

BIOGRAPHY



ABRAHAM FRANCIS

Abraham Francis is Kaniienkehaka (Akwesasne) from Akwesasne and Deer Clan. He has a BSc in Microbiology, 2014, and MSc in Natural Resources, 2019, from Cornell University. Recently, they became a Ph.D. student at Clarkson University studying Environmental Science and Engineering. Previously, Abraham was the Environmental Services Manager for the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. The position allowed him to develop and implement projects inspired and directed by community needs and influenced by his research interests.

His research interests are at the intersection of environmental studies, Indigenous methodologies, community engagement, education, health, social services, law, and cultural foundations as a means for empowerment and healing within Indigenous Communities.

He hopes to bring all his research interests and passions together within his dissertation, which is targeted at creating tools to support other Indigenous Communities to care for their environments from their biocultural contexts. Abraham has cultivated their expertise around their research and grown an extensive network of Indigenous Scholars/Knowledge Sharers, and Allies that carry a variety of expertise. Their expertise and network inspired the founding of the Aronia Collective, which seeks to align Indigenous Communities with experts to meet their unique needs and non-Indigenous organizations to engage Indigenous peoples meaningfully.



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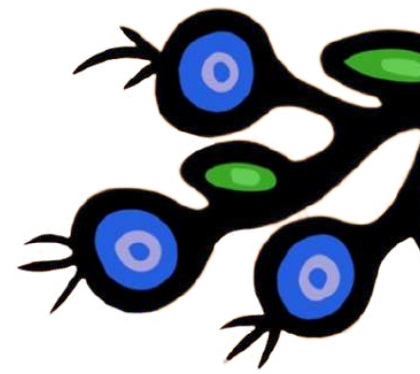


DR. ADRIANNE LICKERS XAVIER

Dr. Adrienne Lickers Xavier is an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Indigenous Studies and Anthropology at McMaster University. Her research focuses on Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge; including Indigenous food security, sovereignty and Indigenous ways of knowing. Her work is centered around community based research with the community of Six Nations of the Grand River where Dr. Xavier lives and works. Dr. Xavier continues to work with the organizations to understand the needs and concerns of the community around issues of food sovereignty, food and water security and wellbeing. She is part of Communities of practice, community research advisory boards and works closely with several Six Nations organizations.



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AMOS KEYE

Dehaeho:węhs – Amos Key Jr, is of the Mohawk Civilization, Turtle Clan and a Faith Keeper of the Longhouse. Amos is from the Six Nations of Grand River and the founder of Ontario's First Immersion Education School System: Gawenni:yo. He also founded CKRZ 100.3 FM Community Radio, the Voice of the Grand, and Ontario's First synchronous E-Learning Secondary School: Dream Catchers Secondary School. He founded the Save the Evidence Campaign for the restoration of the Mohawk Institute, Indian Residential School. He was also the founder/chair of the Grand River and Sky-dome Pow-wows. He was a Professor at U of T's Centre for Indigenous Studies. He was a presenter at the Heritage Canada's Standing Committee on Bill C91, an Act Respecting Indigenous Languages.



Amos' current work is with Indigenizing University of Toronto's Daniel's School of Architecture, as a Haudenosaunee Consultant. He is also Executive Director of CKRZ 100.3 FM

He is presently is a consultant: designing and creating Ontario's inaugural Bachelor of Education for Language Teachers. He just joined the Haldimand, Brant & Norfolk Separate School Board as consultant. He currently co-chairs and is founder of the Six Nations Language Commission. He is an advisor on the Leadership Committee on Languages with the Chiefs of Ontario Office. He is a member of 'Defenders Group' (Illuminati) on the Rights of Indigenous Languages, and the Chiefs of Ontario's LCOL and is a Board Member of the Weenguhs Film Institute. Amos was just recently elected to Six Nations of Grant River, Elected Band Council.



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ANANGONS JOHNSON-OWL

Anangons Johnson-Owl is the Early Learning and Child Care Policy Analyst with the Chiefs of Ontario, having served for a year. She has a background in advocating for accessibility needs for post-secondary students and culturally safe care for midwifery clients. She is a proud member of Sagamok Anishinawbek.



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DR. ANDREA SEREDA

Dr. Andrea Sereda is the lead physician at London Intercommunity Health Centre's Health Outreach program, where she cares for people marginalized from traditional healthcare systems.

Dr. Sereda focuses on caring for people who use drugs, people deprived of housing, women in the survival sex trade, as well as medical street outreach and care in non-traditional settings such as shelter or jail.

Dr. Sereda is the founding physician for Safer Opioid Supply (SOS), which provides pharmaceutical grade opioids to people dependent on the unregulated street fentanyl supply. SOS is a Health Canada recognized, SUAP funded program that is a pillar of the Federal government's approach to the overdose crisis.

Dr. Sereda is an avid harm reductionist, practicing solidarity with all marginalized peoples, with the goal of eliminating power structures in medicine that perpetuate poor health and oppression.



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ANGEL MARACLE

Angel Maracle is Haudenosaunee, Turtle Clan from Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory. Angel has enjoyed a rewarding career to date working in the non-profit sector for organizations that support Indigenous people, families and communities. She has over twenty years' experience developing, implementing, managing and evaluating outcome based community driven programs and services. As the Lead within the Chiefs of Ontario Education Sector, Angel oversees the federal files and works closely with communities and government to develop and implement policies and supporting various aspects of First Nation education.



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ALISON RICOLLET-SIMON

N'nuknea Shkwodea Kwe – Balance of Fire Woman, is Anishinabe Kwe from Wikwemikong, Bear Clan. Her spirit helpers are the Little People. Her parents are the late Sheila Recollet (Shigwadja) who worked at Mindemoya Hospital and shared knowledge and language to first nations people, and John Recollet, who is a residential school survivor and knowledge keeper.

Alison has worked on healing from violence, sexual abuse, and reclaiming her identity and has actively worked towards the abolishment of human trafficking and cultural wellness and education.

Alison's work has given her opportunities to share her journey of healing and deliver traditional teachings, resources, and practices. As an advocate, she saw a lack of resources on family violence pertaining to Anishinabek, and created the Firekwe Channel. You can watch this video, "The Seven Grandfather Teachings: A Women's Story of Healing," which was written for victims and survivors of family violence and sexual abuse.



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ANNA MARIE KAKEGAMIC

Kingfisher Lake Anisininiw Nation Director, Anishinaabewaadiziwin

Originating from Kingfisher Lake Anisininiw Nation, Anna-Marie is a steadfast and dedicated professional, fluent in Anishininimowin. With a deep passion for preserving and cultivating Indigenous culture, language, and wellness, Anna-Marie strives to integrate these fundamental aspects into health services, education, and community development initiatives to promote health, healing, and wellness for all Indigenous peoples.

Anna-Marie is also passionate about language revitalization and the preservation of Anisininiw culture for all future generations. Drawing from her



meaningful experiences working alongside Elders in various capacities, Anna-Marie brings an abundance of knowledge, both cultural and academic, as well as her perspectives and lived experience as Anisininiwikwe to her work. Their deep understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing and being enriches her approach to program development and framework design.

With a background in education and a keen focus on holistic wellness, Anna-Marie is committed to fostering culturally relevant and sustainable solutions for the community in a good way, aligned with the teachings she has been gifted throughout her life. Through her efforts, Anna-Marie endeavors to empower individuals and promote resilience while honoring the wisdom of the past. In all her work, she remains steadfast in her dedication to uplifting Indigenous voices, revitalizing cultural traditions, and advancing the well-being of the community.



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BENJAMIN WALD

Benjamin Wald has worked for the last two years as a research analyst in the Research and Data Management sector of the Chiefs of Ontario. He has a PhD in philosophy from the University of Toronto, and completed a postdoc in AI and data ethics at the Schwartz Reisman institute. His current work focuses on First Nations data sovereignty, looking in particular at health data, social data, and Artificial Intelligence.



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BETH READE

Beth Reade works with Inuit in Nunavut in remote hamlets as a community development consultant. Her work emphasizes community safety, trauma prevention and addiction recovery. She is also a Volunteer Advisor with the non-profit, CATALYSTE+ (formerly known as CESO). She believe that community wellness needs to addressed before economic development initiatives can succeed.

Beth has 30+ years' experience with a special interest in the treatment of co-occurring addiction and mental illness.

She has experience in gathering community input (needs assessments), creating community action plans, writing successful proposals for the construction and operation of social programs and mentoring the start-up and ongoing operation of programs in Nunavut including: safe sober drop-in centers, family violence shelters, transitional homes, land-based addiction treatment programs and a new residential addiction and trauma treatment program in Iqaluit.

Beth Reade is also a medical doctor and psychiatrist of Settler origins, based in Guelph, Ontario.



BIOGRAPHY



BILL HILL

RPN, BSW, MSW, RSW, B.Ed.

Ro'nikonkatste (Standing Strong Spirit), is a Mohawk from Six Nations. He has just completed an almost 41-year journey within the walls of St. Joseph's Health Care London. He has worked in mental health since 1982 as a Nurse, Social Worker and as an Educator, all with a specific focus on an Indigenous worldview. He has designed and implemented unique strategies to incorporate Indigenous knowledge into hospital care and post-secondary practice and curriculum. Bill was the Visionary and Founder of Biigajiiskaan (Bee gah Jeas Khan) Indigenous Pathways to Mental Wellness which he designed with Parkwood Institute Mental Health, and the Southwest LHIN. Currently, Bill co-designed and now is the Co-CEO of Noojimo Health, the first Indigenous owned and operated Virtual Mental Health Clinic in Canada.



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BLAINE WOLFE

My name is Blaine Wolfe. I am Ojibwe from Curve Lake First Nation, where I am a son of the Knotts and Taylors. I have made Ottawa my home for over 20 years. My Clans are Otter and Eagle. The Otter guided me through my time as an Early Childhood Educator, working with Indigenous at-risk preschoolers in Ottawa and developing Indigenous Emergent Curriculum. In this role, I helped bridge relationships between Indigenous and Mainstream organizations and workers, providing insights on how to work with Indigenous children in a culturally safe way.

