A large, stylized floral pattern in a light blue-grey color is positioned on the left side of the page, extending towards the center. The pattern consists of several large, multi-petaled flowers with intricate, dotted internal designs. The background is a solid dark blue with scattered white starburst or sparkles of varying sizes.

National Gathering on Unmarked Burials: Affirming Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Community Control over Knowledge and Information

January 16-18, 2023
Sheraton Wall Centre
Vancouver, BC



**Office of the Independent
Special Interlocutor**

for Missing Children and Unmarked
Graves and Burial Sites associated
with Indian Residential Schools

Wellness and Spiritual Health Supports will be on site throughout the Gathering

Logo of the Office of the Special Interlocutor



Representing strength, family and healing, bears are the primary element in the Office of the Independent Special Interlocutor's logo. The larger bear represents the parent, family, and community, while the smaller bear symbolizes the children who were stolen and never returned.

The Northern Lights in the night sky are the Spirits of our ancestors dancing. The dancing guides the children to reunite with their ancestors.

The stars depict the connection between the children taken from their communities and the parents left behind, who would stare at the same stars longing to be reunited.

The flowers in the larger bear signify life and the resilience of Indigenous Peoples.

The changing colours in the dotted path illustrate the on-going search for truth, justice and healing.

The three pairs of moccasins honour and acknowledge all First Nations, Inuit and Métis children.

At the first National Gathering on Unmarked Burials in Treaty 6 territory, Regional Chief Gerald Antoine observed that on the back of the larger bear, there is a clear outline of a child's face looking up at the sky. Although this was not intentionally part of the design, it has shown us yet another way that the children's spirits are speaking to us all.

*"For the child taken,
For the parent left behind."*

– TRC Final Report, 2012



Welcome



Kimberly R. Murray,

Independent Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites associated with Indian Residential Schools

It is my privilege to welcome you to the third National Gathering on Missing Children and Unmarked Burials.

We acknowledge and give thanks to the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and the sə́lílwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations for allowing us to gather on their unceded traditional territory to support the Sacred work of recovering the missing children.

We recognize the leadership of Survivors, Indigenous families, and communities as they search for the children who never returned home from various institutions, including Indian Residential Schools, hospitals, sanatoria, industrial schools, and reformatories. We join these communities in this Sacred work as we continue to pursue the truth and build a framework to protect the burial sites and bring rightful honour, respect, and dignity to the children.

In my role as Independent Special Interlocutor, I have been told that Survivors, Indigenous families and communities are experiencing barriers to accessing the records that are needed to identify the location of unmarked burials and identities of the missing children. Many are directed to navigate time-consuming and complex legal regimes relating to privacy and access laws and are required to enter into legal agreements to obtain the records. This has, in some cases, led to months and even years of delay.

Survivors, communities and leadership have consistently stressed the importance of Indigenous sovereignty and control over information about Indigenous people and communities. As we gather to share knowledge and discuss how communities can obtain full ownership, control, access and possession of their information we will hear more about:

- the barriers those leading searches are facing;
- the collaborative and creative solutions that Survivors, Indigenous families and communities have put in place to access the records; and
- ideas for systemic change to shift control of records to Indigenous communities.

We recognize and honour the leadership of Survivors, Indigenous families, and communities as they search for the children who never returned home from Indian Residential Schools and other Institutions. The Spirits of the missing children are in our hearts as we support each other in this Sacred work.

Mandate of the Independent Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites associated with Indian Residential Schools

The Special Interlocutor will identify needed measures and make recommendations for a new federal legal framework to ensure the respectful and culturally appropriate treatment of unmarked graves and burial sites of children associated with former residential schools. This will be done in close collaboration with First Nations, Inuit and Métis governments, representative organizations, communities, Survivors and families, other departments of the Government of Canada, provinces and territories, and other relevant institutions such as church entities and record holders.

The Special Interlocutor will function independently and impartially, in a non-partisan and transparent manner to achieve the objectives of her mandate.

The Special Interlocutor has a two-year mandate and will deliver interim and final reports, with recommendations, to the federal Minister of Justice and the Attorney General of Canada. Knowledge shared at this National Gathering will inform the interim and final reports and recommendations.

The work of the Special Interlocutor will

Engage with First Nations, Inuit and Métis governments, representative organizations, communities, Survivors and families to discuss issues of concern around the identification, preservation, and protection of unmarked graves and burial sites, including the potential repatriation of remains

Examine the existing federal, provincial and territorial laws, regulations, tools and practices that currently apply and have applied to protect unmarked graves and burial sites connected to former Indian Residential Schools, as well as applicable Indigenous laws and protocols, in order to develop a description of the current legal framework

Identify areas of improvement in Canadian law and make recommendations for a new federal legal framework to identify, protect, and preserve unmarked burial sites connected to former Indian Residential Schools and lands associated with the schools

At the Gathering

The Grand Ballroom is located on the Ground Ballroom Level (GB) of the North Tower of the Sheraton Wall Centre. All breakfasts and lunches will be available at no cost.

