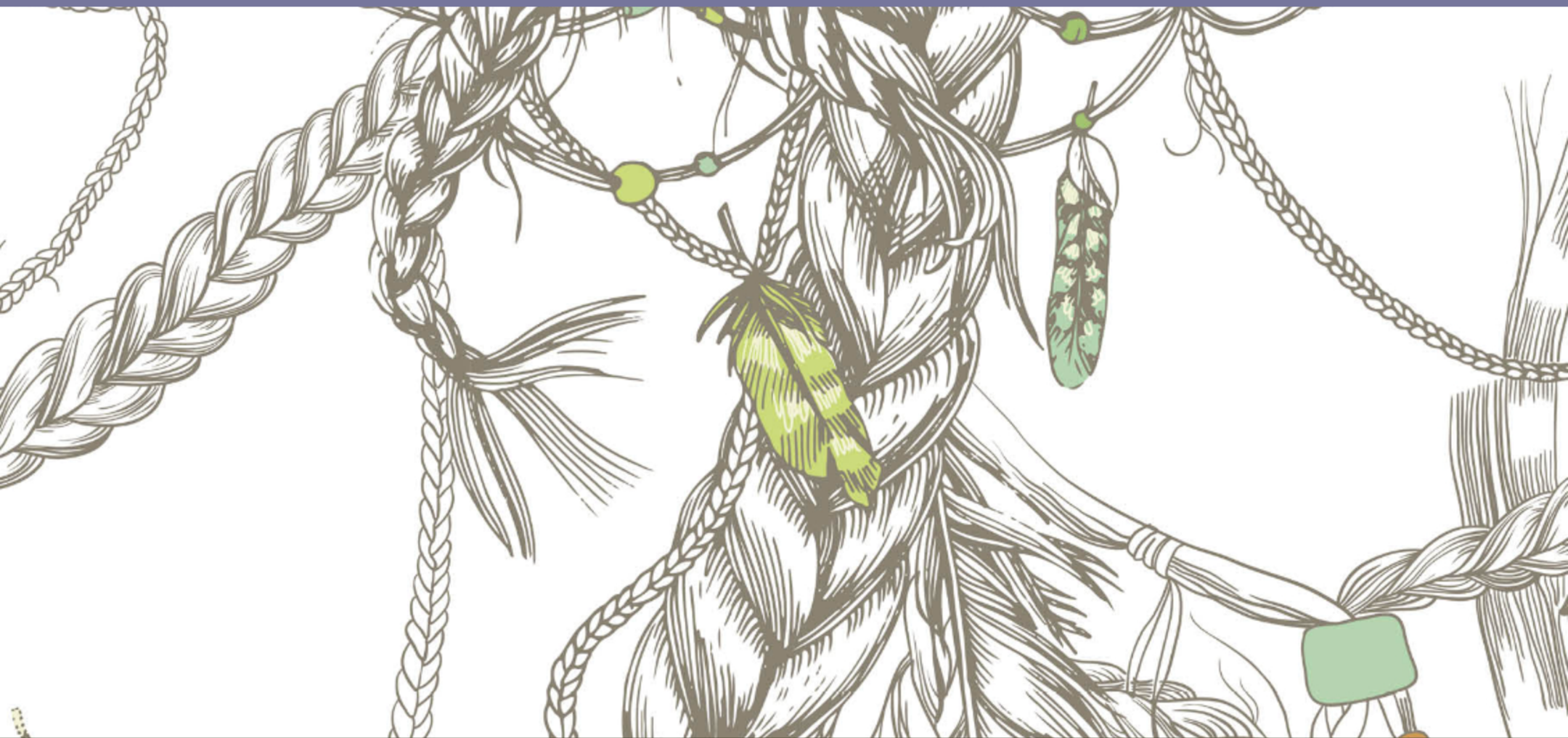
Recognize the connections between settler colonialism and the patriarchy, and how these troubles are multiplied for Indigenous women who are marginalized simultaneously by both. Think critically about your own relationship to land, water, plant life, and animal life. Indigenous women have always been active political agents and knowledge producers. Incorporate respecting Indigenous women as such into your thoughts and actions, seeking out their insight for yourself.





ALL INFORMATION IN THIS HANDBOOK  
HAS BEEN SOURCED FROM THE BOOK:

# “AN INTRODUCTION TO INDIGENOUS FEMINISMS”



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