The Eagle guided me through my education, and guides my learning on how to use my voice for causes I believe in. I had the opportunity to use my voice as a mental health professional, using my lived experience to help support those going through their own mental health struggles at CMHA, before moving on to the ACHWM.

I am excited to share with you our work with the Aaniish Naa Gegii: The Children's Health and Well-Being Measure, and talk about its role in telling our children's stories, increasing the amount of health data available to communities, and share our perspectives on Data Sovereignty rights.



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CAMERON SAULT

Cameron is the Manager of the Six Nations Crisis Hub. With ties to both the Six Nations and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation communities, he brings years of experience in the field of social work. Some of Cameron's recent working roles have been: Youth Engagement Coordinator in the province of Alberta, Child and Youth Worker with Six Nations Health Promotion, Diabetes Education Consultant, Primary Prevention Worker, Addictions Outreach Worker, and Cannabis Education Program Coordinator.

His mother is Mohawk, Turtle from Six Nations and his father, Ojibwe from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Cameron takes great pride in being able to help his people along their healing journey, no matter what step of the process they are experiencing. A former semi-professional hockey player with seasons in Wisconsin, Louisiana, and Mississippi, Cameron spends much his free time with his 3 year old son Hahwejakdagye (he walks along the earth) and 8 month old son Hanadahwehe:s (he goes over the town). He loves sports, music, family time, fitness, and documentary films.



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CAROL COUCHIE

Carol Couchie is a Anishnawbekwe and grandmother and founding member of the National Council of Indigenous Midwives (NCIM). She has served Indigenous communities on the board of the College of Midwives of Manitoba, the Ontario association of Midwives and the Canadian Association of Midwives.

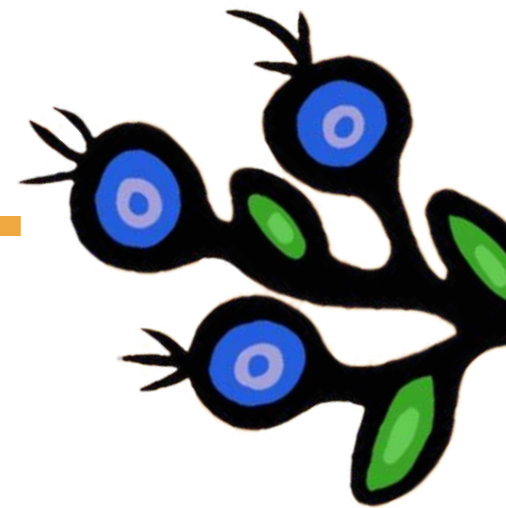
Carol has chaired the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada's (SOGC) Aboriginal Women's Health Committee and helped write the SOGC recommendations on returning birth to rural and remote Aboriginal communities, as well as recommendations for rural and remote maternity care.



She also co-chaired the first National Indigenous Women's Health Committee with and for NCIM and Pauktuutit. She currently works for both the Association of Ontario Midwives and is the Traveling Midwife and mentorship lead for the Education Framework of the National Council of Indigenous Midwives. Carol is passionate about midwifery and a strong traditional teacher. She comes from a Family tradition of Midwifery, as her great grandmother was a midwife in her village of K'Tigaaning, her niece Evelyn George is a midwife who lives and works in a First Nation in BC, and Carol is extremely proud to work with her daughter, Rachel Dennis Couchie who is also a midwife in their community in Nipissing First Nation.



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CAROLYN CHARLEYBOY

A member of the Tsilhqot'in Nation (T-sidedel / Redstone) in the Cariboo region of BC, with 7 years of post-graduate clinical counselling experience, Carolyn brings a uniquely informed Indigenous perspective to her work. Carolyn is trained and certified in Indigenous Focusing Oriented Therapy (IFOT), as well as Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR) and Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL).

She completed her education at the University of British Columbia (UBC), and the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), and currently resides in Williams Lake. Carolyn has delivered Lateral Violence to Lateral Kindness (LV2LK) sessions to multiple First Nation organizations across Canada, and as a trained circle-keeper brings a uniquely calm and trauma-informed approach to this important work.



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CATHIE JAMIESON

Anishinaabe practising artist, from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation with Haudenosaunee family ties to Six Nation. Served as elected political leader for the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation community from 2015-2021. Now living on Manitoulin Island in Wikwemikong Unceded Territory.

Education of Art and Art History joint degree program at the University of Toronto Mississauga and Sheridan College Oakville. Studio practice of painting, drawing, sculptures, photography, design, and print media, along with cultural awareness in craft making in sewing, beading, leather works.



The themes throughout Jamieson's artistic practice are based on storytelling from Anishinaabe & Haudenosaunee identity. Themes formed in parts of history, dream realm, traditional dancing, clan systems, natural elements, landscapes, figures, sounds and abstract forms.

Jamieson has been incorporating a life practice of artwork and now applying known and learned concepts with land based living. Assisting her husband with land based living practice and activities on Manitoulin Island and at Eureka Miwe'e Camp. Areas of Anishinaabe histories, traditional knowledge of the land and waters, seasonal medicine harvesting, hunting, trapping, fishing and cooking. The goal is to promote healthy lifestyles through an artistic lens and an Anishinaabe practice of living.



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CHARLES MEEKIS

Sandy Lake Anisininiw Nation Anishininiw Nanadowikendamowin
Program Manager, Anishinaabewaadiziwin

Hailing from Sandy Lake Anisininiw Nation and fluent in Anishinimowin, Charles is dedicated in his work to celebrate and uplift his culture for the healing and wellness of all community members. Embodying the spirit of cultural heritage and linguistic fluency, Charles is also proficient in syllabics as well with the double vowel system or Roman Orthography. In his work he celebrates his Anisininiw heritage with cultural and traditional knowledge passed down through generations, drawing upon the invaluable teachings of his grandparents and parents. Driven by a profound passion for imparting this inherited and gifted knowledge to others, Charles thrives as a



dedicated educator and collaborator within shared knowledge environments and in his daily work practice. Drawing on his cultural knowledge, education, and lived experience as Anisininiwiyahaa, Charles highlights his understandings of Indigenous worldviews to help his colleagues succeed and reach their maximum potential in helping and supporting community members, their children, and their families in the remote communities in Kiiwetinoong.

His commitment to fostering cultural educational awareness is evident in every endeavor, as he tirelessly works to promote, preserve, and protect Anisininiw languages, traditions, and culture. Through his unique perspective and depth of understanding, Charles captures the essence of cultural continuity, ensuring the generational transfer of Indigenous knowledge and language for future generations. With unwavering dedication, Charles embodies the ethos of cultural stewardship, leaving an indelible mark on all those he supports in his work practice.



BIOGRAPHY



CHANTEL ANTONE

RN, BScN, MPEd

Chantel L. Antone is a bear clan from the Oneida Nation of the Thames First Nation community located southwest of London, Ontario. She is a grandmother, mother, daughter, great auntie, sister, and friend to many. Chantel graduated with a Masters of Public Education from Western University and holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Ryerson University. Chantel is a registered nurse working at London Health Sciences for the past 11 years. She is the recently appointed Senior Director of Indigenous Health within the Office of Inclusion and Social Accountability.

Chantel is a health and social justice activist advocating for First Nation, Inuit, and Metis people, families and communities. Areas of advocacy include equitable access to health care and social services, addressing racism and discrimination in health care, and collaborating with FNIMU communities across Ontario to support community priorities.

Chantel's publications and work include Best Practice Guidelines for Transitions in Care (RNAO, 2024), developing curriculum titled Supporting the Journey Home Growing the Community Bundle Supporting Those with Serious Illness (McMaster University, 2023), Chapter 30 Leading and Managing Your Career, Leading and Managing in Canadian Nursing, 3rd Edition (Elsevier, 2023), Practices of Going Beyond Patient Navigation to ensure culturally safe care in the cancer system for First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and urban Indigenous patients in Ontario (Internation Journal of Indigenous Health, 2019). Recognized nationally for her leadership, Chantel has worked with the National Roundtables on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology for under/never-served populations, and the RNAO as an expert panel member for their Best Practice Guidelines for Transitions of Care. As the Director of Indigenous Health Equity, Chantel says she looks forward to guiding reform in the health system and at LHSC.



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CHERYL JAMIESOM

Boozhoo, Aaniin indinawemaaganidog, Waabanokwe ojibwemon noozwin miinwa Cheryl Jamieson nindizhinikaaz. G'ChiMnissing nindoonjibaa; Maang Ndoodem, miinwa Ojibwe, Anishinaabekwe niin daaw. Hello all of my relatives, my spirit name is Lady of the Dawn, my English name is Cheryl Jamieson. I'm from Christian Island (Beausoleil First Nation); I am from the Loon clan, and I am an Ojibwe, Anishinaabe woman. I am very honored and excited to be a part of the First Nations Community Wellness Conference.



And as a proud employee and alumnus of both SKG and Algoma Universities; it feels great to share how our student's have become like family over the past few years. We enjoy supporting and advocating for their successful journeys while in university.

As the Student Success and Wellness Counsellor, I assist our students in whatever way I can, so they can achieve their degrees and their educational path is a healthy, well-balanced and great experience.

Here at SKG, we provide an education that is infused with both Indigenous and Western Cultures; you have your feet planted in both worlds. Our students wear many hats; some work, some are moms, grandma's, etc.

With our cultural practices in place, such as smudging freely and openly or having classes in a teaching lodge while speaking Anishinaabemowin – that for me is what Shingwauk's vision is; to be proud of who you are as an Anishinaabe Student, maintaining your Indigenous identity while you earn your degree.



BIOGRAPHY



CODY WASSENGESO

Aanii/boozhoo, Cody Wassengeso n'dizhnikaaz, Wiikwemkoong doonjaabaa, Mino Bimaadiziwin Program doonchinaakii. My name is Cody Wassengeso, I am from Wiikwekoong Unceded Territory, and I am the Mino Bimaadiziwin Program Manager.

I am Odawa and Pottawatomi. I have been with the Mino Bimaadiziwin Program since November 2021 where I started my journey with the program as a School Mental Health Worker, before becoming the Program Manager in May 2022.