Portions of the National Gathering taking place in the Grand Ballroom are being livestreamed for accessibility and transparency.

If members of the media are expected or present, an announcement will be made.

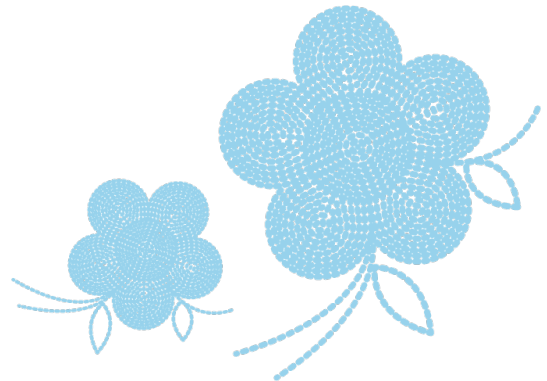
A photographer will be present and taking photos at the Gathering for use by the Office of the Special Interlocutor.

This Gathering is a public event where photography, audio and video recording may occur. By attending the event, all attendees consent to the potential release and publication of photos and audio/video recordings by the Office of the Special Interlocutor. If you have concerns about this, please speak with a staff member from the Office of the Special Interlocutor.

Health Supports

Trauma-informed and culturally appropriate health and wellness supports will be coordinated by the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) throughout the Gathering.

Due to the difficult content that will be discussed, participants are encouraged to access these supports as needed, at any time during the Gathering. There will be regular reminders and information about where and how to access support services.



Agenda

Monday, January 16th

Time	Event	Location
12:00 pm	Registration Opens Welcome Package and Bagged Lunch Provided	North Tower - Lobby Level (L)
4:00 pm	Welcome Ceremony Masters of Ceremony: Dr. Gwendolyn Point and Tribal Chief Tyrone McNeil <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Territorial Protocols• Empty Chair Ceremony	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
5:00 pm	Welcome Dinner <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lighting of Qulliq Welcome to the Territory <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chief Jennifer Thomas, Tsleil-Waututh Nation• Joe Desjarlais, British Columbia Métis Federation Keynote Address <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grand Chief Steven Point, Skowkale First Nation: “Honouring Children Found in Unmarked Graves: Those that did not Survive Indian Residential Schools”	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
	Artistic Performance	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
	Closing Prayer	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)



AM Tuesday, January 17th

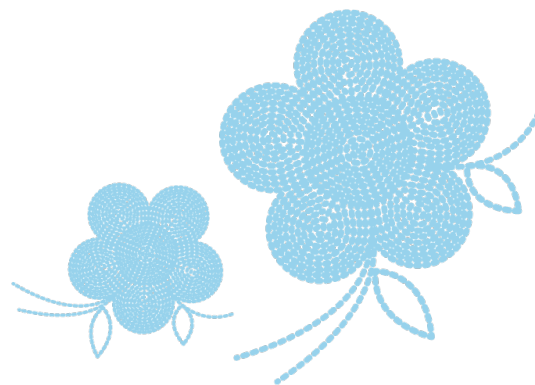
Time	Event	Location
7:30 am	Breakfast	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
8:30 am	Gathering Co-Chairs: Dr. Gwendolyn Point and Tribal Chief Tyrone McNeil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territorial Protocols • Call to Order 	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
9:00 am	Voices of Survivors: Importance of Data Sovereignty and Access to Records in the Search and Recovery of Missing Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlene Belleau, Williams Lake First Nation, BC • Karen Andrews, Prince George, BC • Wilbert Papik, Aklavik, NWT 	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
10:00 am	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kimberly Murray, Independent Special Interlocutor 	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB) North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
10:15 am	Wellness Break	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
10:30 am	Keynote Address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Marie Wilson, Commissioner, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2009-2015): "Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Vision in the Creation of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation" 	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
11:00 am	Participant Dialogue & Sharing	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
12:00 pm	Lunch	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)

PM Tuesday, January 17th

Time	Event	Location
1:00 pm	Indigenous Archives Panel: Facilitated Dialogue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raymond Frogner, Head of Archives, National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation • Krista McCracken, Researcher/Curator, Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre, Algoma University • Kristin Kozar, Interim Executive Director, Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre, UBC 	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
2:00 pm	Participant Dialogue & Sharing	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
2:30 pm	Wellness Break	3rd Floor - Pavilion Foyer
2:45 pm	Interactive Breakout Sessions	
	Session 1 – What Records are Available and How to Access Them <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nichole Vonk, General Council Archives Manager, United Church of Canada • Anne Panasuk, Special Advisor Supporting Families of Missing and Deceased Indigenous Children, Québec • Jean-Pierre Morin, Departmental Historian, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada 	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
	Session 2 – Know History Interactive Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryan Shackleton, Chief Executive Officer, Know History 	3rd Floor - Pavilion C
	Session 3 – Stó:lō Nation Archival Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amber D. Kostuchenko, Project Manager, Xyólhmet Ye Syéwíqwélh (Taking Care of Our Children) Residential Schools Project 	3rd Floor - Pavilion D
4:15 pm	Return to Plenary for Facilitator Highlights and Chair Wrap Up	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
4:30 pm	Closing Prayer	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)

