



FNPSS CONFERENCE 2023: TAKING ROOT SPEAKER BIOS



Tamara Davidson

Conference Emcee

Tamara's Haida name is Laanas and is a member of the Haida Nation. For the past 26 years she has worked in the federal public service and is currently working as a Manager, Strengthening Public Service Institutions Initiative and MOU with the British Columbia Federal Council within PacifiCan. Her previous roles were Acting Director of Lands and Economic Development and Manager of Lands Modernization Team at Indigenous Services Canada.



Francois Prince

Elder & Conference Co-Emcee

Francois is from Nak'azdli Whut'en and belongs to the Beaver Clan (Lhts'umusyoo). When Francois began involving himself in the communities in the local areas, his focus soon lead him to teach and contribute to the youth. With his stories, art and music, his hope is to give the beautiful portrayal of his tribe the harmony it possesses with the land, animals, and people. His goal is to create connections and promote reconciliation. He believes culture and language can bring out the most beautiful train of thought, full of serenity, acceptance, courage, and wisdom.



Nicolas George

Nii Kpakpo Pappoe Samoa, Tsleil-Waututh Nation

Ta newyap, ens Nii Kpakpo Pappoe Samoa, Nicholas George kwi n-xwalítenulh sna, ti7i chen tti səlilwəta?t uxwmixw. I come from səlilwəta?t on my mother's side and Ghanaian ancestry on my fathers side. Language has had a profound impact on his health and wellbeing. Nicholas began working on Həhqəminəm language revitalization around 9 years ago with the support of his nation. Over the past 7 years, with the amazing support of organizations such as Kwi Awt Stelmexw & Where Are Your Keys, Nicholas began on a journey learning and teaching Skwxwumesh snichim (his late grandfather Robert George was a fluent speaker). Working together has opened many doors in his life and continues connecting him with individuals across k'ek'sin ti syátshen "this entire land" that he will be forever grateful for. Nicholas enjoys sharing the knowledge within his community striving to create a positive and safe learning environment for all to enjoy and most importantly to have as much fun as possible.



UNLEASHING REILIENCY DURING CHANGE

BEING BRIEF



Anita Tosch

Canada School of Public Service

Anita Tosch is a learning design specialist at the Canada School of Public Service (CSPS) and is passionate about supporting others in their leadership and growth. Anita previously served as a regional manager with the National Managers Community (NMC) of BC & Yukon and as a Leadership and Learning Consultant and Leadership Management Program Facilitator with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). Over her 15-year career in the leadership and learning field, she has blended her passion for learning and development by facilitating and designing leadership courses, spearheading national and regional events, and fostering collaborative partnerships to facilitate the exchange of best practices.



Per Sekhon

Canada School of Public Service

Per Sekhon is a Learning Design Specialist and Associate Faculty at the Canada School of Public Service where she develops, designs, and facilitates learning on topics such as resiliency, leadership, human centered workplaces, and Executive leadership. Per lives and works on the unceded territory of the Lkwungen (Lekwungen) peoples, and the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations, Per is a registered social worker and started her federal public service career 21 years ago of which the past 15 have been spent at the School. Prior to joining the government Per held a variety of roles in learning, counselling and career development in the non-profit and education sector.

CRAFTING FIRST NATIONS COMMUNICATIONS: WEAVING LASTING TRADITIONS INTO MODERN APPROACHES



Ellena Neel

Ahousaht & Kwakiutl

Ellena Neel is of Kwakiutl descent on her father's side and Ahousaht on her mother's. She has worked in the indigenous non-profit sector for nine years, and has worked with such organizations as Knowledgable Aboriginal Youth Association, Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week, and the Provincial Health Service Authority. She currently works for the Union of BC Indian Chiefs as their communications manager, working with them on curating communications for the indigenous lens for the past five years.



Anna Thomas

Lytton First Nations & Peguis First Nations

Anna is a proud Cree & Nlaka'pamux woman. She was born in Stó:lō territory and raised in Tk'emlùps te Secwépemc. Anna attained her Bachelor of Arts with a joint major in Anthropology and Sociology and minor in First Nations Studies. In November 2018, Anna was elected as both President of the BC Native Women's Association and 2nd Vice President of the Native Women's Association of Canada. In 2020, Anna also ran as a candidate in the BC Provincial election, becoming the 1st Indigenous woman to ever run in the Kamloops South Thompson riding. Anna's volunteer and work experience brought her to Qwelmínte Secwépemc in 2019, where she continues to work as the Communications Specialist.