I have a Major in Psychology and Minor in Indigenous Studies as well as Registered Psychotherapist (Qualifying) with the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario. Prior to coming to the Mino Bimaadiziwin Program I worked with Nadmadwin Mental Health Clinic also located in Wiikwemkoong for 4 years as a Mental Health Clinician.



BIOGRAPHY



CONSTANCE PANGOWISH

Aanii Kina Wiya, Constance ndizhnikaas, Ajijaak ndoodem, Sheguianda ndoonjibaa, Bawaating megwaa ndi-daa, Niigaaniin ndoonji-nakii. Hello everyone, my name is Constance Pangowish, Crane is my clan, band member with Sheguaindah First Nation, currently living in Sault Ste. Marie and work at Niigaaniin. I am Ojibway born and raised in my home community on Manitoulin Island. I have three beautiful children that mean the world to me. I moved to Sault Ste. Marie in 2012 to start my education journey. I am kind, personable, creative, and always eager to learn new things. My current goal in life is to reconnect to the language and speak daily. I challenge myself in speaking and share what I learn with others especially with my children.



I work for Mamaweswen the North Shore Tribal Council, Niigaaniin as the Aaniish Naa Genaadmowit servicing Batchewana First Nation and community members along the North Shore. I graduated from the Social Service Worker Native Specialization program from Sault College and received my Honours Bachelor of Social Work Diploma with a Certificate in Community Economic Social Development from Algoma University. I received my Gladue Report Writing Certificate through Royal Roads University, Indigenous Perspective Society.

I am a member with the Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers. In my younger years I always knew I wanted an occupation helping others and am grateful of the journey I took, to be able to do that within my position at Niigaaniin.



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COLIN SHAWINIMASH

Eabametoong First Nation Anishininiw Nanadowikikendamowin
Program Manager, Anishinaabewaadiziwin

Hailing from Eabametoong First Nation, also known as Fort Hope, Colin has cultivated a rich tapestry of experiences in his life having lived both on and off reserve. His professional journey has encompassed a diverse range of roles, with this multifaceted background leading to a work practice based on meaningful knowledge and experience, with a deep understanding of community dynamics and needs.

With a steadfast commitment to the health, healing, and wellness of all First Nations peoples, he has tirelessly worked to ensure that program objectives are not only met but exceeded,



striving for excellence in every endeavor. In his time with the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority, Colin has worked to leverage his experience to foster collaboration, share knowledge, and implement effective strategies for community resilience and overall health.

Outside of his professional life, Colin finds joy in music, has a life-long passion for hockey, and remains steadfast in his love for being on the land as well as embracing Anishinaabe traditional and cultural practices. These personal interests inform Colin's approach to community engagement and leadership, enriching his perspective and guiding his actions in a good way.



BIOGRAPHY



CHRIS TRIMBLE

Chris Trimble (He/Him) is a Red River Metis Two-Spirit who grew up in rural Manitoba. In 2016, Chris started his education journey at the University of Manitoba where he explored Gender studies and Indigenous studies, focusing on community development and health.

In 2020, Chris began his career with the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), where his role was in Emergency Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. After leaving PHAC Chris wanted to work more directly with the community which led him to take a position with Nine Circles Community Health Centre in the Harm Reduction Program



In this role, Chris provided Harm Reduction and Health Education to relatives and service providers before moving into a role in PATHS (Program to Access Treatment for HIV and Supports). Chris' role within this interdisciplinary outreach team was to support individuals living with HIV with the goal of creating connections to care. During his time at Nine Circles, Chris took a special interest in community engagement, incorporating cultural support, and changing the physical spaces of clinics to be more trauma-informed for Indigenous people.

Chris is currently working at Southern Chiefs Organization, as the Harm Reduction Educator. This role focuses on the implementation of a southern First Nation and urban harm reduction strategy.

Outside of work, Chris enjoys taking on many roles with 2SLGBTQ+ community, beading and spending time on the land hiking and camping.



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CHRISTINE FRIDAY

Christine Friday is deeply rooted to her family's ancestral hereditary lands, Friday's Point which includes surrounding lands and lakes that make up her family's tribal hunting grounds, located within the unceded lands of the Wabi Mkwa family. She lives on Bear Island, in her community of Temagami First Nation. Christine is Anishinaabe Kwe, she is a proficient resilient Indigenous storyteller. She began her dance career with *In the Land of Spirits* in 1992 and has maintained a professional dance career for over 30 years, as a choreographer and director, developing solo work, commissioned work, youth creations and full-scale productions



In the past four years she has produced several dance films to broaden her audience and expand her potential. As a community activator she inspires gifts that awaken the connections to ignite the cultural wellness and traditions of our Anishinaabek community. Christine has developed and delivered strong community focused programs and gatherings for over 20 years.

Her company, Friday Creations based on Bear Island Lake Temagami is a First Nations professional arts and culture -based community platform that encourages creative entrepreneurship and self-sufficiency that connects to land, empowerment and truth. She is in the process of launching her dream into reality with the grand opening of the Dance Studio Lodge and Outfitters Company the summer of 2024, inspiring and activating land based with professional performance and traditional artistic practices to awaken storytelling rooted in land and individual creativity, connection and healing.



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DARRYLL TINNEY

Darryl is a Mishkeegogamang First Nation band member who was born and raised in Sioux Lookout. Darryl has 15 years of principal experience in both First Nations education and public education. Darryl has been an elementary principal at Crolancia Public School in Pickle Lake and Sioux Mountain Public School in Sioux Lookout. Darryl has been a secondary principal at Pelican Falls First Nations High school in Sioux Lookout, Red Lake District High School in Red Lake and most recently at Sioux North High School in Sioux Lookout. Darryl is in his first year as principal at WAHSA Distance Education Center and is enjoying working with a dedicated staff who are supporting adult learners in remote First Nation communities to gain their OSSD.



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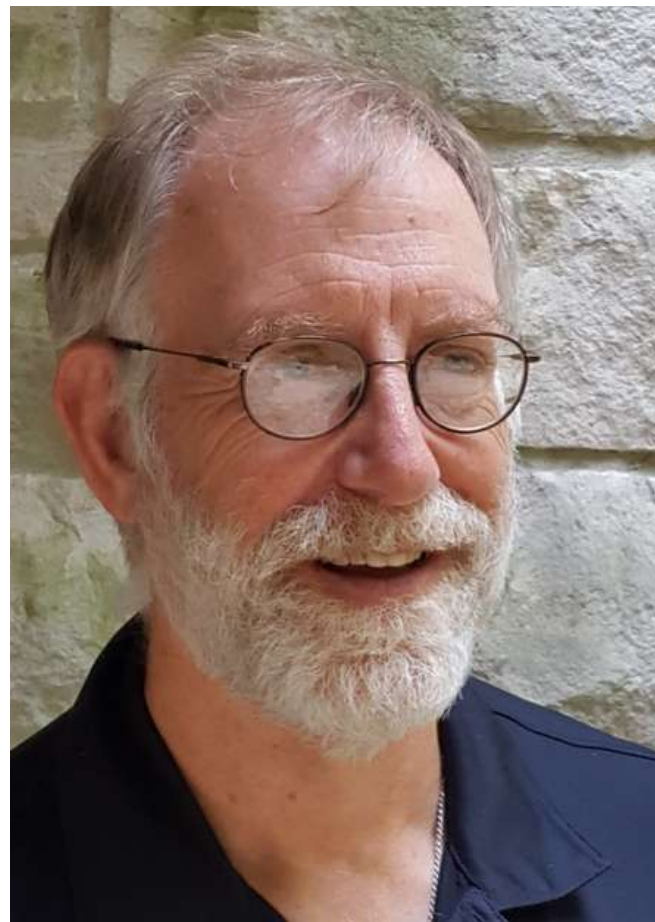


DAVE WRIGHT

Dave Wright works with Inuit in Nunavut in remote hamlets as a community development consultant. Her work emphasizes community safety, trauma prevention and addiction recovery. She is also a Volunteer Advisor with the non-profit, CATALYSTE+ (formerly known as CESO). She believe that community wellness needs to addressed before economic development initiatives can succeed. Dave has 30+ years' experience with a special interest in the treatment of co-occurring addiction and mental illness.

Dave has experience in gathering community input (needs assessments), creating community action plans, writing successful proposals for the construction and operation of social programs and mentoring the start-up and ongoing operation of programs in Nunavut including: safe sober drop-in centers, family violence shelters, transitional homes, land-based addiction treatment programs and a new residential addiction and trauma treatment program in Iqaluit.

Dave Wright is also a medical doctor and psychiatrist of Settler origins, based in Guelph, Ontario.



BIOGRAPHY



DR. DEBRA DELL

Dr. Debra Dell has been working in the field of Substance Misuse for over 25 years. She works for the Youth Substance Addiction Committee, a network of bed-based addiction programs for Indigenous youth and families

Key in her role is research, training and new product development. Technology and technology-based virtual solutions for access to care are a special interest.

Working from a strength based lens, in terms of prevention, intervention and continuing care has always been a priority in all the project Debra has worked on.



BIOGRAPHY



DIANE JOCKO

Diane Jacko is an Anishinaabe Kwe from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory located on Manitoulin Island. First and foremost I am a mother to three daughters and one son, a grandmother to three grand daughters and two grandsons.

I am also the best sister to my 11 siblings, an auntie, and a god mother. I am the daughter to the late Veronica Jacko (Manitowabi) and the late Arthur Jacko.

I graduated from Laurentian University in 1999 and attained two degrees, one in Native Studies as well as an Honors Degree in Psychology. I am the Health Service Director for Naandwechige-Gamig Wikwemikong Health Centre and previous to this, I was the Manager of Nadmadwin Mental Health Clinic in Wikwemikong. I have worked in the health field for the last 25 years with the majority being in mental health.



Through my education, employment and life experience, I have gained valuable knowledge and have formed a solid foundation on how I live my life. I believe in living your best life as this creates a well-balanced person with a clear mind to make good decisions with a good heart. I believe I am a strong role model and will continue to work towards improving the overall health outcomes for our people.