AM Wednesday, January 18th

Time	Event	Location
7:30 am	Breakfast	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
8:30 am	Gathering Co-Chairs: Dr. Gwendolyn Point and Tribal Chief Tyrone McNeil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territorial Protocols • Call to Order 	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
9:00 am	Voices of Survivor Families: Youth Perspective on the Importance of Data Sovereignty and Access to Records in the Search and Recovery of Missing Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Megan Metz, Haisla Nation, BC • Vanessa Prescott, British Columbia Métis Federation 	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
9:45 am	Keynote Address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aaron Franks, Senior Research Manager, First Nations Information Governance Centre: "First Nations Principles of (OCAP) Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession: In Relation to the Recovery of Missing Children" 	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
10:15 am	Wellness Break	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
10:30 am	Participant Dialogue & Sharing	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
12:00 pm	Lunch	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)



PM Wednesday, January 18th

Time	Event	Location
1:00 pm	Indigenous Community Perspectives: The Power of Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff Ward, Founder, Animiki • Richard Jock, CEO, First Nations Health Authority • Ashley Whitworth, Project Director, Squamish Nation IRS Team 	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
1:45 pm	Participant Dialogue & Sharing	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
2:30 pm	Wellness Break	3rd Floor - Pavilion Foyer
2:45 pm	Interactive Breakout Sessions	
	Session 1 – Indigenous Law Relating to Information and Knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Koren Lightning-Earle, Legal Director at Wahkohtowin Law and Governance Lodge 	3rd Floor - Pavilion C
	Session 2 – Media: Ensuring the Respectful Treatment and Public Disclosure of Community Information and Knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kúkpi7 Rosanne Casimir, Tk'emlups First Nation • Barbara Lavallee, Cowessess First Nation • Angela Sterritt, Journalist, Writer 	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
	Session 3- The Transfer and Condition of Records: Language and Translation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veronique Mireault, University of Regina 	3rd Floor - Pavilion D
4:15 pm	Return to Plenary for Facilitator Highlights	
4:30 pm	Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kimberly Murray, Independent Special Interlocutor 	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)
4:45 pm	Closing Prayer	North Tower-Grand Ballroom (GB)

Speaker & Facilitator Biographies

Conference Co-Chairs



Tribal Chief Tyrone McNeil

Tyrone McNeil is Stó:lō and a member of Seabird Island Band. Tyrone is founding Chair of the Emergency Planning Secretariat which coordinates emergency management with 31 First Nation communities developing a Sendai DRR & United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples based regional action plan. Tyrone is Special Advisor to the First Nation Leadership Council on emergency management as well as Chair of the Tripartite Emergency Management Working Group. Since 2012, Tyrone has managed Stqoya Construction, a First Nation civil construction company that employs up to 70 First Nations men and women. He holds numerous leadership positions, including President & Tribal Chief of the Stó:lō Tribal Council, President of First Nations Education Steering Committee, Assembly of First Nations Chiefs Committee of Education representative for BC, Chair of Seabird College, President of Sqewqel Development Corporation, member of BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food's Indigenous Advisory Council, Chair of the Indigenous Advisory Committee to the Canada Energy Regulator, and Standing Chair of Union of BC Indian Chiefs.



Dr. Gwendolyn Point

Dr. Point is a well-respected and well-recognized Stó:lō leader, mentor, and cultural advisor who currently serves as the Knowledge Keeper for the BC Assembly of First Nations Chiefs. She also served a term 2015-2018 as The Chancellor for the University of the Fraser Valley. She has a Doctorate of Education from Simon Fraser University, a Master of Education from the University of Portland, a Post Baccalaureate from SFU, and a Bachelor of Education from the University of British Columbia.

Numerous awards include, Paul Harris Fellow, Order of Chilliwack, BC Aboriginal Tourism Award, Seattle Art Museum: "The Recognition for work in First Nation Language & Culture", The University of the Fraser Valley: "The Betty Urqhart Community Service Award", Chilliwack School District set up 2 bursaries in her name.

Keynote Speakers



**Grand Chief
Steven Point**

Steven Point is a member of the Skowkale First Nation who received his Bachelor of Laws in 1985. Mr. Point served as director of the First Nations Legal Studies program at the Peter A. Allard School of Law from 1991 to 1994. Mr. Point served as the 28th Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia; his career included practicing as a lawyer, working at the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs and in the Department of Employment & Immigration, serving as a provincial court judge and the Chief Commissioner of the British Columbia Treaty Commission. Mr. Point is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals, the Order of B.C, the Joseph H. Cohen Award from the Justice Institute of British Columbia Foundation, a National Aboriginal Achievement Award, the Order of Chilliwack, and honorary Doctorate of Laws degrees from the University of the Fraser Valley and Capilano University.