CRAFTING FIRST NATIONS COMMUNICATIONS: WEAVING LASTING TRADITIONS INTO MODERN APPROACHES



Miranda Post

Parks Canada

Miranda Post grew up swimming in rivers and picking saskatoons on the unceded territories of the Syilx and Nlaka'pamux people in Merritt, B.C. Miranda's workplace values are influenced by her role as the grand-daughter of two strong, female community leaders, Stella Post and Jean Anderson. Miranda's core communications values are firmly grounded in collaboration, partnership and respect.

Miranda's career in Government of Canada communications started over 15 years ago working in a variety of communications and Indigenous relations roles for Indigenous Services Canada, Environment Climate Change Canada, Canadian Wildlife Services, Health Canada and most recently with Gwaii Haanas/Parks Canada.

Miranda holds UVic Bachelor of Social Sciences degree in Political Science with a minor in Professional Writing and Journalism and a certificate in Professional Communications from Capilano University. Miranda lives in Daajing Giids, B.C. on the unceded territory of the Haida Nation with her son, her dog and her chickens.

OPENING KEYNOTE PLENARY: GROWING TOWARDS A COLLECTIVE SOLUTION



Howard Grant

Musqueam, Executive Director First Nations Summit

Howard E. Grant was born and raised in the Musqueam community. He was one of the fortunate children who did not attend residential school, giving him the benefit of learning his culture, values and teachings from his elders in his everyday life. Mr. Grant is currently the Executive Director of the First Nations Summit (FNS). Mr. Grant is also a long serving member of Council from his home community of Musqueam, whose traditional territory once occupied much of what is now Greater Vancouver and surrounding areas.



Chief Don Tom

Tsartlip First Nation, Union of BC Indian Chiefs

Chief Don Tom was born and raised in the WSANEC territory on the Tsartlip First Nation located on the Saanich Peninsula. Chief Tom is Coast Salish of the WSANEC and Stzmenus people, and NUU-CHAN-NULTH of the Ahousaht.

Chief Tom is the Vice-President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and a member of the First Nations Leadership Council. His political files include Emergency Management, Cannabis, Hunting and Wildlife. His highlights include witnessing the introduction and passing of B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.



PLENARY: DATA AT THE ROOT OF FIRST NATIONS GOVERNANCE



Harmony Johnson

sελakəs,Tiskwat Consulting

Harmony Johnson, se\(\text{Aakas}\), is of the Tla'amin First Nation. Harmony is the Vice-President-Indigenous Wellness \(\text{Reconciliation}\) at Providence Health Care, and operates a consulting business providing strategy, advisory, and project leadership services in Indigenous human rights, governance, data sovereignty, and issues of anti-Indigenous racism and discrimination. She teaches and writes in matters of Indigenous health and human rights, including print and digital books about her grandmother's life history and Tla'amin teachings.



Adam Perry

Nisga'a Lisims Government

Adam has a PhD in social anthropology received from the University of Fort Hare in South Africa. His work focuses on rural socio-economic development, the comanagement of natural resources, biodiversity and questions about what sustainability encompasses. His other interests include a focus on emerging and new economies and human migration, migrant work and social mobility, critical indigenous theory and research design. Dr. Perry has worked for the Nisga'a Lisims Government as a data analyst since 2016.



Cheryl Casimer

First Nations Summit Society (Ktunaxa Nation)

Cheryl is a citizen of the Ktunaxa Nation and lives in her community of Aqam, located in the southeastern corner of British Columbia. Cheryl is a tireless advocate for true reconciliation, human rights, treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, MMIWG2SLGBTQIA, and government accountability and transparency. She is currently serving her fourth consecutive term on the First Nations Summit (FNS) Task Group as an elected Political Executive, and as a part of this role, also serves on the BC First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC), where she is the FNS lead on Child and Family and Health issues.

