

# National Gathering on Unmarked Burials:

Supporting the Search  
and Recovery of Missing Children

September 6-8, 2023  
Le Centre Sheraton Montreal Hotel  
Montreal, QC



**Office of the Independent  
Special Interlocutor**

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

Wellness and Cultural Health Supports will be available 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 Interim Report, 2012

# Welcome



**Kimberly R. Murray**

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

I am honoured to welcome you to the fifth National Gathering on Unmarked Burials where we will share individual and community experiences in the search and recovery for all the missing children. We will listen to the voices of Survivors and continue to be guided by Indigenous knowledge and ceremonies. These Gatherings are essential to inform and shape recommendations to Canada to create a new legal framework to ensure the respectful and culturally appropriate treatment of unmarked graves and burial sites of children associated with former Indian Residential Schools. Some initial findings and recommendations are reflected in my June 2023 [Interim Report](#).

I begin by acknowledging that we are gathering on the traditional territory of the Kanien'kehà:ka, a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst many Indigenous Peoples including the Kanien'kehà:ka of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, Huron/Wendat, Abenaki, and Anishinaabeg. We recognize and respect the Kanien'kehà:ka as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters. I also acknowledge that Tiohtià:ke continues to be home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people.

We are here because of the unwavering dedication and advocacy of Survivors, who, for decades, have carried and spoken truths about the unmarked burials that are likely located on the grounds of every former Indian Residential School site and other associated institutions, such as hospitals, sanatoria, reformatory and industrial schools. In my work as the Independent Special Interlocutor, I have had the honour of meeting Survivors who are leading the Sacred work to find the missing children across Canada. Despite the trauma of this work and the violence of Canada's indifference and denialism, Survivors continue to share their truths about the atrocities perpetrated against them at these institutions - steadfastly calling upon us to honour our traditions and ceremonies and to speak for the children.

I want to express my gratitude to all those leading search and recovery work in over 100 communities across Turtle Island. Survivors, Indigenous families, and communities continue to fight and call upon Canada, the churches and other institutions, to support and not impede this Sacred work so that the bodies and Spirits of the missing children are treated with the honour, respect and dignity that they deserve.

Over the next few days, this National Gathering will provide an opportunity for us to learn from Survivors, Elders, Knowledge Holders, intergenerational Survivors, Youth, Indigenous leaders, and those leading search and recovery efforts within their own communities. As we gather to exchange knowledge, let us commit to holding the Spirits of the children and the voices of Survivors at the center of our discussions.



# 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 Ballroom (West and Centre) is located on the third floor of le Sheraton Montreal.

All breakfasts and lunches will be provided to registered attendees.

Session materials will be available in the language presented and simultaneous translation in French and English will be available.

The sessions taking place in the Ballroom (West and Centre) will be live-streamed.

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

The National Gathering is a public event and photography, audio and video recording will 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 Independent Special Interlocutor (OSI). If you have concerns about this, please speak with a staff member from the OSI.

## Protocols

Indigenous Peoples across Turtle Island have used Sacred Fires for healing and the offering of medicines to those in need of prayers and loved ones in the Spirit World. There will be a Sacred Fire on-site at the Place du Canada Park which will remain lit throughout the duration of the National Gathering. This Sacred Fire ensures that the Spirits and Teachings guide and protect us while we gather. Ashes from previous Sacred Fires at OSI National Gatherings in Edmonton, Winnipeg, Vancouver and Toronto will be added to the lighting of the Montreal Sacred Fire. All people are invited to make offerings to the Sacred Fire including tissues collected during our Gathering.

Please help us respect the protocols of the Sacred Fire. The Firekeepers have been entrusted with tending to this flame and deserve the utmost respect.

## Wellness and Cultural Health Supports

Trauma-informed and culturally appropriate health and wellness supports will be provided throughout the Gathering. Additional relaxation and therapeutic services will be provided on site in the Health Supports Room. 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.



# Statement Gathering



The Kanien'keha:ka Kahnistensera (Mohawk Mothers) have been engaged in a legal challenge with promoters of the New Vic project to stall future excavation of the former Royal Victoria Hospital site until a proper archaeological investigation is conducted. The Mohawk Mothers are committed to protecting potential undiscovered evidence or unmarked graves and ensuring that Kaianere'kó:wa (or the Great Law of Peace) protocols are respected on the site. The Mohawk Mothers will have a booth at the National Gathering to share information about their struggle to protect unmarked burials, and will be offering to gather statements from former Indigenous patients of the Royal Victoria Hospital and Allan Memorial Institute in Montreal.



The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR), will be present to share information about accessing residential school records and to gather stories and experiences in one-on-one statements and sharing circles. Statements will be audio and video recorded, honoured, and preserved at the Centre.

Statement Providers are welcome to speak on any issues including Residential and Day Schools, Intergenerational experiences, the Sixties Scoop, Indian Hospitals and Sanatoriums, and MMIWG2S+. The aim is to create a permanent record of what's happened as a result of Residential Schools and other colonial systems, assist community research for missing children and unmarked burials, and be a witness to the ongoing impacts of settler-colonialism.

For more information or to pre-register: [nctrsg@umanitoba.ca](mailto:nctrsg@umanitoba.ca) | 431-998-0768

## Artistic Expression



Beatrice Deer

Acclaimed “Inuindie” pop star Beatrice Deer is a singer-songwriter based in Montreal. Half Inuk and half Mohawk, Beatrice was born and raised in Nunavik, Quebec, in the small village of Quaqtaq. She has released six studio albums, including her newest, titled SHIFTING. Her award winning songs are crafted upon deeply personal lyrics and blend indie rock and modern folk with traditional Inuit stories and throat singing.

The recipient of a 2021 Prism Prize and an Apple Music Ambassador, Beatrice Deer sings in three languages: Inuktitut, English, and French. A beloved figure in Arctic Canada, she has performed worldwide, from the Venice Biennale to Norway’s Førde Traditional and World Music Festival to the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona. Her bandmates and collaborators, all longstanding members of Montreal’s music community, have worked with diverse and dynamic musical acts such as Leif Vollebekk, Land of Talk, Stars, The Barr Brothers, Bell Orchestre, Little Scream, The Besnard Lakes, and Suuns.

Beatrice’s previous full-length album, *My All To You*, won the 2018 Canadian Folk Music Award in the Pushing the Boundaries category, and Best Folk Album at the 2019 Indigenous Music Awards. More recently, in 2022, the award-winning TV short *Angakusajaujuq: The Shaman’s Apprentice*, for which Beatrice composed the musical score, was shortlisted for an Oscar nomination for Best Animated Short Film.

Beatrice Deer’s sixth studio album, *SHIFTING*, explores the process of getting closer to the place where we’re meant to be in life. “Emotionally, spiritually, and physically, the

transition toward our authentic selves continues,” she says. “As I shift into the position where I’m meant to be, I want to keep using what I’ve learned to help others.”