**Dr. Marie Wilson
(honoris causa)**

Marie Wilson served as a Commissioner of the historic Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC 2009-2015), leading to an unprecedented oral and written record of the facts and impacts of more than a century of forced residential schooling for Indigenous children in Canada. Wilson continues her public service through several national boards of directors, and as a public speaker, lecturer and emerging author. Within Canada and internationally, she is called upon for her perspectives on the hopes and challenges of reconciliation.

Fluent in French and English, Ms. Wilson has lengthy prior accomplishments as an award-winning journalist, trainer, public service executive, high school teacher in Africa, university lecturer, project leader, program evaluator, and corporate lead in change management, policy development and governance.

With honorary degrees, the Order of Canada, the Order of the Northwest Territories, and the Meritorious Service Cross – Wilson considers three children and four grandchildren her greatest treasures!

Program Speakers



Karen Andrews

Karen is Métis and has lived in many places & countries. She attended residential school from ages 7 to 9 when her family moved to Fort Wrigley Airport in the '60s. When she & her brother heard that the kids from the Indian Village across the river went to a real school in Fort Simpson (only 200 miles away) they begged to go as well. Life has definitely been a challenge, but counseling, and determination to be a strong person have gifted Karen with great careers, friends and numerous adventures. After attending Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops at the age of 55, Karen landed the best job ever as an Aboriginal Liaison with a major pipeline company. A few years after retirement, she is now working for BC Métis Federation as their employment coordinator; assisting Métis people find jobs and employers to find great employees. Now the best job ever!



Charlene Belleau

Charlene Belleau attended St. Joseph's Mission Indian Residential School for four years. She has been a strong advocate for Indian Residential School Survivors and their families for the past 32 years. Charlene has served three terms as Kúkpi7 (Chief) at Esk'etemc and on Council. She has served on numerous provincial and federal boards and organizations. Charlene is currently working with the Williams Lake First Nation on the investigation of children that disappeared and never came home from St. Joseph's Mission. Charlene also serves as a Provincial Liaison with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and 18 other BC IRS and 3 Indian Hospitals.



Rosanne Casimir

Kúkpi7 Rosanne Casimir belongs to one of the 17 campfires within Secwepemcúlecw and is the proud Kúkpi7/Chief, Mother, Key7e-Grandmother, Wife, and Role Model and a strong Secwepemc Woman leading by example and am the 14th elected Kúkpi7/Chief for Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc. I have lineage to hereditary Chief Louis Clexlixqen (1852-1915). (Chief Clexlixqen-Casimir and Elizebeth-Patrick and Lucindy-Thomas and Sadie- Kyé7e Annie and Stanley- Kí7ce Patricia and Qé7tse George). Currently, Elected Chief/Kúkpi7 2021-2024. This is my second term as elected Chief, also serving the community in this capacity from 2018 – 2021. Elected three (3) terms as Councillor for Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc bringing nine (9) years' experience as a political advocate for the community. I believe that personal wellness will lead to community wellness. In order to be a good leader, one must learn to effectively communicate with all others in a positive and respectful manner. We are all equal and we all have value.



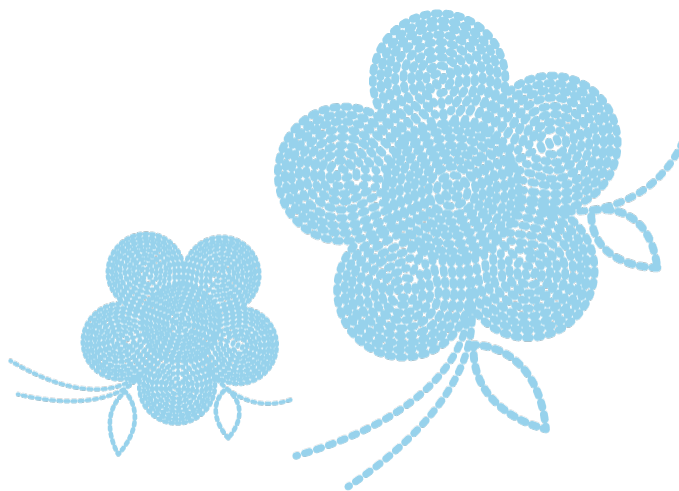
Aaron Franks

Aaron is the Senior Research Manager, OCAP® and Information Governance at the First Nations Information Governance Centre. He holds an MA in Social Justice and Equity Studies from Brock University and a PhD in Human Geography from the University of Glasgow. He has worked with the Centre for Environmental Health Equity (CEHE) at the University of Manitoba and Queen's University, the Centre for Indigenous Research Creation at Queen's, SSHRC, and Universities Canada. He now belongs to a team dedicated to education and applied research in the First Nations Principles of OCAP®, information governance, and First Nations data sovereignty. Originally from Edmonton in Treaty Six territory, Aaron is of British, Northern European, and Metis descent with roots in the Anglo-Metis communities of St. Andrews, MB, and Birch Hills, SK. He is a member of the Manitoba Metis Federation and lives on unceded Algonquin territory in Ottawa with his family.