Bob Sokol

Squamish Nation





RIM ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT HOW-TO SESSION

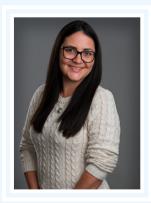
POLICY DEVELOPMENT MINI MANAGEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY



Michelle Barroca

FY Information Management

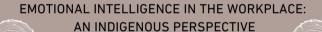
Michelle Barroca is a records management, privacy and archives specialist with over 20 years of experience working with local governments and First Nations organizations throughout BC and Yukon. She has a Master of Archival Studies degree from UBC and worked for the cities of Burnaby and Kelowna for nearly 10 years before returning to the Kootenays and establishing FY Information Management Consulting. Michelle provides assessments, recommendations, documentation, training and support to various organizations and is a long-standing RIM facilitator with the FNPSS.



Lisa Pastro

Lisa Pastro Consulting (Westbank First Nation)

Lisa Pastro has recently started with the Regional District of the Central Okanagan as their Indigenous Advisor. She has over 15 years of governance and progressive management experience through previous roles held with WFN, Accenture Canada, and BC Hydro. She also has her own consulting business where she is currently assisting a local First Nation in the Similkameen Valley develop their governance practices, specifically focusing on Human Resources and Policy Development. Lisa has volunteered with many different First Nation communities: providing their members with training sessions focusing on resume building, interview skills, and leadership development.







Zandra Ross

Zandra Ross Consulting (Williams Lake First Nation)

Zandra has 25 years + of experience helping individuals and groups work more effectively together. As a Registered Professional Trainer with the Canadian Professional Trainers Association, she is able to provide more than 30 different development workshops and six personality assessments. This includes communication, conflict management, goal setting, governance, DISC/Motivators, emotional intelligence, strategic planning, community engagement and facilitation.



Robin Henry

Two Eagles HR Consulting (Tlingit)

Robin is of Tlingit and Vuntut Gwitch'in ancestry and a citizen of the Teslin Tlingit First Nation in the Yukon Territory. He is a Chartered Professional in Human Resources (CPHR) and also has a BA in Social Sciences. To complement those designations, Mr. Henry is also a Chartered Director (C.Dir.), holds a certificate in Strategic Leadership from the UBC Sauder School of Business, and attended the AFOA Canada sponsored "Leading People and Investing to Build Sustainable Communities" at the Harvard Business School.









Lauralee Bennett

Tsģésceń First Nation

Laurelee Bennett is a member of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation in Northern Manitoba with an extensive history in leadership roles since graduating from Acadia University in 2000. Laurelee is passionate about decolonization and promotes healing for all as a priority. Prior to her appointment of CAO for Tsqésceń First Nation in April 2023, Laurelee served as Social Work Team Leader at Knucwentwecw Society where she acquired significant experience working with Indigenous children, youth, families and communities.



Laura Antoine

Cold Water Indian Band (BAAC)

Laura is currently the Coldwater Indian Band Administrator and also served as a Band Council member for 17 ½ years. She has previously worked with youth and within her community since June 1987 when she was hired as the Education Coordinator. Laura has been working with FNPSS for several years and is a member of the Band Administrators Advisory Committee.



Collette Sunday

Moderator, Upper Nicola Band (BAAC)

Collette is a member and current Band Administrator of the Upper Nicola Band, Okanagan Nation. She sees some of the biggest challenges for the Band Administrator position as being the lack of funding and time to accomplish their goals and believes that prioritizing work according to the Communities' vision is a must. She would like to see FNPSS assist First Nations with developing capacity in their workforce and sees the coming together of Band Administrators as key to that goal. She believes an educated, skilled First Nations workforce is a necessity for all First Nations who are working towards self-determination.



Craig Smith

Toosey Indian Band (T'lesgox) (BAAC)

Craig is the Chief Executive Officer of the Toosey Indian Band (Tl'esqox) for over two and a half a years now and has been a band administrator for almost five years. He is active with the Tsilhqot'in National Governments housing authority and their emergency services working group. He is a Canadian Forces veteran currently still serving with the Canadian Rangers and longtime entrepreneur before deciding to go back to school and study for his master's in business administration and masters in project management. He was also a two term Councillor with the City of Williams Lake.