A role model to her community and a stalwart advocate for mental health, Beatrice feels strongly that each of us, no matter what we’ve been through, has the ability to transform our personal outlook. Her message, whether shared in song or at speaking engagements, comes from her own lived experience of overcoming countless obstacles. “You can’t be a changemaker if you haven’t gone through it yourself,” Bea says. “You can’t help without healing yourself first. You can’t change what happened; you can only change how you deal with it.”

Beatrice sees her music as a calling. “I’m not a singer just for the sake of being a singer,” she explains. “Music is a megaphone to get people’s attention. When I have your attention, the message reaches you. I find that music expresses what we can’t express verbally. A song can carry so much more than words. We don’t have enough vocabulary to say what we really feel. Music brings another level of frequency to the emotion that we are feeling.”

One of the themes of *SHIFTING* is that life is a process of becoming. “You don’t reach a place in life and say: That’s it, I know everything now. No! Life is an ongoing, growing experience. And when you die, it’s just physical—the spirit goes on. The soul goes on. Right now, I’m in a period where I’m shifting from one place to another, higher level.”



## Artistic Expression



Kontirennotátie is the Kanehsatà'kehró:non women singers who have been singing for more than 25 years. Now the younger generation have joined the group and are learning alongside the older women. The women singers share their teachings and knowledge of traditional music to all and welcome and teach younger people. By singing, these women promote understanding and education of their Mohawk Culture.

Kontirennotátie, Otsi'tsa'ón:we Julie Gaspé, Wenhni'tanó:ron Cathy Beauvais, Kawisaiénhne Julia Albany, Katsi'tsa nó:ron Melody Beaudin, Tekatsikeraténie's Claudia Cataford Clermont  
Kanehsatà:ke



**Gary Miller**

Gary Miller's Art transcends the standard apologetic accounts of residential schools by showing Gary's story/truth in a series of large paintings and sketches about his experience of the Mohawk Institute Indian Residential School. It is a story of a two-year old Mohawk/Cayuga child taken away from his home in Six Nations to a residential school for 11 years (1953-1964), told through color, line, and shadows. The exhibit shows what the Mohawk Institute was, what happened to the child, and how the artist has coped/ not coped with the afterlife of his experience. The art does not hold back and is difficult and disturbing to see, but its aesthetic quality is high and registers Gary Miller's truth. The exhibit repudiates the necropolitics of North American settler-colonialism, and affirms Indigenous sovereignty through powerful visual commemoration. It encourages all Survivors to tell their stories.



**RedTail Spirit Singers**

Founded in Kanehsatà:ke in 2003, the "RedTail Spirit Singers" began with an idea to provide opportunities for young people through singing, drumming and dancing workshops. Music is a form of development and unification and what could be more natural than singing while setting the rhythm with a traditional drum. They promote culture, education and a healthy lifestyle while encouraging our young people to speak their traditional language and improve French, English and any other language that may be of interest to them.

The RedTail Spirit Singers group has traveled across Canada, United States, Caribbean, Europe and Africa for Powwows, Protocol Ceremonies, Congresses, Universities, Colleges, Schools, Festivals, Cultural and Music Events.

# AGENDA

## Wednesday, September 6th

Time	Event	Location
6:45 am	<b>Lighting of the Sacred Fire and Sunrise Ceremony</b>	Place du Canada Park
12:00 pm	<b>Registration Opens &amp; Grab and Go Lunch</b>	
1:30 - 3:30 pm	<b>Survivors Sharing Circle: National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation</b>	Ballroom East
4:00 pm	<b>Welcome Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Host Drum</li> <li>▪ RedTail Spirit Singers</li> <li>▪ Opening Prayer</li> <li>▪ Lighting of Qulliq</li> <li>▪ Empty Chair Ceremony</li> <li>▪ Kanehsatà:ke Traditional Women Singers</li> <li>▪ Spirit Dish Offering</li> </ul>	Ballroom West and Centre
5:00 pm	<b>Dinner</b> <b>Gathering Co-Chairs:</b> Victoria LaBillois and Luc Lainé <b>Welcome to the Territory</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer</b>, Elected Grand Chief of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke</li> <li>▪ <b>Victor Bonspille</b>, Elected Grand Chief Mohawk Council of Kanehsatà:ke</li> </ul> <b>Welcome to the Gathering</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Kimberly Murray</b>, Independent Special Interlocutor</li> </ul> <b>National Indigenous Leadership</b> <b>Cultural Performance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Beatrice Deer</b>, Quaqtq, NU</li> </ul> <b>Closing Comments from the Gathering Co-Chairs</b>	Ballroom West and Centre

# Thursday, September 7th

Time	Event	Location
6:30 am	<b>Thanksgiving Address</b>	Ballroom West and Centre
7:30 am	<b>Breakfast</b>	
8:30 am	<b>Opening Comments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Gathering Co-Chairs:</b> Victoria LaBillois and Luc Lainé</li> </ul>	
8:45 am	<b>Voices of Survivors Panel</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Norman Kistabish</b>, Abitibiwinini First Nation, QC</li> <li>▪ <b>Kakaionstha Betty Deer</b>, Kahnawà:ke, QC</li> <li>▪ <b>Emma Reelis</b>, Goose Bay, NL</li> <li>▪ <b>Angie Crerar</b>, Grand Prairie, AB</li> </ul>	
9:45 am	<b>Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>The Honourable Arif Virani</b>, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada</li> </ul>	
10:30 am	<b>Wellness Break</b>	Foyer
10:45 am	<b>Keynote Address</b> <b>The Honourable Michèle Taïna Audette</b> , Senate of Canada	Ballroom West and Centre
11:00 am	<b>Participant Questions &amp; Dialogue</b>	
12:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>	
1:00 pm	<b>Leadership Panel: Where to Begin</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Chief Councillor Ken Watts</b>, Tseshah, BC</li> <li>▪ <b>Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) Grand Chief Garrison Settee</b>, Pimicikamak Cree Nation, MB</li> <li>▪ <b>Grand Chief Mandy Gull-Masty</b>, Grand Council of the Crees, Eeyou Istchee, QC</li> </ul> <b>Moderator:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Dr. Marie Wilson</b>, Former Commissioner, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada</li> </ul>	
2:00 pm	<b>Participant Questions &amp; Sharing</b>	Foyer
2:30 pm	<b>Wellness Break</b>	