I am proud that our community has a “Children’s Bill of Rights” as our children are our future and our greatest resource. I was part of the development of this ACHWM and the mental health staff were very instrumental in ensuring that the real time safety feature was built into the process to ensure that support was provided immediately to those requiring it. This has been instrumental in the development of best practices to support the emotional well-being of First Nations children.



BIOGRAPHY



DIETER SAINNAWAP

Waci-ay, Booshoo, Hello.

Introducing Dieter Sainnawap, from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Ontario. Dieter serves as the Cultural Liaison Worker for Developmental Services at Sioux Lookout First Nation's Health Authority, demonstrating a strong commitment to bridging cultural understanding within the healthcare sector.

I For the past 12 years, Dieter has been deeply immersed in following traditional practices, guided by a group of esteemed medicine people and elders. This period of mentorship has not only enriched his understanding of cultural traditions but has also shaped him into a respected custodian of indigenous knowledge.

Dieter's role as a Cultural Liaison Worker reflects his passion for fostering connections between traditional wisdom and modern healthcare practices. Through his dedication, he contributes significantly to the well-being of his community, ensuring that cultural values are seamlessly integrated into Developmental Services.



BIOGRAPHY



DON PETAHTEGOOSE

Don Petahtegoose n'dizhnekah, Duckie ndizhnikaanigoo, Omaashkonsh N'daanwemaa, Espanola megwaa ndidaa, Ndoonji nakii Niigaaniin Services.

Don Petahtegoose is my name, Duckie is what I am called. Elk are my relations, I work for Niigaaniin services, I was born and raised in southern Ontario, I slowly made my way back home to Atikemeshshing Anishnaabek.

My father was Josephbaa, and my mom was Florencebaa. I am a father to four, 2 sons and 2 daughters and I am grandfather of six. I have many relations across the Northshore and Manitoulin Island. I am currently residing in Espanola



My position at Niigaaniin Services of the North Shore Tribal council is Ekinoomaaget. I provide Cultural and Tradition support for the Niigaaniin team and for community members when needed. I have been practicing a way of life which is my belief for 25 plus years and continue to learn of Anishinaabe bemaadizwin and to become who we were meant to be, Gahzhay Anishnaabek



BIOGRAPHY



DOROTHY COAD

Dorothy Coad ndizhinikaas, Orillia ndoonjibaa, Bawaating megwaa ndi-daa, ndooni-nakii Mamaweswen the North Shore Tribal Council, Niigaaniin Services, Aaniish Naa Gamaa endo. Seneca minwaa Wemtigoozhii minwaa Zhaagnaashii endo. G'chinendaam mumpii awayaa.

Dorothy is a social worker and has been with Niigaaniin Services for almost 6 years. Dorothy currently manages the Aaniish Naa Program and has had the opportunity to contribute to program creation, development, management, counselling, facilitation, and training roles in both the Mino Bimaadizidaa Program and Aaniish Naa program with Niigaaniin.



Prior to joining Niigaaniin Dorothy worked in the criminal justice field in Baawaating as a bail supervisor, discharge planner, and housing-based case manager servicing the homeless population of Baawaating providing supports to community members experiencing multiple barriers such as: addictions, mental health, incarceration, homelessness, and poverty.

Dorothy has 15 years of experience in group facilitation, program development and coordination. Through the creation and implementation of land-based healing programs Dorothy and her team support community members to move forward by addressing challenges in life one step at a time. Recognizing the hardest thing for many people is asking for help and trusting someone to respond in a kind way.

Dorothy believes every person has been impacted by addiction and mental health either indirectly or directly and can heal by returning to the land, connecting to mother earth, and building a strong sense of Identity and self-worth.



BIOGRAPHY



FALLON ANDY

Fallon Andy is the Social Sector Lead at Chiefs of Ontario. He has been working at COO for seven years in the Social file. He is also an artist, educator and policy worker registered at Couchiching First Nation in Grand Council Treaty #3 Territory



BIOGRAPHY



FRANCES ELIZABETH MOORE

Frances Elizabeth Moore is an Anishinaabe Kwe from Timiskaming First Nations, Quebec residing in London, Ontario. She is a storyteller, community advocate, facilitator/educator, non-profit leader, and mother who is invested in promoting awareness for and healing in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities.

Frances Elizabeth holds a Legal Administration Diploma from Georgian College; Building Abundance in Indigenous Communities (BAIC), Advancing Women's Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding for Community Development and Indigenous Women in Community Leadership certificates from the COADY Institute at St. Francis Xavier University; and an Indigenous Peoples Certificate in Indigegogy from Wilfred Laurier University where she currently pursuing a certificate in Wholistic Healing Practices and Colonial Trauma.

Frances Elizabeth is currently a Program Manager with the Youth Opportunities Fund at Ontario Trillium Foundation and volunteers with LIFE*SPIN, Nii'kinaaganaa, Brescia University College, and Kings University College.



BIOGRAPHY



FRANCINE PELLERIN

Francine is a member of Neskantaga First Nation, born in Mamayquish (family traditional grounds), moved with family to Lansdowne House in early 60's where she grew up until she left to attend residential school and high school. Francine is a proud Anishinabe-Quay who carries a wealth of cultural knowledge and lived experiences. She is fluent in her language and comes from a very rich heritage of knowledge keepers and cultural teachers.

Francine has over 35 years of experience working with First Nations in Northern Ontario in different capacities and participating in boards, groups, and committees. Her formal education includes Community Development, Social Work, Accounting, Health Administration and Health Management. She works at Matawa First Nations Management as Health & Social Meno Biimadeswin Director where she provides advocacy, advisory and support services in areas of health and social wellbeing to nine (9) Matawa First Nations Management communities for over 23 years.



BIOGRAPHY



FRANÇOIS ROUTHIER

François Routhier is the director responsible for policy and litigation management in the Specific Claims Branch of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, where he oversees the co-development of major reforms to the specific claims policy and process.

Before joining the Specific Claims Branch in 2020, François worked for more than ten years at Global Affairs Canada as a foreign service officer, where he worked as a trade negotiator and as a diplomat in Lebanon.

More recently, he worked in the International Affairs Branch of Environment and Climate Change Canada. François holds a M.A. in International Relations from Université Laval.



BIOGRAPHY



GLORIA KEJIC

- Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Mobile Crisis Response Team since November 2017
- Elder/Crisis Care Coordinator for the MKO Mobile Crisis Response Team
- Suicide Crisis Response since 1979
- First Response to Trauma and Crisis since 1987
- Developed Healing Recovery Model based on Medicine Wheel Process 1986 for Crisis, Trauma, Addictions, Grief & Loss and Suicide
- Counsellor and Therapist since 1986
- Indigenous Elder, Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother
- Raised with the old teachings from grandparents
- Registered Indigenous Member of Grassy Narrows First Nation in Ontario



BIOGRAPHY



IAN MARTIN

Ian is an anglo-Settler from Toronto and teaches language policy at Glendon College, York University. He has been involved in Indigenous language revitalization since the 1970s, and has 15 years of experience in Nunavut as a consultant on bilingual education. He is currently co-editing a book on Indigenous Language policy in Canada with Amos Key Jr, with contributions from participants in two national colloquia on Indigenous language policy at Glendon (2015 and 2019). Again, with Amos and three other colleagues he is a member of the Indigenous Defenders and sits on the LCOL.



BIOGRAPHY



JANE CASSON

Jane is the Operations Manager at MFI where she leads community engagement and program design for the Early Years team. Jane brings experience in architecture, design and community service to her work with MFI. In her role, she oversees community engagement and program design for the MFI Early Years.

Prior to her work with MFI, Jane worked in architectural practice in Canada and Germany, with a focus on housing for people with developmental disabilities. Jane holds a Master of Architecture and a Bachelor of Environmental Design Studies from Dalhousie University and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Concordia University.



BIOGRAPHY



JANOAH WILLSIE

Janoah is the Impact and Evaluation Manager at MFI where she leads program evaluation and impact measurement for the organization. In this role, she has supported the Early Years program from the initial research pilot to its current expansion, working closely with partner organizations to implement program evaluations and tell the story of the Early Years through quantitative and qualitative data. Prior to joining MFI, she worked on First Nations Child and Family Services policy research and she graduated with a Master of Public Policy from McGill University. Janoah grew up in southern Ontario and moved for university to Ottawa, which she now calls home.



BIOGRAPHY



JOANNE THIESSEN

Boozhoo, Aaniin kina weya. Joanne Thiessen nindizhinikaaz. Ketegaunseebee nindoonjibaa; Ojibwe, Anishinaabekwe niin daaw. Hello everyone. I am Joanne Thiessen from Garden River First Nation. I am the Medicine Garden Coordinator at Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig. It is exciting to be apart of the First Nations Community Wellness Conference.

I have the honour of raising four beautiful children, two already on their own and two still at home with me. While doing that I was fortunate to pursue an education to become a high school science and math teacher allowing me to work in my community for 20 years at our adult alternative high school.

Passion and experience for gardening and for learning more about our beautiful Anishinaabe ways led me to my position at SKG. The Medicine Garden has become an integral part of SKG and brings about strong feelings of community, wellness and healing.



BIOGRAPHY



JONATHAN PELTIER

My name is Jonathan Michael Peltier. I am a proud member of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory on Manitoulin Island where I am a Justice Worker with the Wiikwemkoong Justice Program. My focus is reintegration, and my commitment is to the people of our community.

My mission is to lessen the overrepresentation of Indigenous Peoples in all sectors of the Canadian Criminal Justice System.

My lived experience as former federal offender has allowed me to make deeper connections with those I serve. My descension into the federal prison systems was a result of multigenerational traumas and coinciding predispositions to addiction.

Wiikwemkoong was pivotal in my healing and recovery, and today I am Shkabewis; a fire-keeper and a learner of our traditional teachings. My responsibilities as Shkabewis are to listen, preserve, and share our teachings with our people. My position at the Wiikwemkoong Justice Program has provided me with opportunities to bring awareness to the importance of reintegration and section 81. Healing Lodges.