Raymond Frogner

Raymond Frogner is the Head of Archives for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. He is also the Co-chair of the International Council of Archives (ICA) Special Committee on Indigenous matters. In this position, he was invited to write the ICA's first formal policy on public archives and Indigenous Peoples. He has worked in several public archives including the Royal BC Museum, the University of Alberta Archives, and the Provincial Archives of Alberta. His Master of Archival Studies graduating paper studied the Indigenous meaning of the Vancouver Island Treaties. Since graduation, he has published extensively on the issue of Indigenous rights, identity, and memory. His writing has won two national and one provincial award. He was nominated as a Fellow of the Association of Canadian Archives in 2021. His mother was Woodlands Cree with family ties to Duncan's Reserve in the Peace River District of Northern Alberta.





Richard Jock

Richard is a member of the Mohawks of Akwesasne and serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the First Nations Health Authority. His position provides leadership for the building, functioning and implementation of strong partnerships within the First Nations health governance structure and within the health system more broadly. Richard has worked for the past 25 years for First Nations organizations and the federal government, including numerous positions in the health field. Immediately prior to joining the FNHA, he held the post of Chief Executive Officer for the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). Among his other professional roles, Richard has held senior leadership positions at Norway House Health Services Incorporated, Health Canada, the National Aboriginal Health Organization and Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. Richard is committed to his wellness and challenges himself to stay active and spend time outdoors. He wears his FitBit daily, rarely missing his 10,000 steps, and enjoys playing racquetball in his spare time.



Amber D. Kostuchenko, B.A., M.A.

Amber is a Xwel'tem (Halq'eméylem for non-Indigenous) Canadian of Frisian and Ukrainian roots. She holds degrees in archaeology and history, and certificates in public history and paralegal studies. Amber manages several programs for the Stó:lō Service Agency, including the Stó:lō Library and Archives, the Stó:lō Genealogy Office, Stó:lō Shxwel'í Halq'eméylem Language Program, Cultural Education Program, and Stó:lō Tourism. Additionally, Amber is the Project Manager for the Xyólhmet ye Syéwíqwélh (Taking Care of Our Children) research work investigating missing children and unmarked burials associated with three Residential Schools and an Indian Hospital located in the Fraser Valley of British Columbia. Prior to joining the SRRMC, she worked 16 years for the Canadian Government, including 14 years coordinating research into Indian Residential Schools, culminating in the opportunity to work with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the transfer of over 1 million documents related to the historic operations of Residential Schools to the TRC.



Kirstin Kozar

Kristin Kozar is currently the Interim Executive Director at the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre and her permanent position is as the Indigenous Engagement and Programming Manager and Co-Lead of the Oral Testimony Program. A member of the Hwlitsum First Nation, she served on council for six years. She has completed her MLIS degree in 2018 with a concentration on First Nation curriculum and has previously worked at what was formerly known as UBC Aboriginal Health and has worked on a project where she researched and analyzed how to use Blockchain to give Indigenous peoples and communities autonomy over their own records. Kristin's research focuses on Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Institutional records.



Barbara Lavallee

Barbara Lavallee was born on the Cowessess First Nation. Her Grandfather Antoine Lavallee (1898-1978) was the twenty-first student registered at the Marieval Indian Residential School. Both of Barbara's parents also attended Marieval, while Barbara herself, attended the Lebret Indian Residential School in Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan. Barb's life work has become the search for missing children and unmarked graves with a particular focus in the area of Heritage Compliance on major projects. This work has brought her important experience in working with Scientists and Archaeologists. Over the years in conducting her work, Barb has had the privilege of working with Ground Penetration Radar (GPR) among burial sites that were 500-4000 year old ancestral sites. The burials at Marieval are estimated to be up to 150 years old. Barb feels fortunate to be able to do this sacred work with her family as her, her husband and their four children all have Environmental Sciences Education. Barb and her husband, Darrel Obey have 6 children and 13 grandchildren and live on the Piapot First Nation.



Koren Lightning-Earle

Koren Lightning-Earle, '00 BA(Rec/Leisure), '04 BA, '07 LLB, '18 LLM, CIC.C, Blue Thunderbird Woman, is Cree from Samson Cree Nation. She is the Legal Director of Wahkotowin Law and Governance Lodge. She is a Board Member for First Nations Caring Society. Koren received her Master of Laws from Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, where her concentration was Alternative Dispute Resolution. Koren's work focuses on working with Indigenous clients and supporting the revitalization of Indigenous Laws. Koren advises in the areas of Indigenous Governance, Indigenous Child Welfare, and Indian Act matters. She was recently awarded the "Pringle/Royal sessional teaching excellence" Award from Faculty of Law, University of Alberta for 2021/2022. She was awarded the "Tomorrow's Leader" Award from Women in Law Leadership Awards in 2019. She was also awarded the Alumni Horizon Award from the University of Alberta in 2017. Koren is an alumnus of the Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference and participated in the 2017 NWT Tour. She is a sessional instructor at Maskwacis Cultural College and University of Alberta, Faculty of Law.