# Thursday, September 7th

Time	Event	Location
2:45 - 4:00 pm	<b>Interactive Breakout Sessions</b>	
	<b>Session 1: Indigenous Policing Panel: Indigenous Laws and Peacekeeping</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chief of Police Keith Blake, Tsuut'ina Nation, AB</li> <li>▪ Chief of Police Jerel (Jerry) Swamp, Rama Police, ON</li> <li>▪ Peacekeeper Chief Dwayne Zacharie, Kahnawà:ke, QC</li> </ul> <b>Moderator</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Julie McGregor, Senior Legal Counsel, Assembly of First Nations</li> </ul>	Ballroom West and Centre
	<b>Session 2: Bill 79: Anne Panasuk, Former Special Advisor, Quebec Government</b> An Act to authorize the communication of personal information to the families of Indigenous children who went missing or died after being admitted to an institution	Ballroom East
	<b>Session 3: Connecting Disparate Data to Understand the Student Experience</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ashley Whitworth, Project Director, Yúusneẁas Project and Management Consultant for Indigenous Communities</li> </ul>	Salon Drummond West and Centre
	<b>Session 4: Translation of French Documents</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dr. Jérôme Melançon, Associate Professor, Chair of The French and Francophone Intercultural Studies Program, University of Regina</li> </ul>	Salon Drummond East
4:15 pm	<b>Return to Plenary for Facilitator Highlights</b>	Ballroom West and Centre
4:30 pm	<b>Closing and Long House Social Dance</b>	
5:30 - 7:30 pm	<b>Reception with Artist Gary Miller</b> Artistic Response from a Mohawk Institute Survivor <i>Light Food and Refreshments</i>	McCord Museum

# Friday, September 8th

Time	Event	Location
6:30 am	<b>Thanksgiving Address</b>	Ballroom West and Centre
7:30 am	<b>Breakfast</b>	
8:30 am	<b>Opening from Gathering Co-Chairs</b>	
8:45 am	<b>Voices of Youth Panel</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rosalie LaBillois, Eel River Bar First Nation, NB</li> <li>▪ Joni Karoo, Taloyoak, NU</li> <li>▪ Kyra De La Ronde, Red River Métis, MB</li> </ul>	
10:00 am	<b>Keynote Address</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada</li> </ul>	
10:30 am	<b>Wellness Break</b>	Foyer
10:45 am	<b>Participant Questions &amp; Sharing</b>	Ballroom West and Centre
12:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>	
1:00 pm	<b>National Advisory Committee (NAC) Panel: Working Together in the Search and Recovery of Residential Schools Missing Children</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jacquie Bouvier, Métis, Beauval, SK</li> <li>▪ Dr. Rebekah Jacques, Citizen of Métis Nation of Ontario, Forensic Pathologist, London, ON</li> <li>▪ Dr. Kisha Supernant, Métis Nation of Alberta, AB</li> </ul>	
1:45 pm	<b>Participant Questions &amp; Sharing</b>	Foyer
2:30 pm	<b>Wellness Break</b>	

## Friday, September 8th

Time	Event	Location
2:45 - 4:00 pm	<b>Interactive Breakout Sessions</b>	
	<b>Session 1: Forced Transfers: Finding Missing Family Members in Cemeteries</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tanya Talaga, Fort William First Nation, ON</li> <li>▪ Elizabeth Anderson, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation, YK</li> <li>▪ Sharon Macintyre and Christine Szabo, Pine Creek First Nation, MB</li> </ul>	Ballroom West and Centre
	<b>Session 2: Survivors Sharing Circle, National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR)</b>	Ballroom East
	<b>Session 3: Know History Workshop: Using Archival Documents to Support Your Search</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ryan Shackleton, Founder and CEO, Know History</li> </ul>	Salon Drummond West and Centre
	<b>Session 4: Survivors Voices: Through Storytelling “Pour toi Flora – Dear Flora”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sonia Bonspille Boileau, Director and Screenwriter, Kanehsatà:ke, QC</li> </ul>	Salon Drummond East
4:15 pm	<b>Return to Plenary for Facilitator Highlights</b>	Ballroom West and Centre
4:30 pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kimberly Murray, Independent Special Interlocutor</li> </ul>	
5:00 pm	<b>Travel Song by RedTail Spirit Singers Drum Group</b>	





## Cultural Advisors



**John  
Anehwario  
Cree**

John Anehwario Cree, Traditional Longhouse Bear Clan Faithkeeper, was born at home in Kanehsatà:ke, Mohawk Territory and raised by his grandparents. In 2005, Anehwario was hired as a Grandfather (Elder) to share traditional teachings with Indigenous inmates through Corrections Services Canada, from the minimum to the Super Maximum Special Handling Unit (SHU) in Ste. Anne des Plaines, Quebec. He has also been a school bus driver and an aircraft refueller at Montreal Dorval Airport.

Anehwario is happily married to his wife Linda, parents of four children, grandparents to 9 precious grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Although his garden has gotten smaller, Anehwario still manages to do what he loves best – growing the "Three Sisters" - Indian white corn, beans and squash, traditional Grandfather tobacco and in the Spring, teaching his children, grandchildren, and children in the community - how to make maple syrup on his land in Kanehsatà:ke.



**Thelma  
Katsienhaion  
Nelson**

Thelma Katsienhaion Nelson is a 67-year-old Mohawk born and raised by her grandmother in Kanehsatà:ke, Quebec. In 1991, she worked at the first Halfway House for Aboriginal men. Then spent 11 years with the Native Women's Shelter where she became a single foster parent to three children.

In 2004, she left the workforce and by this time had four children all under 10 years of age. In 2006, she volunteered for the First Nations and Inuit Suicide Prevention Conference and then became the Administrative Assistant. Thereafter Thelma was appointed the Director of the Association a position she held for 14 years. Thelma is a Breast Cancer survivor and is retired and enjoys being with friends, sewing and counselling when needed.



## Cultural Advisors



**Stephen  
Silverbear  
McComber**

Stephen is a traditional Haudenosaunee Elder, from the Mohawk community of Kahnawà:ke. He is a Faith Keeper, seed keeper and manager of spiritual, traditional, and ceremonies at the Mohawk Trail Longhouse. He is a Recipient of The Canada Council for the Arts in 1985 and 2002. In addition to participating as a speaker at international conferences Stephen continues to work as an Elder for Corrections Canada.