PLENARY: CULTIVATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS: EMPOWERING FIRST NATIONS YOUTH IN GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION





Brena Robinson

Moderator, Councillor, Lyackson First Nation, BC Federal Council

Brena Robinson is from Lyackson First Nation. She was born and raised (mostly) in Victoria, BC, with her sister, brother, and very large family. Brena is serving her 4th term as an elected Councillor for Lyackson. She chose to work in the Government of Canada (GC)to influence change and break down barriers for Indigenous peoples. As an elected official for her Nation and a GC employee, she has a deep understanding of the complexities of walking and working in both worlds. In her current assignment, Internship Coordinator for the BC Federal Council, she has had the opportunity to help create an innovative way for the GC and BC First Nations to work together to help reach their shared goals and overcome their shared barriers. Brena is passionate about ensuring the future for Indigenous peoples is healthy, strong, and vibrant.



Christian Harpe

Youth Panel Speaker, Tl'azt'en Nation

Christian is from Tl'azt'en Nation, in the Dakelh area of B.C. He is Lasilyoo (of the frog clan), a mixed-race European with Great British and Ukrainian ancestry. He moved to Nanaimo to enroll in the criminology degree program at Vancouver Island University. Christian has worked at a youth safe house, as a youth outreach navigator, and is currently the coordinator for youth and recreation for his Nation. He currently holds the youth representative positions on his nation comprehensive community planning committee and education advisory committee.



Katisha Paul

Tsatsu Stalgayu, Youth Representative UBCIC

Katisha was recently elected as the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) Youth Representative and is an administrative mentee of Tsatsu Stalgayu. For the past year she has been working and learning on the xwməθkwəý əm (Musqueam) territory with the Indigenous Youth Internship Program at the Ministry of Attorney General, BC Public Service Agency (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion), and UBCIC as a policy analyst. She advocates for the advancement of land, title, and human rights by implementing the action items of the Declaration Act Action Plan.



Kashanna Charlie

Youth Panel Speaker, Takla

Kashanna is a 27-year-old Gitxsan woman from Takla Nation. She has been working for Takla for almost a year and a half now. She started out as an intern and is now the administrative support for the Lands & Stewardship department. She is very excited and honored to be working with her Nation and glad to have found a job that she is passionate about.



Taylor Behn-Ysakoza

Fort Nelson First Nation

Taylor Behn-Tsakoza is Dene and Dunne Zaa from the Fort Nelson and Prophet River First Nations in BC Treaty 8 Territory. She is passionate about elevating youth voices at all levels. Having dedicated her academic and professional career to advancing Indigenous rights, title and treaty rights through youth participation in decision making and policy development, Taylor served as the Female Youth Representative for the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations from 2020 to 2023 and was Co-Chair of the Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council for a term.







LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION





Magie-Mae Adams

Lax Kxeen

Magie-Mae's lineage is WSÁNEĆ and Łingít. She resides on the Coastal Ts'msyen territory in Lax Kxeen (Prince Rupert, B.C.) Magie-Mae has experience working and living in an urban setting, and within her First Nation community. Her background includes 8+ years of experience in provincial-level community engagement and coaching with First Nations people and organizations. She provides effective capacity strengthening built from community-based approaches that honour the knowledge and expertise within the community. She received her Master of Business Administration in Indigenous Business and Leadership from Simon Fraser University.



Glenn Jim

WSÍKEM (Tseycum), First Peoples Cultural Council

Glenn is WSÁNEĆ from WSÍKEM (Tseycum) in North Saanich, B.C. He grew up listening to stories about the traditional lifestyle of his WSÁNEĆ ancestors and of the activist work his family (Elders) did for the WSÁNEĆ people over the last century. This cultural worldview encouraged him to look at the issues and needs of his community as he grew up, which led him into helping in those areas. His 35+ year career as an educator, community leader, front-line service provider, and presently, as a Revitalization Planning Coach has been guided by SNIU, the teachings of his S,ELEWÁÁN, and the Elders.

WELL BEING: SUCCESS STORIES AND SUPPORTS FOR FUTURE PROJECTS.



Katie Skelton

First Nations Health Authority

Katie is a passionate and dedicated Manager,
Community Development at First Nations Health
Authority (FNHA). She has a strong background and
expertise in planning, human resources, organizational
development, and relationship development, which
enables her to foster collaboration, engagement, and
empowerment among diverse stakeholders and teams.
She is also an MBA candidate at the Beedie School of
Business at Simon Fraser University, where she is
pursuing her interest in Indigenous business leadership
and innovation. Her mission is to contribute to the
improvement of the health and wellness of First
Nations communities.