Megan Metz

Megan Metz, ancestral name *qéndaux̣w*, hails from the Haisla Nation on the Northwest Coast. She is 24 years old and a member of the Black Fish Clan. Recently graduated from the University of Northern British Columbia with a First Nations Language Certificate in *xá'isla'kala*, Megan is passionate about mental health advocacy, language, and cultural revival. She is the former Digitization and Preservation Technician of the Haisla Culture and Language Program. It was there she learned how to document, record, and preserve Haisla stories and language while working with Elders, Fluent Speakers, and Knowledge Keepers in her community. For Megan, her work is fueled by the hope that current and future generations may be empowered by the wisdom of their Ancestors. Currently, she teaches beginner language classes with the goal of passing on the knowledge that has been shared with her.



Krista McCracken

Krista McCracken is a public historian and archivist. They work as a Researcher/Curator at the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre, at Algoma University in Baawating (Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario) on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and Métis people. Krista's work is centered on community archives, Residential Schools, access, and outreach. Krista is the 2022-2023 Past President of the Archives Association of Ontario and they also serve as a member of the Steering Committee on Canada's Archives Response to the Report on the Truth and Reconciliation Task Force. They are currently working on a book project, titled *Decolonial Archival Futures*, with Skylee-Storm Hogan-Stacey.



Véronique Mireault

Véronique Mireault is a settler of European descent, who grew up on the south shore of *Tiohtià:ke* (Montreal). Passionate about social justice, she worked and volunteered for many years among community-based and grassroots organizations, primarily in harm reduction. In 2010, she moved to *oskana kâ-asastêki* (Regina) to complete degrees in Indigenous Studies and Cree Language Literacy at the University of Regina. Currently, she works as a research assistant at *La Cité universitaire francophone*, where she is pursuing a master in French and Francophone Intercultural Studies.



Jean-Pierre Morin

Since 2000, Jean-Pierre Morin is the departmental historian for Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and Indigenous Services Canada specialising in the history of government policy and administration of Indigenous and Northern Affairs and the history of treaty-making. Jean-Pierre is currently working on a comprehensive history of the administration of federal Indigenous affairs as well as developing new historical learning tools for federal public servants. In 2015, he joined the History Department at Carleton University as an adjunct research professor for Public History, and in 2018, his book “Solemn Words and Foundational Documents: an Annotated Discussion of Indigenous-Crown Treaties in Canada, 1752-1923” was published by University of Toronto Press.



Wilbert Papik

Born in Aklavik, Northwest Territories, Wilbert Papik and his siblings grew up at their parents’ hunting camp in the Mackenzie Delta. “We travelled by dog team in the winter for trapping and on my dad’s schooner in the summer for whaling and hunting. My dad spoke to me in the Inupiat language. He told me I had to go to Residential School so that I could learn to speak English and write my name. This was my introduction to Residential Schools in Aklavik and Inuvik. I lost my language as we were forbidden to speak it. My dad was buried in an unmarked grave in Alberta. With the help of Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, he was located this past summer. I am married with 2 children, 4 grandchildren, and am semi-retired. The work being done to locate unmarked burials and find the missing children and adults from Residential hostels and hospitals is vital.



Anne Panasuk

Anne is a Former anthropologist and has been an investigative journalist at Radio-Canada television (CBC’s French network) for 38 years, the last 10 years at the flagship program Enquête. The excellence of her work has been repeatedly recognized. As a journalist, Anne Panasuk extensively reported on the disappearance of Indigenous youth following their hospitalization. In June 2021, she was appointed as a special advisor for the support of families of missing Indigenous children by the Quebec government for the application of Bill 79, which allows the sharing of information such as medical files for family members. Her book, *Auassat, à la recherche des enfants disparus*, was published a year ago. She is a mother and a grand-mother



Vanessa Prescott

Vanessa is a Métis Clinical Herbal Therapist who grew up in Showe'luqun (Shawnigan Lake) on Vancouver Island. She now resides on Coast Salish lands and is best known for her connection to the natural world. She works full time as an Indigenous Patient Navigator in cancer care, teaches mental health and plant medicine workshops for her local Métis nations, assists with teaching Naturopath medicine students botanical medicine, and is a water protector in collaboration with the Canadian Coast Guard. Vanessa tries her best to share her heart where it is needed most, bringing authenticity and care.