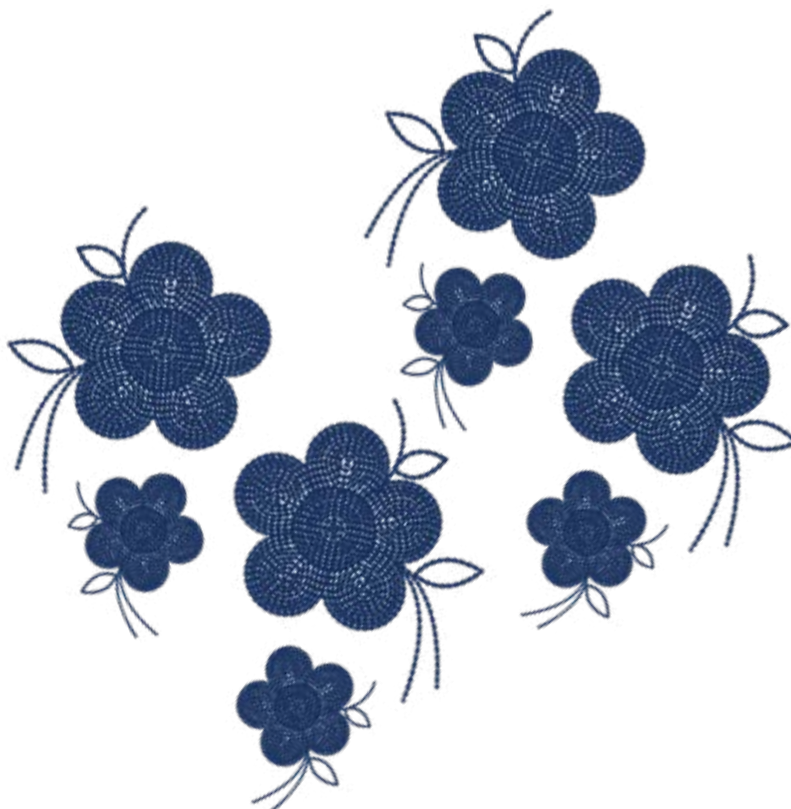


**Geraldine  
Standup**

Geraldine Standup is a Mohawk mother and grandmother from Kahnawà:ke. She is a respected Teacher and Healer for over forty years.

Geraldine served her community as well as the Anishnabe People of Toronto for 20 years. She also served in Hamilton, Brantford and London, Ontario. She also spent time with the Maliseet People in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Geraldine is currently an Elder in Residence at McGill University.



## Gathering Co-Chairs



**Luc Lainé**

Luc Lainé, B.A., is a member of the Huron Wendat Nation and former Delegated Chief within the Council of his First Nation. For the last 30 years, he has carried out his professional activities across the country within many Canadian and Aboriginal organizations as well as in the private sector.

Mr. Lainé is deemed to be a valuable contributor by Native associations given his experience and his elaborate diplomatic approach. His involvement and knowledge of Aboriginal Peoples are an asset to any project team. For example, he acted for more than five years as Co-chairman of the Assembly of First Nations of Canada, he worked for the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples as Deputy Director - Public Hearings Directorate, he was a senior Aboriginal Coordinator within the Secretariat of the World Conference Against Racism sponsored by the United Nations.



**Victoria  
LaBillois**

Mi'gmaq entrepreneur from Listuguj, Quebec. Victoria owns Wejipeg Excavation Inc. and co-owns Wejuseg Construction Inc.

Victoria has served both the First Nation and federal public service, working at the Band, regional and national levels. Victoria is currently serving as Vice-Chair of the National Indigenous Economic Development Board.

Victoria holds a BA in political science and an MBA both from the University of New Brunswick. She holds a contractor's license from Régie du bâtiment du Québec.

In 2020 – 2022, Victoria represented the NIEDB in the development of Canada's first National Indigenous Economic Strategy. She also served as co-chair for a national Steering Committee with the Canadian Construction Association.

Victoria serves as mentor to Indigenous women at the Coady Institute in Nova Scotia. She serves as a coach and role model in several leadership and capacity development programs. Helping to build skills around managing money, Victoria teaches financial literacy to Indigenous youth.





## Keynote Speakers



**Senator  
Michèle Taïna  
Audette**

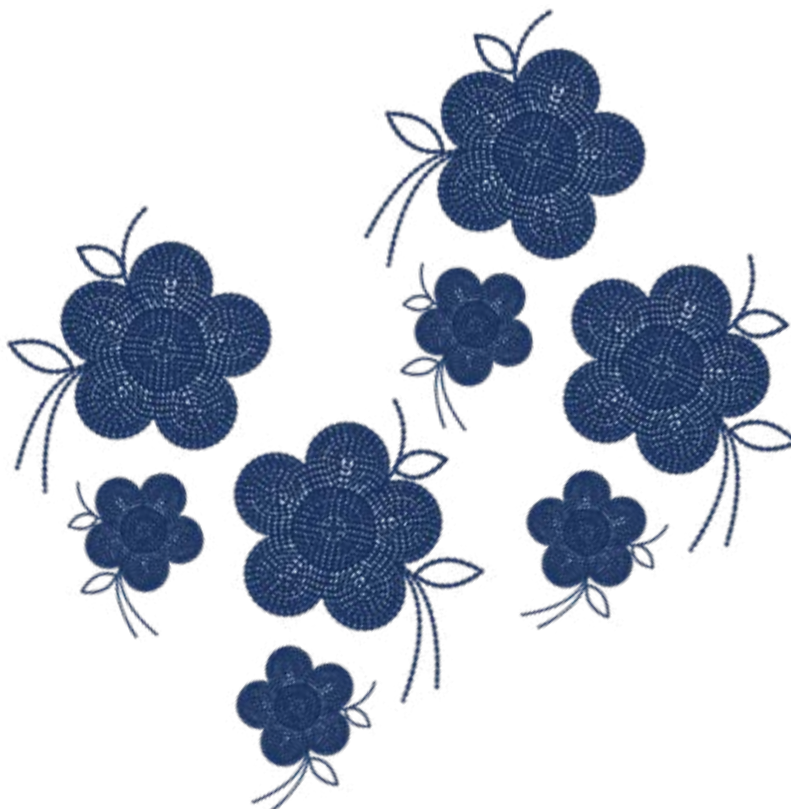
Senator Michèle Taïna Audette grew up immersed in both the Innu and Quebec cultures. She was born in Wabush, Labrador, and spent her early years in Schefferville, Mani-Utenam and Montreal. From the moment she was born, she has experienced discrimination as both a woman and an Indigenous person, and she has dedicated herself to pursuing equality, equity, justice and social justice.

Senator Audette is committed to advancing First Peoples' issues, including issues faced by Indigenous women, and to building bridges to create an inclusive and respectful society for all.

She studied visual arts at the University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM) and art education at Concordia University. She holds two honorary doctorates, one from the University of Montreal for her political and social advocacy on behalf of Indigenous women and other one from the Faculty of Social Sciences of University of Ottawa.

Her past roles include serving as president of the Native Women's Association of Quebec (FAQ) and the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) and as commissioner for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (NIMMIWG).

In the fall of 2019, she joined Laval University as a senior advisor for reconciliation and Indigenous education. She was appointed senator in July 2021.



## Keynote Speakers



**Her Excellency  
the Right  
Honourable  
Mary Simon**

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary May Simon was sworn in on July 26, 2021, as Canada's first Indigenous governor general. She is the 30th governor general since Confederation.

Mary Simon was born on August 20, 1947, in Kangiqsualujjuaq, Nunavik (Quebec), to Nancy May (Angnatuk-Askew), her Inuk mother, and Bob Mardon May, her father, who moved to the Arctic to work for the Hudson's Bay Company.