BIOGRAPHY



JUDITH EIGENBOROD

Judith is the Director of Programs at the First Nations Health Managers Association (FNHMA). Judith supported the work of the AFN Health Sector before joining the FNHMA in 2022. Prior to her move to Ottawa, she worked at the First Nations Health Authority in BC and as a Senior Research Assistant at Simon Fraser University Children's Health Policy Centre

Judith has a Master of Public Health from Simon Fraser University and a Master of Science from the University of Toronto. Judith was born in Germany and grew up in Thunder Bay, Ontario and currently lives on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabe Nation in Ottawa, Ontario with her husband and two children.

She is excited and honored to continue to work with and support First Nations health leaders in her role at the FNHMA.



BIOGRAPHY



KARLEIGH DARNAY

Karleigh holds an MSW/RSW and is of mixed Anishinaabe and European descent and is a member of Ketegaunseebee, Garden River First Nation. She is the Clinical Practice Lead within Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario (YWHO) and Shkaabe Makwa at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). In her role at YWHO, she provides clinical leadership for the YWHO model of service delivery across 22 hub networks in over 30 communities and within additional youth mental health and substance use system design and transformation initiatives. In her role with Shkaabe Makwa, Karleigh is part of the Clinical Services team and supports the ECHO ON First Nations, Inuit and Métis Wellness Healthcare Resource Team and the Art of Healing (CAMH-Toronto Symphony Orchestra Patient Collaboration).



BIOGRAPHY



DR. KATE DUNN

Dr. Kate Dunn joins us from Mississauga First Nation and brings a background in nursing, public health and social sciences to her current post-doc role engaging with various perspectives to cocreate culturally connected awareness resources for hepatitis C and liver wellness.



BIOGRAPHY



KAYA HILL

Community Food Animator/Qgyqhsraniyqhsdqh Nourish Project Lead, Six Nations Health Services

Kaya works as the Community Food Animator and Qgyqhsraniyqhsdqh Nourish Project Lead at Six Nations Health Services. As a graduate of the Honours Bachelor of Arts program in Indigenous Studies at Trent University, Kaya is a passionate advocate for Indigenous food security, food sovereignty, and community empowerment.

Within her role, Kaya supports the animation of community food programming and services that promote food access within her community of Six Nations of the Grand River. With the Qgyqhsraniyqhsdqh Nourish Project, she leads a core and extended team to engage in research and interventions around the topic of Indigenous food sovereignty in healthcare.



BIOGRAPHY



KEITH MARTIN

*Workforce Development Lead
First Peoples Wellness Circle*

Keith Martin was born in Ontario and happily makes his home with his partner Teri on the traditional territory of Nipissing First Nation. He is dedicated to advancing equity and supporting the journey of *mino-bimaadiziwin* for individuals, learners, families, and communities.

Keith has experience in community partner engagement, program development and implementation, and the facilitation of youth and community programming.



He is currently the Workforce Development Lead at First Peoples Wellness Circle, which supports the capacity of Mental Wellness Teams and other specialized Indigenous Wellness Workforces. Recently, Keith contributed to the advancement of Indigenous post-secondary education by supporting Indigenous Institutes in Ontario at the Indigenous Advanced Education and Skills Council.

Keith also had the privilege of living in Attawapiskat First Nation, Teri's home community, where he was the lead at the Attawapiskat First Nation Youth Centre. Keith has a passion for community involvement, which is demonstrated through his volunteer work with Best Buddies Canada, Special Olympics Ontario, and the Office of Indigenous Initiatives at Nipissing University.

In 2017, Keith had the fortune to live for one year in Gwangju, Korea, where he was an English teacher at an immersion kindergarten school.

An avid do-it-yourselfer, Keith enjoys building, being out in the bush, cooking, and spending time with family and friends. Keith holds a Bachelor of Arts, Honours in Criminal Justice from Nipissing University.



BIOGRAPHY



KERI THOMPSON

Cree/Metis, Bear Clan. 30 years' experience within Correctional Service of Canada, beginning career as a Correctional Officer and expanding into various roles within the Indigenous Initiatives Department of CSC.

Keri is currently an Indigenous Community Development Officer (ICDO) for Correctional Service of Canada in the Ontario Region. Keri supports the development, collaboration and implementation of release planning for federally incarcerated community members with their Indigenous communities.

Collaboration with cross-functional teams to maintain healthy relationship between Indigenous community and CSC case management team, to support and maintain successful reintegration process for community members. Provision of information pertaining to CSC run Healing Lodges and Section 81 facilities.



BIOGRAPHY



KIM DUGUAY

Aanni!! name is Kim Duguay. Ketegaunzeebee ndoonjibaa Jijik dodem. I am 52 years young. I have been married for 24 years and have 2 adult children, 22 and 23 years old. Like many, my age; I am a 3rd Generation Indian Residential School survivor. My maternal grandfather survived Spanish River Residential School and my mother survived Garden River Indian Day School. My roots are in Ketegaunzeebee, however, I was raised on the Rankin Reserve and currently reside in Bawating with my husband and adult children.



My Career started right out of college, where I graduated from the Native Community Worker Program. In 1994 I was as a Special Education – Teacher Assistant working in the community of Batchewana First Nation. My primary role was assisting youth with the Grade 9 curriculum and teaching life skills. I worked in the field of education for over 10 years. Supporting children and families has always been a passion of mine. It was then where I was able to see the disparities and the struggles that our children have in these systems.

After a two year maternity leave, and being a stay at home mom for 2 years, 2000-2004 I began to work at the Sault Ste. Marie Indian Friendship Centre as Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children Worker. It was in this position I realized the hardships that our urban families face. Many parents lacked the cultural teachings, traditional parental knowledge and supports and experienced difficulties with the urban non-indigenous child welfare system. My role was advocacy, providing parental support linking families to the community agencies that help support families on their parenting journey.

In 2012 I had the opportunity to work in my home community of Ketegaunziibii, Garden River First Nation. My role as a Early Learning and Literacy Worker, offered me the opportunity to support families and children with fun community programs to support both parenting and educational opportunities. In 2017 Jordan's Principle Allied Health Services were set up in our community. Presently my role is the Jordan's Principle Navigator.



BIOGRAPHY



KRIS MORRISON

Born in the Omushkegowuk Territory of his Father, with a deeper connection to his Mother's Eeyou Istchee Territory, Mikisew Paytahkissoo Nabayoo-Eagle Calling Man known as Mr. Kristopher Morrison is a Father of three wonderful sons, 2 daughters and husband to a loving beautiful Woman. He has accepted his role and responsibility as a Firekeeper to provide, protect and advocate for his family and community.

Kris enjoys the outdoors and is a Hunter, Fisherman and Trapper. While on the territories of his Moose Cree First Nation he acknowledges the Seven Grandfather Teachings. His values help him to be kind, caring and loving to others as he fulfills his purpose. His Leadership skills and knowledge are used to encourage and make everyone in his presence feel welcome. Kris believes that knowing who you are leads to success at being yourself and is the most important achievement for all peoples.



BIOGRAPHY



LEILA MONIB

Leila Monib is a settler-Canadian of diverse ancestry (North African, West Asian and European). She is the Acting Director of the Indigenous Midwifery Department at the Association of Ontario Midwives. Previous to the AOM, Leila worked as the Provincial Lead for Education and Systems with the Ontario Indigenous Cultural Safety Program. Leila dedicated many years of her career to furthering health equity, anti-oppression and human rights with the Access and Equity Team at Toronto Public Health. In the role of Health Equity Specialist, she worked alongside the Toronto Indigenous Health Advisory Circle (TIHAC) to develop and implement the Toronto Indigenous Health Strategy, later becoming the Project Manager of this initiative. Leila is passionate about exploring the roles/responsibilities of non-Indigenous Canadians in examining anti-Indigenous racism while honouring self-determination, treaties and international law to improve health outcomes for diverse First Peoples.



BIOGRAPHY



LORETTA FOX-ASSINEWEI

Loretta Fox-Assinewai is a member of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory located on Mnidoo Minis (Manitoulin Island). She was raised in Wiikwemkoong, and is grateful for having been immersed in Anishinaabemowin since birth.

Loretta values the importance of wellness and healing in the language and the vitalness of the sustainability of all languages.

Her work experience includes 29 years of service within Indigenous programs and services as “Enaadmaaged” Counsellor and “Ekinomaage kwe” Teacher at both the post-secondary and elementary school levels, where she taught “Anishnaabemwin” and “Anishnaabe Aadziwin.” She has also worked in the provincial Mental Health and Addictions sector as an Implementation Specialist for First Nation, Inuit and Metis Wellness. She is now the Language and Culture Strategist, Education Sector, Chiefs of Ontario Office.



Loretta is passionate about teaching Anishnaabemowin to help promote health and wellness and believes strongly in the spiritual element embedded within our First Nation languages. As a lifelong learner, Loretta is working toward her Doctorate through the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto. She looks forward to sharing her findings in her desired research about the interconnectedness of Anishnaabemwin and Anishnaabe Aadziwin, which resulted in “Mino Bimaadziwin” Good Life.



BIOGRAPHY



LORI FRYZUK

Lori Fryzuk is the Manager of the Right to a Healthy Framework team in the Legislative Governance Division at Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). In collaboration with the team at Health Canada, she is co-leading the development of an implementation framework for the right to a healthy environment under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA).

Over the past twenty-four years with ECCC, Lori has led policy development and operational programs related to pollution prevention and chemical management with a particular focus on the development, implementation and measurement of risk management instruments under CEPA.



BIOGRAPHY



DR. LORRILEE MCGREGOR

Dr. Lorrilee McGregor is an Anishinaabe from Whitefish River First Nation. She is an Associate Professor at NOSM University where she teaches about Indigenous peoples' health. She works with First Nation communities in northern Ontario on health and environmental projects. For the past 20 years, Lorrilee has served as the Chair of the Manitoulin Anishinaabek Research Review Committee, a community-based Research Ethics Board that has reviewed over 100 research ethics applications.



BIOGRAPHY



DR. LUC BEAUDRY

Luc Beaudry is the director of Engagement and Policy Directorate (EPD) in Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC). He carries the responsibilities for the Additions to Reserve Policy redesign, First Nation Land Management and Citizenship initiatives. Before joining EPD in October 2020, Luc worked 24 years in various roles within the department, including 19 years in the Specific Claims Branch of CIRNAC. Luc holds Bachelors (1986) and Masters (1988) degrees in Physical Geography from the University of Ottawa and a Ph.D. (1994) in mineral resources (Earth sciences) jointly from the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi and Université du Québec à Montreal.