Angela Sterritt

Angela Sterritt is an award-winning investigative journalist and author from the Gitanmaax community of the Gitksan Nation on her dad's side and from Bell Island Newfoundland on her maternal side. Sterritt has worked as a television, radio, and digital journalist for more than a decade. She is currently the host of the CBC's Land Back podcast. Her book *Unbroken*, a work that is part memoir and part investigation into the murders and disappearances of Indigenous women and girls will be published on May 30, 2023, by Greystone Books. In 2021, Sterritt won an Academy award (Canadian Screen Award) for best reporter of the year in Canada for her coverage of an Indigenous man and his then 12-year-old granddaughter who were arrested while trying to open a bank account at BMO. In 2020, Sterritt was named in Vancouver Magazine's Power 50 list of the city's most influential people.



Ryan Shackleton

Ryan is the founder of Know History, Canada's largest historical research firm. He has 20 years of experience working as a public historian, and has led dozens of large, complicated research files for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit governments. He has worked on Truth Commissions, Residential School Files, and more recently, has been supporting the work of the Survivors' Secretariat. Ryan is an expert in developing research plans, locating and gaining access to historical documents, navigating the challenges around access restrictions, and organizing research teams. In addition to his expertise in archival strategies, Ryan has led extensive fieldwork projects and conducted more than 200 oral history and Traditional Knowledge and Land Use interviews with Indigenous Elders and knowledge holders. Ryan has spent his career working with Indigenous communities on museum exhibits, expert reports, documentary films, and the documentation of community knowledge. He works to ensure communities have ownership and access to their history by negotiating access at archival and museum institutions. Ryan is also passionate about exploring how technology can support community ownership and tell history from an Indigenous perspective.



Nichole Vonk (she/her)

Nichole has worked for the General Council Archives of The United Church of Canada (Toronto) since 2008. Throughout the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Nichole worked alongside ecumenical archivists and contractors to coordinate the review and production of church documents to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. From 2016-2021, Nichole served as a member of the Steering Committee on Canada's Archives Response to the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Taskforce to produce the Reconciliation Framework (2022) for Canada's archival communities.



Jeff Ward

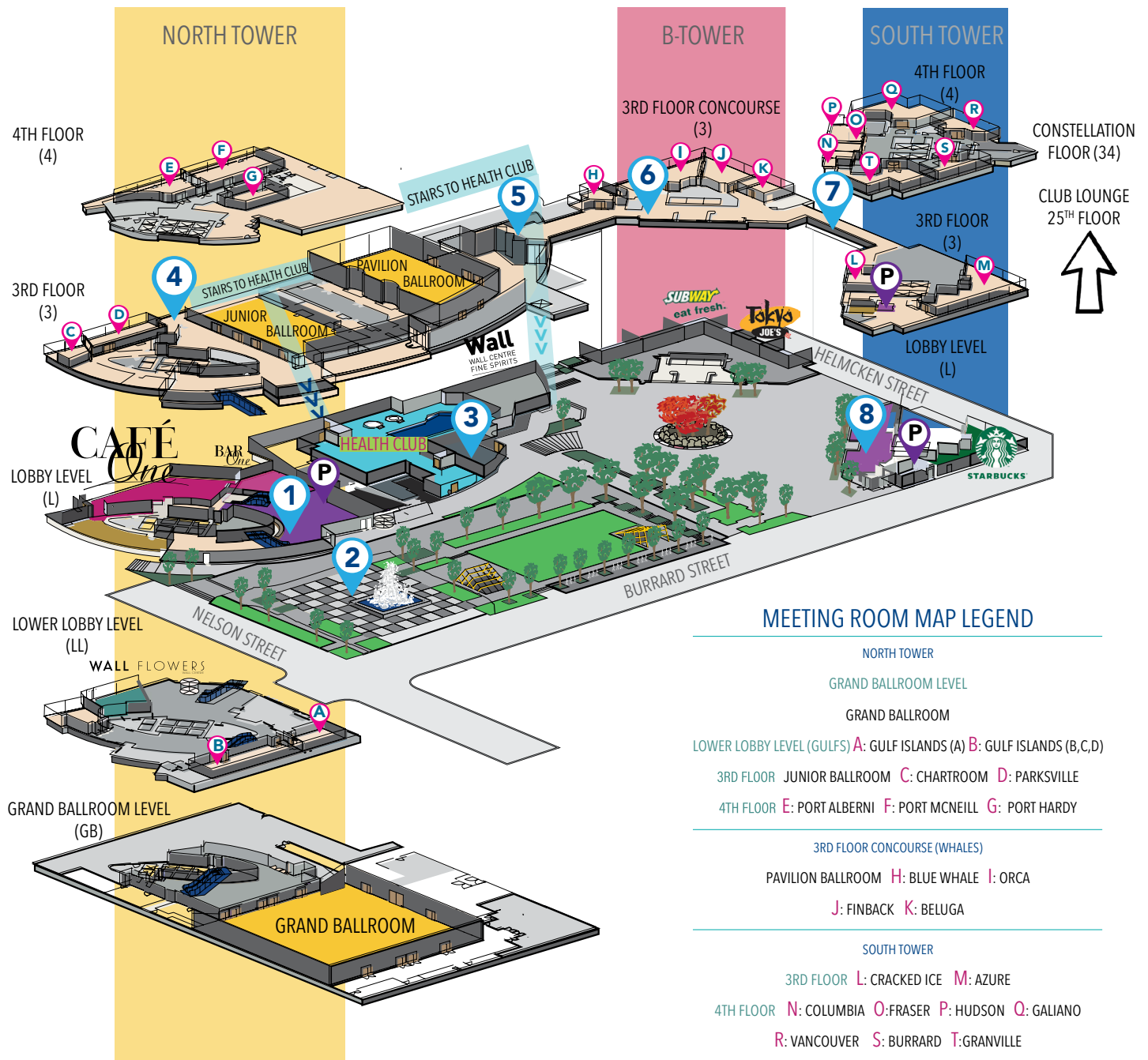
Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Animikii: Indigenous Innovation. Jeff founded Animikii in 2003 and has orchestrated and managed its growth ever since. Everything Jeff does in business is geared towards uplifting his family, communities and Indigenous Peoples. He is Ojibwe and Métis, originally from Manitoba, and now lives and works in Victoria, BC on Lekwungen territory. Jeff is a web designer, software developer, author, and speaker. He also serves as board member for Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN).