Ms. Simon gained national and international recognition for her work on Arctic and Indigenous issues and for her efforts in advocating for Inuit rights, youth, education and culture.

Ms. Simon began her career as a radio broadcaster with the CBC Northern Service (now CBC North) in the 1970s. Following this, she held a series of executive positions with the Northern Quebec Inuit Association (now Makivik Corporation) and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, which centred on negotiating the first land claims agreement in Canada, the *James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement*. As president of Makivik Corporation, she was directly involved with the implementation of the agreement, along with the protection and promotion of Inuit rights.

Along with fellow Indigenous leaders, Ms. Simon was also actively involved in the negotiations leading to the 1982 patriation of the Canadian Constitution, which formally entrenched Aboriginal and treaty rights in the supreme law of Canada.

She later joined the executive council of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (now the Inuit Circumpolar Council), for which she served two terms as president. In addition, she was commissioner of the Nunavut Implementation Commission and policy co-director of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

From 1994 to 2003, Ms. Simon served as ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs, becoming the first Inuk to hold an ambassadorial position. During this time, she negotiated the creation of the Arctic Council. Concurrently, she served as ambassador of Canada to Denmark from 1999 to 2001.

Beginning in 2006, Ms. Simon served two terms as president of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. In 2008, in the House of Commons, she delivered a response on behalf of Inuit to the formal apology on residential schools. She is the founder of the Arctic Children and Youth Foundation and, until 2014, she was the chairperson of the National Committee on Inuit Education.

In 2017, as the Minister's Special Representative, Ms. Simon delivered a report to the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs on *A new Shared Arctic Leadership Model*, setting the stage for important policy and program development in support of the Arctic and its residents.

Among other distinctions, Ms. Simon is an Officer of the Ordre national du Québec. She is also a recipient of the Governor General's Northern Medal, the Gold Order of Greenland, the National Aboriginal Achievement Award, the Gold Medal of the Canadian Geographical Society and the Symons Medal.

Upon becoming governor general, Ms. Simon was promoted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Sovereign of these Orders at the time of installation, as Companion of the Order of Canada (C.C.), and invested as Commander of the Order of Military Merit (C.M.M.) and Commander of the Order of Merit for Police Forces (C.O.M.).

Ms. Simon plays the accordion and loves nature and berry picking. She is *anaana* (mother) to a daughter and two sons, *anaanatsiaq* (grandmother) to 12 children and *amauq* (great-grandmother) to four children. She also has three stepchildren from her marriage in 1994 to Mr. Whit Grant Fraser, former head of the Canadian Polar Commission, former executive director of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and a long-time former CBC journalist.

## Keynote Speakers



**The Honourable  
Arif Virani**

The Honourable Arif Virani was first elected as the Member of Parliament for Parkdale—High Park in 2015. He has previously served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development, as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and to the Minister of Democratic Institutions, as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Canadian Heritage (Multiculturalism), and as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship.

Minister Virani is an Ismaili Muslim who came to Canada in 1972 as a Ugandan Asian refugee. Before entering politics, he practised law for 15 years, starting his career as a civil litigator at Fasken Martineau and subsequently working as a constitutional litigator at the Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario, advocating for human rights and access to justice.

Minister Virani previously worked as an analyst with the Canadian Human Rights Commission in Ottawa, an investigator at the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse in Montréal, and an Assistant Trial Attorney prosecuting genocide at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. He was a consultant on police reform with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative in India, and was also one of the founding board members of the South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario in Toronto, which provides direct legal services for low-income people of South Asian heritage.

Minister Virani has been an active volunteer in his community. He is a supporter of The Redwood, a shelter for women and children fleeing abuse, has frequently helped at the Parkdale Community Food Bank, and still maintains his role as “Sorauren Park Hoser” – assisting with the community rink build each winter. Prior to his first election, he was also an active volunteer with RoncyWorks, a network of neighbours, business owners, and organizations that work together to improve community space, and led community efforts in Parkdale—High Park to address mental health stigma.

Minister Virani received the 2001 Harold G. Fox litigation scholarship at the Middle Temple in London, United Kingdom, and the 2008 Wilson-Prichard Award from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law in recognition of his contributions to the legal profession and his community.

Minister Virani holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science (Honours) from McGill University, and completed his Bachelor of Laws at the University of Toronto, where he graduated as valedictorian. He speaks English, French, and some Hindi – his Polish, Ukrainian, and Tibetan are works in progress. He is married and the active coach of his two sons.

## Gathering Speakers



**Elizabeth  
Anderson**

Elizabeth Anderson was born and raised in Carmacks, Yukon. She is a residential school Survivor and attended Choutla in Carcuss, Yukon and Lower Post residential school in British Columbia. Elizabeth found that healing mentally, physically, and spiritually is a lifelong journey and sought treatment and has been sober for 39 years. She has worked for 25 years in Health and Social departments and in Justice for 10 years.

Elizabeth is a Knowledge Keeper for the Tantalus School in Carmacks, Yukon. In addition, holds positions on a number of boards and committees including the RCMP Elders Advisory Board, Choutla Residential School committee and Long Term Care Advisory Board.



**Keith Blake**

Chief of Police Keith Blake is proud to lead alongside the sworn and non-sworn members of Tosguna, and to serve the beautiful community of Tsuut'ina Nation. Chief Blake believes in the importance of providing community centered policing, adapting to meet the cultural and socioeconomic needs of the Tsuut'ina Peoples and to address root causes of crime.

Keith is currently a Vice-President of the First Nation Chiefs of Police Association, and a sitting member of the Assembly of First Nations policing taskforce for the co-development of the overdue and needed essential service legislation. He Chairs the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police Policing with Indigenous Peoples committee and is the Executive sponsor of the Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police Policing with Indigenous Peoples committee.

Chief Blake is invested in advocating for First Nations Policing, raising awareness, and supporting solutions related to the challenges and triumphs of Indigenous Policing across our Country, and remains truly humbled to serve the visionary people of the Tsuut'ina Nation.



**Sonia Bonspille  
Boileau**

Sonia is a bilingual Kanienkeha:ka-Québécois filmmaker who has been working for over fifteen years at bringing Indigenous content to the screen for viewers of all cultural backgrounds. She first started making documentaries to explore her bicultural heritage and understand the impacts of colonialism. Some of her documentary credits include Last Call Indian, The Oka Legacy, Wapikoni, and the series Skindigenous. Sonia has also written and directed two feature films, Le dep (2015) and Rustic Oracle (2019), which was shot in her home community of Kanehsatà:ke. Sonia recently wrote and directed her first drama series Pour toi Flora (2022), which is the first drama series in Canada to be written, produced, and directed entirely by Indigenous content creators. The series won the 2022 Cannes MipCom Diversity Award as well as the award for Best Mini-series at C21 Content London 2022.