BIOGRAPHY



LULU CHOY

Lulu Choy is a certified Educator in Ontario and Quebec. She was born in Hong Kong and of Chinese ancestry but grew up in Ontario after immigrating to Turtle Island with her family at a young age. She currently resides on the unceded, unsundered territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin people, otherwise known as Ottawa.

She completed both her Bachelor of Arts (Hons) and Bachelor of Education with a focus on Indigenous education at Queen's University. After her studies, she had the privilege of teaching in Kangiqsualujjuaq, Nunavik, for three years, which helped shape her understanding of the importance of culture in (w)holistic wellness and living a good life.



After moving back to the South, Lulu transitioned outside of the classroom, but continued to work with communities and organizations to support Indigenous children as the Community and Education Lead at the Aaniish Naa Gegii: Children's Health and Wellbeing Measure initiative (ACHWM).

She is excited to be in her current role at *First Peoples Wellness Circle* as the Resource Developer for the Gathering Our Knowledge Bundles project. She hopes to merge her skills in lesson and curriculum development and experience working with Wellness workers to create community owned and culturally relevant resources.



BIOGRAPHY



LYNDA BANNING

Lynda Banning has been developing and facilitating community education workshops for the Anishinabek Nation since 2006 as the FASD Regional Program Worker for Northern Superior.



BIOGRAPHY



LYNNE SORAMAKI

Lyne Soramaki has been a Nurse for 30 years. She currently works as a Public Health Nurse at the Thunder Bay District Health Unit in the Family and School Program. As part of her role Lyne works toward prevention of FASD.

In the spirit of truth and reconciliation, Lynda and Lyne have been working together since 2010, developing several teaching tools used to educate about the impact of toxins on a developing fetus and child. The importance of this collaboration is highlighted in their Caring for Mother Earth Project which was featured in “People Making a Difference” on the Canadian Partnership for Children’s Health and the Environment website.



BIOGRAPHY



MARGARET TIMS

Margaret Tims, a Maritimer at heart, was born in New Brunswick and raised partly in Newfoundland and Ottawa where she currently resides.

Most of her career has focused on community health planning with the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Indigenous Canada which led her to the First Nations Health Managers Association (FNHMA) through an Interchange Canada assignment for 3 years.

Since then, she has retired after 32 years and remains with the FNHMA as the Health Planning Liaison. Away from work, Margaret is an avid ceramic potter, always looking for ways to express creativity and mindfulness.



BIOGRAPHY



MARTHA SUTHERLAND

LCOL PRESENTER - PENDING BIO



BIOGRAPHY



MIA BOURQUE

Mia Bourque is of Anishinaabe and French descent, originally from rural Quebec. However, is currently residing in Sudbury, Ontario. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Laurentian University in 2017, with a Major in Indigenous Studies. She is currently a candidate for the Masters of Indigenous Relations at Laurentian University.

Mia is currently the Project Coordinator for the Gathering our Knowledge Bundles project with First Peoples Wellness Circle. Within this role, she is able to support the development of culturally relevant and community-owned resources that support the First Nations Mental Wellness Workforce.



Prior to joining FPWC, Mia was the Community Outreach and Wellness Lead for the Anish Naa Gegii : Children's Health and Wellbeing Measure (ACHWM), in this role she would help empower Indigenous communities and organizations in elevating the voices of Indigenous children. During her time at the ACHWM she also led the Resource Hub, an initiative to create culturally relevant, safe and editable/customizable mental, physical, spiritual and emotional resources to support Indigenous children and youth.

Mia is passionate about all things health and wellness, in her spare time you can find her out on the land or water, fishing or hunting!



BIOGRAPHY



MONTY GHOSH

Monty Ghosh is an Internist, Disaster Medicine, and Addiction Specialist. He is also an assistant professor with the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta with a strong interest in harm reduction research.

He works with multiple community based not for profit organizations to provide support for marginalized populations such as those experiencing homelessness, substance use, mental health concerns, as well as those who are in corrections.

He does community internal medicine at both The Alex Community Health Centre, and The Calgary Drop-In Centre, a shelter for those experiencing homelessness. He also helps foster and create unique programs to support these populations.



BIOGRAPHY



DR. NANCY YOUNG

Dr. Young is a Senior Scientist at the CHEO Research Institute. She completed her PhD in measurement science at the University of Toronto, with a focus on children’s health. Her career has focused on engaging children in self-reported health assessments. For the past fifteen years she has leveraged measurement science to elevate the voices of Indigenous children and youth, through the co-creation of self-reported health assessments apps, and co-leads the ACHWM Team.

ACHWM is short for Aaniish Naa Gegii – the Children’s Health and Well-being Measure. Through collaboration, the ACHWM Team has improved access to high-quality local data that inform health services planning within rural and remote Indigenous communities. Her research and knowledge translation are supported by the province of Ontario, Health Canada and CIHR. She welcomes new partners to benefit from the results of previous research and contribute to emerging research, with the aim of enhancing the well-being of First Nations children.



BIOGRAPHY

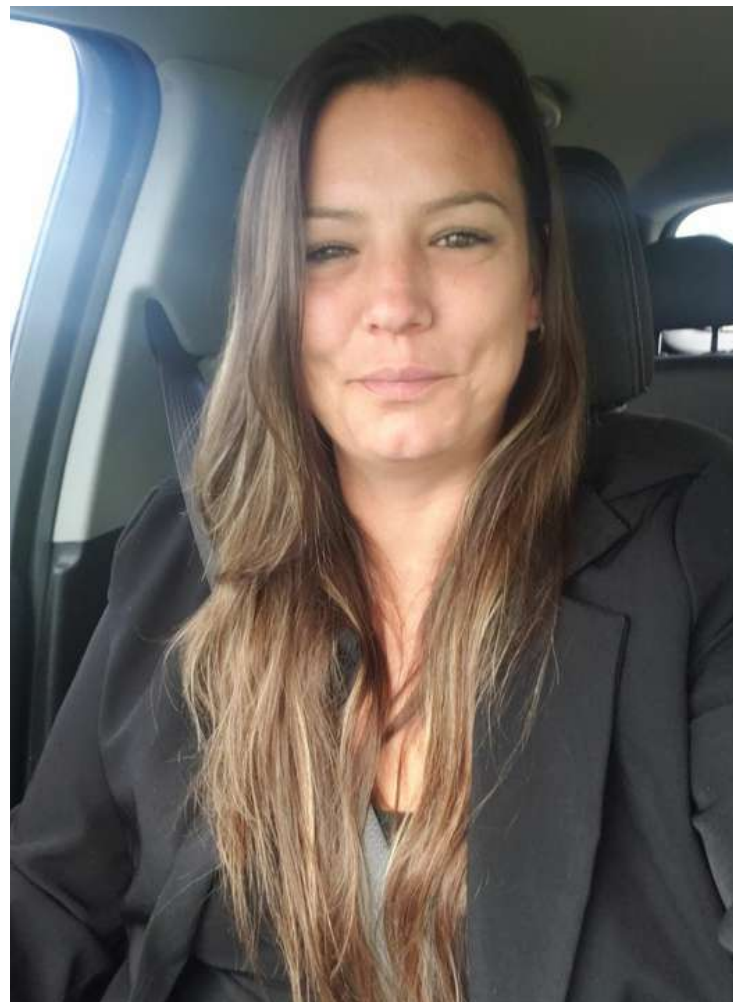


NATACHIA SLEZSAK

My name is Natachia Slezsak, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. I'm from the Mohawk Nation - Turtle Clan.

I have over 20 years experience working in the health care sector. I started my career in the front lines and quickly found my passion in program development and organizational leadership, specifically within the mental health and crisis response sectors.

My clinical background is in Nursing, and I have spent the last 7 years in leadership roles. Since 2022, I have been with the Six Nations Police Service. My current role is to support the development and implementation on internal wellness supports, peer support and crisis program development.



BIOGRAPHY



NEIL DEBASSIGE

MSM OCT B.Sc., B.Ed., M.A.

Neil was born on Manitoulin Island and raised on the M'Chigeeng First Nation. After attending McMaster and Brock Universities, Neil returned home to teach for 5 years in the intermediate division. He then started his Masters Degree in Educational Leadership with San Diego State University and completed it in 2004.

From 2000 – 2004, Neil accepted the Secondary School Principal positions at Francine J. Wesley Secondary School in Kashechewan First Nation and then at Wasse Abin High School in Wikwemikong. In 2004, he assumed the dual role of Principal and Education Manager for the M'Chigeeng First Nation.

From 2017 until present Neil has been the lead consultant at LEARNfirst Education Consulting. He has worked in various capacities: First Nation School Evaluations, First Nation Principal Course Instruction, Education Directorship, Strategic Planning, Capacity Building & Professional Development for Principals, Performance Appraisals for teachers and Administrators, Literacy and Leadership capacity building, education transformation funding and community engagement in educational reform.

Neil is husband to his wife Dianne and proud father of 2 bright young ladies, Darci and Aspen. He is the recipient of many awards including the Laurentian University Native Person of Distinction Award, the Indspire Indigenous Leadership Award, and most recently co-recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal from the Lieutenant Governor in 2018, for Indigenous Education Leadership.



BIOGRAPHY



PATTI PETIGREW

Patti is a member of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation in North-Eastern Ontario. A former Gladue writer and an advocate for vulnerable Indigenous women for over forty years, Patti has worked extensively in support services relating to addictions, trauma, the justice system, and the empowering impact of connection to culture and community on individual healing.

She is the Founder and Executive Director of Thunder Woman Healing Lodge Society, an Indigenous-led charitable organization based in Toronto that provides trauma-informed, culturally appropriate services to First Nations (Status and Non-Status), Métis, and Inuit 2SLGBTQIA+ women involved with the judicial system and survivors of inter-generational trauma.