Ashley Whitworth

Ashley has more than 20 years of experience working as a management consultant and another 10 years as an entrepreneur in technology and research and development. Although her start in information technology set the foundation for her working as a management consultant, she gravitated towards not-for-profit and Indigenous work because of the practical impact that her approach achieves for this sector. She has assisted Indigenous communities throughout British Columbia and across provinces to Ontario - and this is the area of focus which is likely to stay. Ashley is currently the Project Director for Squamish Nation's Yúusnewas Project, their Indian Residential School research project to take care of everyone. Ashley works through her management consulting company, Tapestry Advisory Group (TagUs.ca), which weaves the expertise and experience that communities and organizations need to sustain lasting benefits.

Map of Venue



Survivors & Elders Lounge	Port McNeill Room
Health/Wellness Supports	Gulf Island A, B and C
National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation - Statement Gatherings	Finback Room
National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation - Archives	Orca Room
Know History	3rd Floor - Pavilliion C

Information Booths

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

[Residential schools missing children - community support funding](#)
(rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca)

Indigenous Services Canada

[Funding for Indigenous peoples - Canada.ca](#)

Indigenous Services Canada – Residential Schools, National Coordinator

[Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada - Canada.ca](#)

First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB)

[Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program](#)
(sac-isc.gc.ca)

[First Nations and Inuit health regional offices](#) (sac-isc.gc.ca)

Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre, University of British Columbia

irshdc.ubc.ca

Royal BC Museum

[Home | Royal BC Museum and Archives](#)

The United Church of Canada

unitedchurcharchives.ca

Settlement Agreement and Childhood Claims Branch, Resolution and Partnerships, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)

[Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement](#)
(rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca)

Mental Health & Wellness at First Nations Health Authority

[First Nations Health Authority](#)
(fnha.ca)

Know History

Knowhistory.ca

Survivors' Secretariat

Survivorssecretariat.ca

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Survivors, Indigenous Leaders and community members who are leading this Sacred work and traveled from near and far to attend this National Gathering.

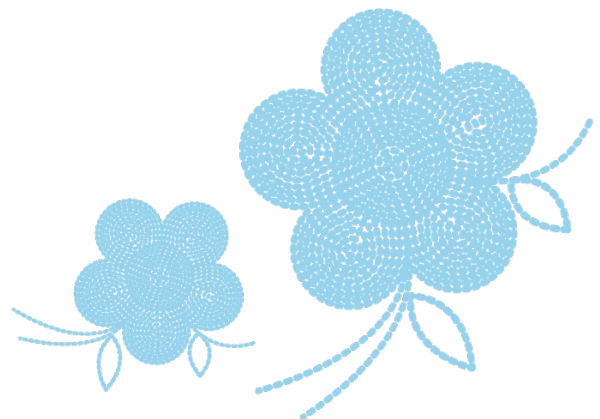
Thank you to the Elders who have looked after us through the duration of the Gathering.

We would like to express our appreciation to all volunteers who contributed to the success of the National Gathering on Unmarked Burials: Affirming Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Community Control over Knowledge and Information.

We would like to express our appreciation for Tribal Chief Tyrone McNeil, Dr. Gwendolyn Point, and Charlene Belleau for their dedication to helping the Office of the Independent Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites associated with Indian Residential Schools, and for supporting the search and recovery of missing children.

Thank you to the First Nations Health Authority with a special thanks to Duanna Johnston-Virgo and Virginia Toulouse for the coordination of health and wellness supports.

For more information about the Office of the Independent Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites associated with Indian Residential School, please visit our website at: <https://osi-bis.ca> or by email: infoISI@osi-bis.ca.





**Office of the Independent
Special Interlocutor**

for Missing Children and Unmarked
Graves and Burial Sites associated
with Indian Residential Schools

osi-bis.ca