## Gathering Speakers



**Jacquie  
Bouvier**

Jacquie Bouvier is a 70-year old third generation residential school Survivor. She has mixed Métis and Dene heritage. She attended the Beauval Mission School where she suffered abuse. Her father worked for the Beauval Mission School. Ms. Bouvier currently works in the Greater Vancouver area and has worked for Family Services, working with youth who are aging out of care.



**Angie Crerar**

Angie is a Métis Knowledge Keeper and Elder, from Grande Prairie, Alberta. She volunteers with the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre and was the long-time President of the Métis Nation of Alberta - Local 1990. She is also a residential school Survivor, having attended St. Joseph's Indian Residential School in Fort Resolution, NWT, and led Canada's Indigenous delegation to Rome to meet with Pope Francis.

A born leader devoted to enriching the lives of her people, Mrs. Crerar has been involved with the provincial Elders Wisdom Circle, the Social Housing Community Advisory Board, the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women, National Aboriginal Day, and Canadian Red Cross fundraising activities.

In 2003, Crerar received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women and received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012, followed by the Government of Alberta's Minister's Seniors Service Award in 2015. In 2005, she was awarded the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award for her efforts to help unhoused people over the age of 55, having founded the local Elders Caring Shelter.



**Kakaionstha  
Betty Deer**

Kakaionstha Betty Deer lives in Kahnawà:ke, Quebec. She is the former principal of the Katerie School, located on the South Shore First Nations reserve, as well as an actress, appearing in the acclaimed TV show "Mohawk Girls". She was only six years old when she was sent to a residential school in Spanish, Ontario, where she spent three years. There, she went through physical and sexual abuse, and it is only when she was in her 50s that she began dealing with her trauma.





## Gathering Speakers



**Kyra  
De La Ronde**

Kyra De La Ronde is a proud Red River Métis, whose family comes from Duck Bay, MB. Kyra previously represented the voice of Red River Métis youth from the grassroots to national level. In 2022 she completed her term as the Youth Rep. for the Manitoba Métis Federation – National Government of the Red River Métis.

A graduate Red River College Polytechnic in the Indigenous School of Education – Kyra has a background in Economics, Indigenous Community Development, and Indigenous Governance. With guidance from Elders, Kyra took her experiences from community and her education and has begun her career as a Policy Analyst working for the Manitoba Métis Federation.



**Dr. Rebekah  
Jacques**

Rebekah Jacques, a citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario, currently works as a forensic pathologist at the London Health Sciences Centre in Ontario and as an investigating coroner with the Office of the Chief Coroner. She is also an Assistant Professor at the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, Western University where she teaches on subjects such as trauma, postmortem examinations, and the role of pathologists as expert witnesses. In her career, Rebekah has focused on the ethics of how legal and medical investigations engage with Indigenous peoples, including how information about cause of death can be better shared to support healing.



**Norman  
Kistabish**

Norman Kistabish attended the St-Marc de Figury boarding school from 1958 to 1963. He resided in Pikogan near the town of Amos in Abitibi, Quebec. Norman was physically, mentally, spiritually and sexually abused. He is the second generation to have attended residential school. His mother Annie Frank, a Cree from Waskaganish, unfortunately spent ten years in a residential school in Ontario. Norman's healing journey began 50 years after his release from residential school.



## Gathering Speakers



**Rosalie  
LaBillois**

Rosalie LaBillois is a 26-year-old Mi'gmaq woman from the community of Eel River Bar First Nation in New Brunswick. She is currently a student at Cape Breton University and working as a Youth Engagement Officer for Ulnuweg Indigenous Communities Foundation. Aside from her studies and work, she is quite active in leadership roles, as the female youth representative for the NB Region and serving her fifth consecutive term as Co-Chair for the Assembly of First Nation's National Youth Council.



**Joni Karoo**

Joni Karoo is a young Inuk woman from Taloyoak, Nunavut. She graduated high school in 2019, and attended college at Nunavut Sivuniksavut from 2019-2020. She worked as a Student Support Assistant for elementary students from 2020-2021, and completed her first year of the Social Service Worker Program with Nunavut Arctic College in 2022. In 2022, she was a pre-health student with Nunavut Arctic College and is working as a Mental Health Outreach Worker in her community. She is passionate about helping people and especially Indigenous People and her community. Joni continues to promote mental health in her community by delivering program and events in her role as a Mental Health Outreach Worker.



**Mary Fernan  
Sharon  
MacIntyre**

Mary Fernan Sharon MacIntyre (Nepinak) was born October 24th, 1952, in Winnipegosis, Manitoba and is from Pine Creek First Nation. Mary is a residential school Survivor.

She is the 4th of eight children, married in October of 1971 is now a widow. She had a variety of jobs including packing vegetables, receptionist, teacher's aide, childcare worker, Justice Worker with Manitoba Justice, Youth Division clerk and law courts. Mary is on the Board of Directors, Treaty Three Police.

Mary lives in Fort Francis Ontario, is the mother of two with eight grandchildren, five great grandchildren.



## Gathering Speakers



**Julie McGregor**

Julie McGregor is an Algonquin lawyer from Kitigan Zibi First Nation. She is currently Senior Legal Counsel with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and was formerly the AFN's Director of Justice. She was also a Senior Advisor to the Ontario Minister of Indigenous Affairs and Crown Counsel with the Government of Ontario. Prior to this, she was Associate Legal Counsel with the Indian Claims Commission.



**Jérôme  
Melançon, PhD**

Jérôme has been working with the Marieval IRS research team since 2021. He holds a BA and MA in philosophy from the University of Ottawa and a PhD in political and legal sciences from Université Paris Cité. He has been teaching at the University of Regina since 2016. His areas of research expertise include the history of ideas, theories of democracy, French-speaking communities in Canada, as well as relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. His main current research topics are the place of settler Francophones in the Canadian colonial system and the institutions created by the Oblates and the Catholic Church at the time of colonization of Western Canada. He is also a translator of academic texts and poetry.



**Anne Panasuk**

Former anthropologist, Anne Panasuk, 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 2021, she was appointed for two years 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 in 2021. She is a mother and a grandmother.



**Emma Reelis**

Hailing from the picturesque big land in Goose Bay, Labrador, Emma Reelis now resides in St. John's, NL. Emma has previously served as President and Vice-President for First Light Friendship Centre, where she now sits on the board of directors in the Elder role. Emma also sits on the Elders & Survivors Steering Committee, working to design and create a Residential School Memorial Garden at First Light's headquarters. She also works in an Elder advisory role with the Empowering Indigenous Women for Stronger Communities Project. A previous winner of the Diamond Jubilee Award, Emma adds tremendous value to her community in her role as an Inuit Elder, fulfilling the role of mentor, cultural advisor and role model. She is a Survivor of residential school and believes that healing comes from being open and honest.