BIOGRAPHY



ROLAND PHEASANT AND LINDSAY TRUDEAU

Rolland Pheasant and Lindsay Trudeau are Anishnaabek from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory and they work in balance together in everything they do. After getting sober in 2020, they felt the need to help others in their community who struggle with mental health and to overcome addictions. They initiated Gchittwaa Shkodeh (Community Sacred Fire) back into their community and were featured in APTN's Little Big Community in 2022. Rolland is currently Wiikwemkoong's Cultural Coordinator for their Band Administration and Lindsay is a Bail Supervision Supervisor for Wiikwemkoong's Justice Program. Together, they continue to advocate and help their people.



BIOGRAPHY



RAMONA SHAWANA

Ramona is an Anishinabe Kwe and Early Childhood Educator from Wikwemkoong Unceded Territory on beautiful Odawa Mnis-Manitoulin Island. She has spent over 30 years working within the early year's sector in a variety of capacities. Her life work has included advocating for First Nation children and ensuring their learning is strongly rooted in their Anishinaabe knowledge system, fostering a strong sense of identity.

Ramona has earned a Professional Masters of Education with specialization in Aboriginal Education and is a qualified Communicative Disorders Assistant (CDA). Ramona brings her lived experience and skills to her role as Curriculum Writer and Facilitator at MFI in the Early Year's department.



BIOGRAPHY

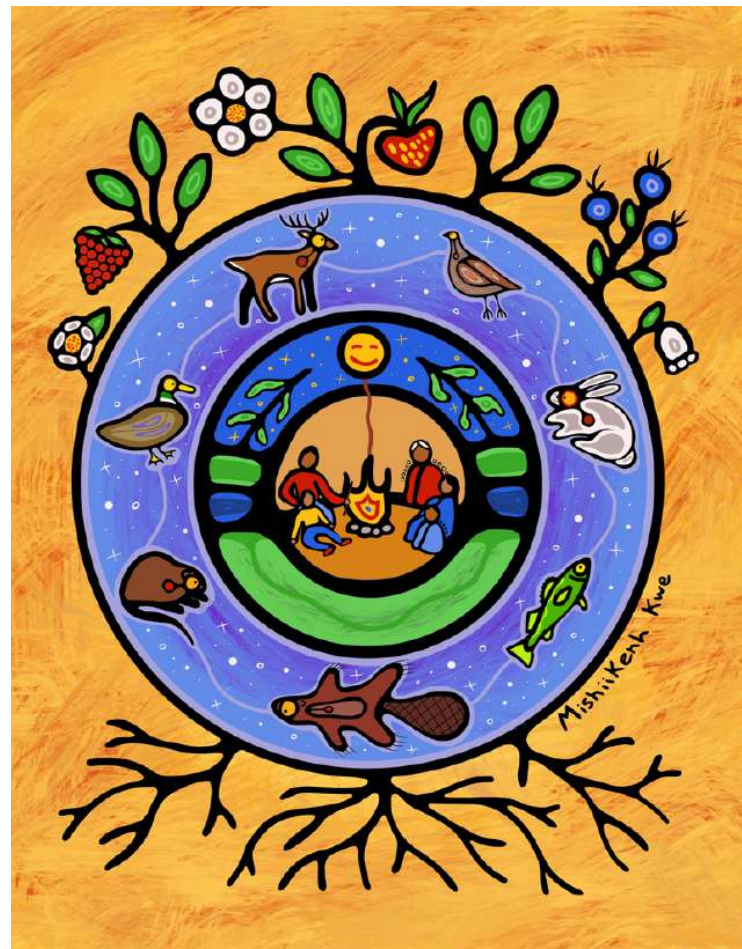


RONALDA DOXTATER-WYNN

Ronalda Doxtater-Wynn is a dedicated Indigenous/Kwe/Matriarch, academic researcher, and intergenerational Indian residential school survivor. As a registered band member of Eabametoong First Nation, Ronalda has committed her life to advancing Indigenous education. She holds a diploma and career path in Early Childhood Education (ECE), a professional certificate in Childcare Administration, an Honours Bachelor of Indigenous Education, and a Master of Professional Education in the Field of Leadership in Indigenous Education.

Currently serving as the Student Success Lead Teacher/Grad Coach at Wahsa Distance Education Centre, Ronalda's expertise extends across various domains, including Early Childhood Education, intervention programming, college instruction, student support work, Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR), and adult education.

Her unique background as an intergenerational Indian residential school survivor enriches her perspective and fuels her passion for creating positive change in Indigenous education. Ronalda Doxtater-Wynn is not only a mother and grandmother but also a leader in the field, embodying resilience and commitment in her journey to empower others through education.



BIOGRAPHY



ROSEANNE SUTHERLAND

Roseanne Sutherland is Mushkego from Kashechewan First Nation. She has worked at Chiefs of Ontario since 2014 in surveys, health research and currently is Senior Lead in Research and Data Management. She has worked in the non-profit sector, for profit sector, First Nation organizations and in her home community. Roseanne has a Master's Degree in History and Business Administration in Accounting. Conversing in Cree, creating quilts, reading history books and travelling to new places are joyful aspects of her life.



BIOGRAPHY

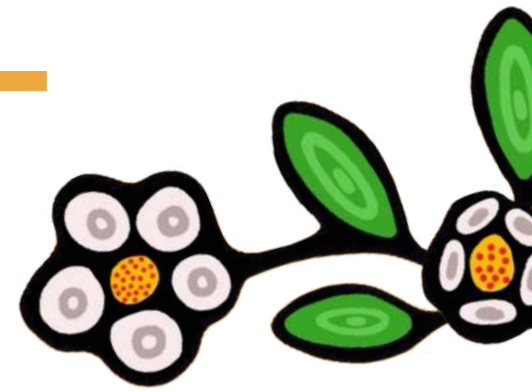


RUBY MILLER

Ruby Miller is the Social Sector Director at Chiefs of Ontario. She has served with the organization for 5 years. She is a strong advocate for reform on child welfare, Jordan’s Principle, and income assistance for First Nations across Ontario. She is a proud member of the Six Nations of the Grand River.



BIOGRAPHY



SAMARA LEWIS

Samara Lewis is from Wiikemkoong Unceded Territory. She is a Registered Nurse, a Certified Nurse Coach, and has experience working in various First Nations community health programs, public health, and within the Federal Government as a Director.

She has a Masters of Public Health and her professional interests include First Nations health promotion, self-care and First Nations leadership, as well as personal and professional development. She is currently the Health Planning Specialist with the First Nations Health Managers Association.



BIOGRAPHY



SARAH VANDEN HOVEN

Sarah Vanden Hoven is the Manager of the Right to a Healthy Environment Policy Division in the Safe Environments Directorate at Health Canada. She is leading a team, in collaboration with Environment and Climate Change Canada, to develop an implementation framework for the right to a healthy environment under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA)*. Sarah has worked in various positions under CEPA at Environment and Climate Change Canada and Health Canada for over fifteen years, including categorization of the Domestic Substances List, information management, prioritization of chemicals for risk assessment and risk assessment policy.



BIOGRAPHY

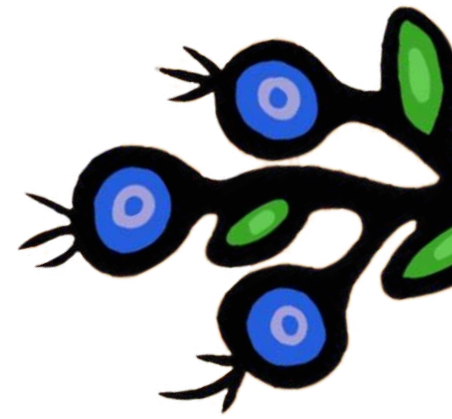


SARA MONTOUR

Sara is a Nutrition Activator with Six Nations Health Services who promotes the utilization of Haudenosaunee foods within youth cooking classes, youth programming and recipe creation in community. Sara is passionate about creating accessibility surrounding Haudenosaunee foods within Six Nations of the Grand River. Sara has a certificate in Special Event Planning from Fanshawe College. She also has an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous studies with a minor in Gender Studies and Anthropology from McMaster University.



BIOGRAPHY



SEAN MOORE

Sean Moore has an honours bachelor degree in Psychology and a bachelor degree in Education. Sean has been with Ka-Na-Chi-Hih since 2016 and has experience in providing intake, case management, and training/development at the organization. Sean was part of the pilot team in drafting the VR curriculum in 2021.



BIOGRAPHY



SUZANNE BURROWS-PALIWODA

Suzanne is an experienced and empathetic people manager with a proven track record of building, leading, and mentoring high-performing teams, primarily in the dynamic advertising agency world in downtown Toronto.

With over 20 years of diverse workplace experience, Suzanne possesses invaluable firsthand knowledge of human behaviour and interactions, particularly around language, culture, age, and gender dynamics within structured organizations.

She has successfully contributed to cultivating workplace cultures that are grounded in empathy and collaboration.

Building on her extensive corporate career, Suzanne has redirected her focus, partnering with First Health Solutions to deliver Lateral Violence to Lateral Kindness (LV2LK) sessions to First Nations organizations and communities across Canada. As a skilled communicator, she brings her wealth of knowledge to these groups with a blend of humour and compassion.