## Gathering Speakers



**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.



**Dr. Kisha  
Supernant**

A Métis archaeologist with roots in Alberta and Red River, has been working with Indigenous communities to plan and carry out searches for potential unmarked graves using a wide range of technology, including ground-penetrating radar and drone imaging. She is the Director of the Institute of Prairie and Indigenous Archaeology and a Professor of Anthropology at the University of Alberta in Edmonton (Amiskwaciwâskahikan). She is founding chair of the Canadian Archaeological Association Unmarked Graves Working Group, formed in June 2021. Kisha is also a member of the Alberta Knowledge Network for Unmarked Graves. She has done extensive media interviews explaining these issues.



**Christine  
Eunice  
Szabo**

Christine Eunice Szabo (Nepinak) was born November 6, 1953, in Winnipegosis, Manitoba. She is from Pine Creek First Nation and a residential school Survivor.

Christine is the 5th of eight children. She moved to Winnipeg at age 13 and married in 1972 and has no children. She lived in Alberta and New Brunswick, moving back to Winnipeg in 1988 where she took a course in community development with new careers and worked with the Inner-City community paper.

Taking a job with the Main Street Project in 1990, she had an incident in 1994 which led to a permanent disability. She currently lives in Fort Francis, Ontario.

## Gathering Speakers



**Tanya Talaga**

Tanya Talaga is an author, journalist, and founder of Makwa Creative, an Indigenous focused media company. She has written two bestselling non-fiction books, *Seven Fallen Feathers* and *All Our Relations: Finding the Path Forward*. Her third book, *The Knowing*, will be out in early 2024, and, it is the focus of a four-part documentary series for the CBC. She is a proud member of Fort William First Nation.



**Grand Chief  
Garrison Settee**

Grand Chief Garrison Settee is from the Pimicikamak Cree Nation in Northern Manitoba. He is Ininiw and was born and raised in a Cree-speaking home with strong values and work ethics. His parents instilled strong spiritual values that keep him grounded to this day.

He attended Frontier Collegiate and R.D. Parker Collegiate in Thompson and went on to obtain a Bachelor of Education degree from Brandon University.

Grand Chief Settee taught First Nation Studies and First Nation Law at the grade 12 level for many years. He introduced his students to the critical issues pertaining to Indigenous rights and treaties. Through his experiences as an educator, both students and Elders encouraged Mr. Settee to allow his name to stand for leadership at the community level.

Answering the call of his students and Elders, Garrison was first elected as Councillor and then nominated and elected as Chief of Pimicikamak from 2008-2013.

During tenure on Chief and Council of the Pimicikamak Cree Nation, he was involved with a wide range of councils and committees, including the Executive Council of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO); the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs Committee on Education; School Administrator; and a member of the Peace Keeper Patrol-Gang Violence Strategy.

A gifted orator, Grand Chief Settee is a strong advocate for the North. He was elected as Grand Chief of MKO in August 2018 and in 2021.

In his leadership position, he represents 26 Northern First Nations. He is a strong advocate for missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two Spirit People; children and families impacted by the child welfare system; economic development; and education for First Nations youth. Grand Chief considers it an honour to serve northern First Nations.

In his spare time, the Grand Chief enjoys reading non-fiction history books and biographies. He enjoys playing music and is learning to speak Anishinaabemowin.



## Gathering Speakers



**Jerel (Jerry)  
Swamp**

Chief Jerel (Jerry) Swamp has 32 years of policing experience in First Nation Communities. He joined the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service in 1991 and held the ranks of Constable, Detective Sergeant and Acting Deputy Chief before becoming the Police Services Chief of Police in 2009. In 2017 he retired from the Akwesasne Mohawk Police Service after serving 8 years as the Chief of police.

In October 2018 Chief Swamp joined the men and women of Rama Police Service as their Chief of Police.

Chief Swamp spent 15 years conducting major criminal investigations which included death investigations, trafficking and conspiracy investigations related to weapons, human and controlled substances smuggled between Canada and the United States.

He is a past recipient of the First Nations Chiefs of Police outstanding service award for his work in numerous organized crime investigations. He is also the recipient of the Governor General's Exemplary Service Medal in 2011. In 2013 Chief Swamp was the recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Award for his outstanding contribution to First Nations Policing in Canada. In 2022 Chief Swamp was appointed to the Order of Merit of the Police Forces.

He has presented on many topics across Canada including Organized Crime in native communities, Critical Incidents and management in Native Communities, Policing in a multi-jurisdictional location as well as operational planning and search warrant drafting.

Chief Swamp is the current President of the First Nation Chiefs of Police Association, the Vice-President of the Indigenous Police Chiefs of Ontario and the Vice-President of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.

Chief Swamp is currently pursuing his Master's degree from Charles Sturt University.



## Gathering Speakers



**Elected Chief  
Councillor  
Ken Watts**

Ken is from Tseshah First Nation Territory and has three beautiful children Tristan, Noelani and Kailand.

In 2007 waamiiš completed a Bachelor of Arts in First Nations Studies from Vancouver Island University and went on to become the BC Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) Male Youth Representative where he also served as co-chair of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Youth Council. During this time he was employed with the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) coordinating an Aboriginal Youth Conference.

Upon returning home, Ken was employed with West Coast Aquatic and then moved on to Operations Manager for the Tseshah First Nation. Elected as Vice-President of the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council (NTC) in 2012, Ken went on to serve the fourteen member First Nations for five years.

waamiiš was elected as a Council Member serving a three year term (2017-2020) and then re-elected to a four year term in December of 2020. Tseshah Council appointed Ken as the Elected Chief Councillor and he is looking forward to serving the Tseshah First Nation.