BIOGRAPHY



SIX NATIONS CHILD AND YOUTH OUTREACH TEAM

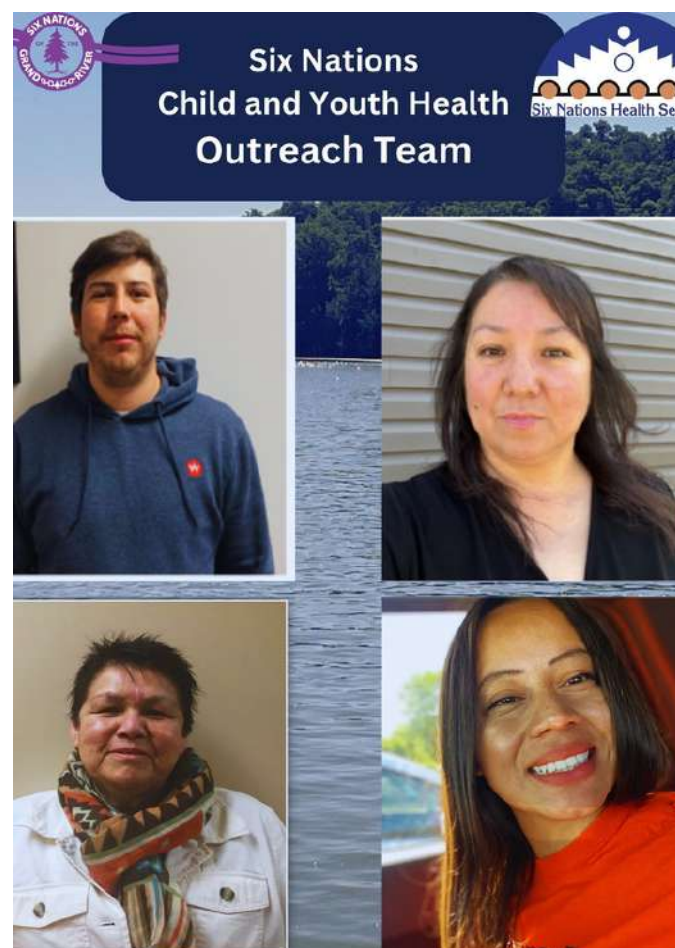
The Six Nations Child and Youth Health team “focuses on leading and impacting community well-being here on Six Nations of the Grand River Territory to all children and youth” -

The Six Nations Child and Youth OUTREACH team are community members of the Six Nations territory.

The Outreach team focuses on the needs of our children, youth and their families through programming that strengthens and revitalized our culture through Haudenosaunee values of well-being.

The outreach team provides programs and services to Six Nations children, youth and their families while consistently assessing the needs and barriers to improve outcomes for at-risk children and youth. We prioritize relationships within the community and making connections without our community.

We understand that when community members are accessing health services to positively impact their wellness that they need someone to connect to.



BIOGRAPHY



SYDNEY CHABOT-HAMDEN

Sydney Chabot-Hamden is Anishinaabekwe from Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg and the Community Outreach and Communications Coordinator for the ACHWM. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Western University and is a Certified Holistic Nutritionist. Sydney has several years of experience working in Indigenous organizations and start-up businesses and has a passion for improving the health and wellbeing of Indigenous people.



BIOGRAPHY



TESS LAVELLE-SUTTON

Tess Lavelle-Sutton is a Settler currently residing in Treaty #3, the lands and territories of the Anishinaabe, and Métis people. They navigate the world, and the work they do with a lens derived from their lived experience as a queer, neurodiverse individual who has navigated mental health systems, and loved ones coping with substance use/addictions throughout their life.

They are a Registered Social Worker who has worked in the child and youth mental health sector for their entire career as a support worker, and mental health counsellor. Tess is currently the Manager for the Kenora Youth Wellness Hub, housed under Ogimaawabiitong- Kenora Chiefs Advisory. Tess has always had a passion for working with and supporting youth. They are an advocate for barrier-reduced, harm reduction-informed, and trauma-informed services, all grounded in promoting equitable access and engaging the communities being served in program development and decision-making processes.



BIOGRAPHY

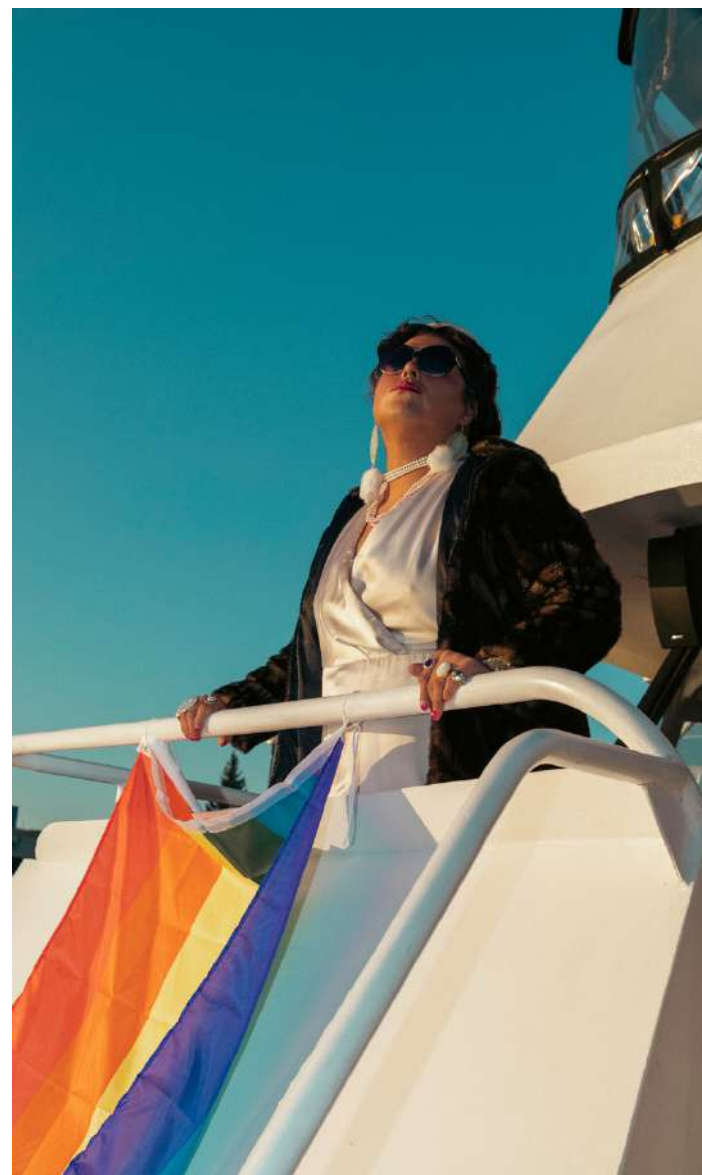


THEODORE SYRETTE

O-zha-wa A-nung Kwe/Yellow Star Woman (Teddy Syrette). Is from Rankin Reserve of Bat-che-wana First Nation of the Anishnabek, and currently lives in Sault Ste. Marie, ON. They have a diploma in Social Service Work - Indigenous Specialisation from Sault College.

Ozhawa is a public speaker, event organiser, community developer, artist and drag queen. In 2021, they were honoured with the title of 2Spirit International Warrior. In 2023, Teddy was awarded the Indigenous Professional of the Year Award by the Sault Ste Marie Chamber of Commerce.

Since 2022, they have curated, organised and hosted several drag shows under the stage name Bette U. Wanna of Batchewana. Teddy is the founder and sole proprietor of 2Spirit Anishnabe Storytelling & Advocacy and a founding member of the 2Spirit Organising Committee of Bawating.

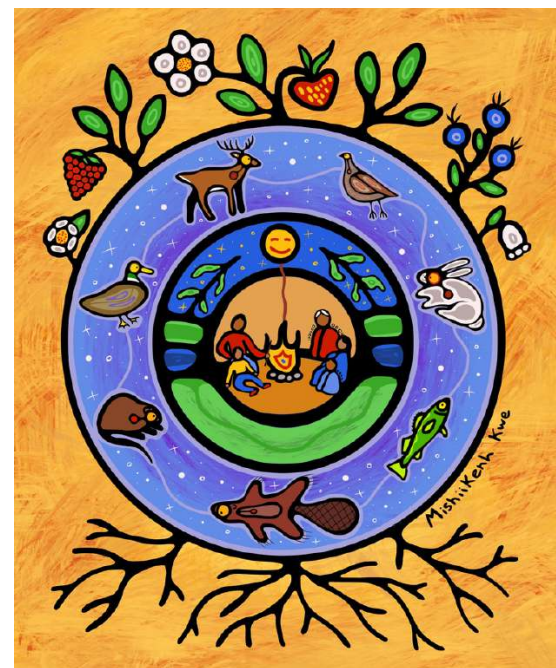


BIOGRAPHY



VERONICA KING-JAMIESON

Veronica is the Mississauga Nations Coordinator, Mississauga Nations and Lead Councilor for Pillar 4 Education and Awareness, Band Council, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN). Her work experience includes being the Creator and Chair of the MCFN Board of Education (2021) and the Care of Ancestral Objects & Remains Committee (CAORC) give e gnawed rejig, MCFN. She is Chair of the Education and Wellness Committee (2015-present), MCFN and was Administrator of Ontario Works, Ontario Works (Welfare/Employment).



Veronica holds a Master's Degree in Aboriginal Education from Western University and is a graduate of the Aboriginal Teacher Education Program at Kenjgewin Teg Educational Institute, Queens University. Veronica completed her Bachelor of Education Degree with Brock University. Amongst many community education and awareness activities, Veronica has also been a board member of the Ontario Native Welfare Administrators Association, the Southern Ontario Library Services (SOLS), the Indigenous People's Court and the Mississaugas of the New Credit Cultural and Heritage Award, Heritage Mississauga, Ontario. Veronica has also made many relevant research contributions over the last six years, most recent being Ai, Z., Johnson, W., King-Jamieson, V., & Ferrier, J. (October 2021). A Meta-analysis of Nishnaabeg Ethnobiology. The Natural Health Product Research Society of Canada. Ottawa. <https://nhprs.ca/john-thor-arnason-research-award/>



BIOGRAPHY



VICTORIA CARAVAGGIO

Victoria Caravaggio is a Policy Analyst for the Social Sector at the Chiefs of Ontario, having served for a year. She received her BA at McMaster University in Political Science & History, and MA at the University of Guelph in Political Science & International Development. Her main file is the Joint Social Services Table with the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services.



BIOGRAPHY



VIRGINIA MOORE

47 year old a band member from the Cross Lake Band of Indians, Pimichikamak Cree Nation, Manitoba. Mother of 3 sons and 2 granddaughters.

- Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Mobile Crisis Response Team since March 2022
- Business Administration Diploma and Computerized Business Skills and Applications 2-year Certificate
- Giwiidabindimin – Responding to Trauma and Grief for Indigenous Communities and Organizations Certificate
- Mental Health Counselling Skills Certificate
- Certificate Program in Trauma Counselling and Support
- Community Is Medicine