**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!



## Gathering Speakers



**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 Yúusneŵas 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.



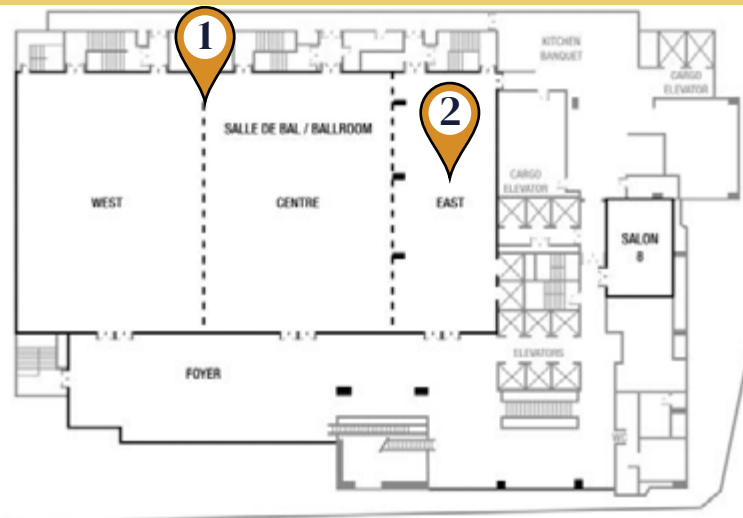
**Dwayne  
Zacharie**

Dwayne Zacharie, M.O.M., has worked for the Kahnawà:ke Peacekeepers since 1997 and is currently the Chief Peacekeeper, responsible for the administration of all policing functions. The Kahnawà:ke Peacekeepers' primary role is law enforcement within the territory focusing on community policing, safety, and accountability. In 2013, Zacharie was elected President of the First Nations Chiefs of Police Association of Quebec and in 2016 and 2018, elected President of the First Nations Chiefs of Police Association of Canada (FNCPA). These associations focus on building capacity to help raise the standards of policing services offered to Indigenous communities. Chief Zacharie was inducted into the Order of Merit of the Police Forces by the Governor General of Canada in 2019, which is awarded in recognition of exceptional service or distinctive merit displayed by members of Canadian police services. Zacharie is a member of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation of Kahnawà:ke.



# Map of Venue

## LEVEL 4

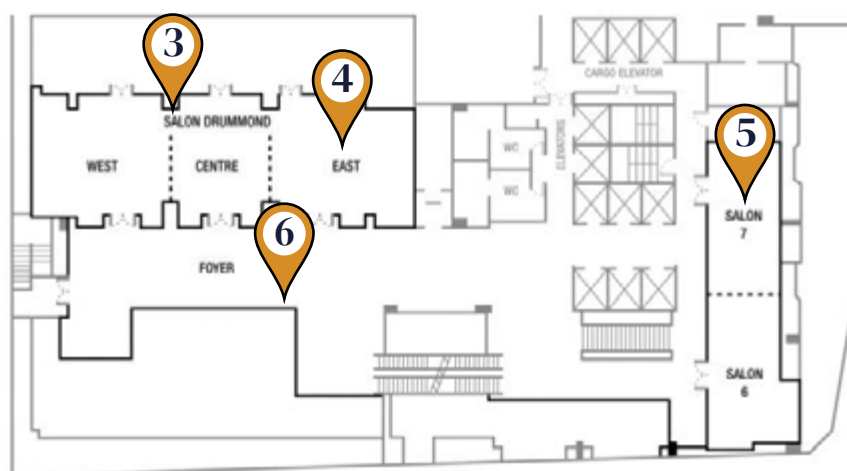


1) Plenary and Breakout Room #1  
Ballroom West/Centre

2) Day 1-Survivors Sharing Circle,  
National Centre for Truth and  
Reconciliation (NCTR)  
Ballroom East

2) Breakout #2  
Ballroom East

## LEVEL 3



3) Breakout #3  
Salon Drummond West/Centre

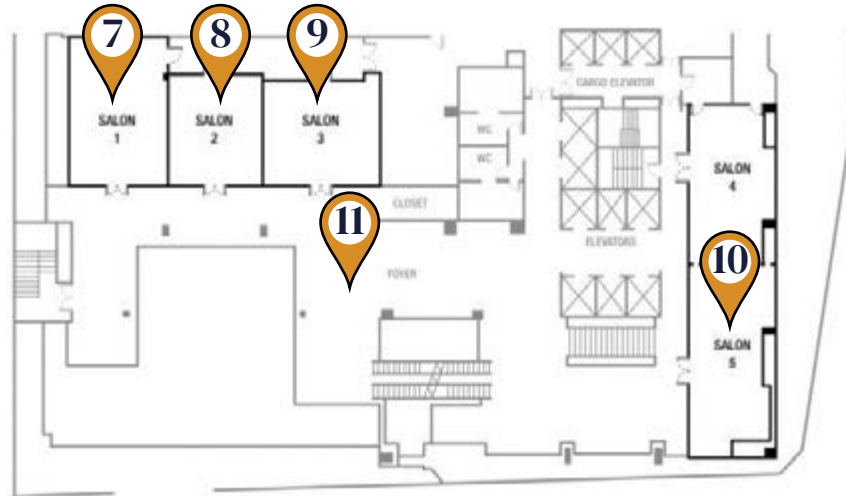
4) Breakout #4  
Salon Drummond East

5) Health Support  
Salon 7

6) Exhibitor/Vendor Area  
Foyer

## Map of Venue

### LEVEL 2



- 7) Statement Gathering:  
Kanien'keha:ka Kahnistensera  
(Mohawk Mothers)  
Salon 1
- 8) Statement Gathering: NCTR  
Salon 2
- 9) Health Supports  
Salon 3

- 10) Elder Lounge  
Salon 5
- 11) Registration  
Foyer





## Vendors

**Gayle Sinclaire Art Studios**

**Little Bear Trading**

**Tammy Beauvais Designs**

**Teekas Boutique**

**Turtle Island Arts and Crafts**



## Information Booths

**Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/crown-indigenous-relations-northern-affairs.html>

**GPR Display**

**Indigenous Services Canada**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada.html>

**Know History**

<https://www.knowhistory.ca>

**Library and Archives Canada**

<https://library-archives.canada.ca/eng>

**Mohawk Mothers**

<https://www.mohawkmothers.ca/>

**National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation**

<https://nctr.ca>

**Native Women's Shelter of Montreal**

<http://www.nwsm.info/>

**Parks Canada**

<https://parks.canada.ca/>

**United Church of Canada Archives**

<https://www.unitedchurcharchives.ca>

## Acknowledgement and Appreciation

The Office of the Independent Special Interlocutor is pleased to have partnered with The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal for its fifth National Gathering: Supporting the Search and Recovery of Missing Children.

Special thanks to Survivors, families, Indigenous Leaders and community members who are leading this Sacred work. We appreciate the dedication of the Health, Wellness and Cultural Supports along with volunteers who looked after everyone for the duration of the National Gathering.

We sincerely thank our dedicated Co-Chairs, Victoria LaBillois and Luc Lainé, and Cultural Advisors Thelma Katsienhaion Nelson, John Anehwario Cree, Stephen Silverbear McComber and Geraldine Standup.

Gratitude to our partners and supporters  
for their contributions.



**NIB Trust Fund**  
Continuing Our Journey



# National Gathering on Unmarked Burials: Northern Voices

## Save the Date

Iqaluit, NU  
January 30 - February 1, 2024



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





Scan me to  
download the  
Program for the  
**National Gathering  
on Unmarked  
Burials: Supporting  
the Search and  
Recovery of  
Missing Children**

For more information  
about the Office of the  
Independent Special  
Interlocutor for Missing  
Children and Unmarked  
Graves and Burial Sites  
associated with Indian  
Residential Schools,  
please visit our website at:

<https://osi-bis.ca>

or email: [info@osi-bis.ca](mailto:info@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**