Carrie Reid

Qualicum First Nation

Carrie Reid is a member of Qualicum First Nation and works there as a prevention worker. While that is the prime area of her job, she also does Food Security and Invasive Species off the side of her desk. Carrie loves to be in the forest and loves to harvest what the land provides. She is grateful to be surrounded by people who like the same thing.

WELL BEING: SUCCESS STORIES AND SUPPORTS FOR FUTURE PROJECTS



Kevin Rivers

Sxwch'alten

Kevin grew up in North Vancouver near Eslha7an (Mission), and currently lives on the Xwmélch'sten (Capilano) Reserve. His parents are late Audrey Rivers and Frank Rivers Sr. He brings 32 years of professional experience as an archeologist in Squamish Territory and has been an active member in the community for over 40 years, including as a caterer, Lacrosse Manager and volunteer.



Mary Jane Natrall

Lats-mat

Lats-mat was born in 1954 and lives in the Squamish Valley. She grew up on the North shore on the Xwmélch'sten (Capilano) Reserve, attended residential school in Sechelt and was later relocated to the Eslha7an (Mission) Reserve due to the sixties scoop. Lats-mat is an active member in the community including with Squamish Nation Peacekeepers, Elder's Support, Community Health, the Elders Advisory Council, and as a security guard.



Wendy Lockhart Lundberg

Wendy was raised in the unceded territories of the xwmə0kwəýəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwəta+ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and currently lives off-reserve in xwmə0kwəýəm (Musqueam) territory in Richmond. Wendy brings valuable advocacy experience to Xwí7ski, having challenged discriminatory provisions in the Indian Act, the Canadian Human Rights Act and the First Nations Land Management Act regarding Indigenous women's rights. She is passionate about restoring Elders to their ancestral and familial lands.



Gladys "Flo" Williams

Sulseelsamat

Flo was born and raised in Nanaimo and is currently living on the Xwmélch'sten (Capilano) Reserve. During her time on the Nanaimo reservation, she attended Saint Mary's residential school for over a year. Flo was taught by many members in the community and brings rich cultural knowledge to Xwí7ski. She is passionate about protecting her cultural history and sharing her traditional knowledge, teachings, and stories to empower Youth.



Donna Billy

Sisolia

Donna was born in Skajit Valley in the United States and raised in Sta7mus by her grandparents Bertha and Moses Billy, where she currently lives. Donna attended Carson Graham Secondary School and later graduated from Capilano College. She has professional experience working as a security guard, in a transition house, and with Elders at the Taha and Senior Lodge. Growing up in the community, Donna was taught by many Elders and was a member of Squamish Nation Council. She is active on many committees advocating for Elders and for our community.



Paula Hay

Beringia Community Planning

Paula Hay is a community planner with Beringia Community Planning, Inc. With Beringia, Paula supports Indigenous communities and organizations with a diverse range of planning projects related to land, health and wellness. Paula's areas of interest include community-based planning processes, participatory and applied research, and innovative facilitation and engagement techniques. Paula has been honoured to support the Squamish Nation Elders Program Engagement Project since 2021, guided by the Xwí7ski team.



FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP PUBLIC SERVICE: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

FIRST NATIONS WORKPLACE LAW QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION





Jamie Sterritt

Sa'hetxw Consulting (Gitxsan)

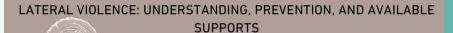
Jamie started his career at Klohn-Crippen Consultants in Vancouver, BC, where he became known for involving communities and using technology effectively. In 2005, he began Sa'hetxw Consulting, handling projects from technology and education to community development. He's now an expert in technology and Governance, blending traditional and modern knowledge with passion. He's from the Gitxsan Nation and serves on the Board of Governors for JIBC, FPCC and Creative BC.



Scott McCann

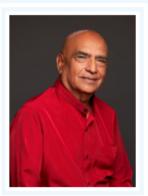
Zacharias Vickers LLP

Scott is passionate about his large Indigenous workplace law practice in which he provides sage legal advice, policy development, and training seminars for First Nations and other Indigenous organizations across British Columbia, Alberta, and the Yukon. Scott advises and represents his clients in all aspects of workplace law, including labour, employment, occupational health and safety, human rights, and governance matters.



GUIDED GROUP MENTORSHIP





Aroon Shah

Indigenous Community for Leadership and Development

Aroon Shah is a seasoned executive with consulting, coaching and counselling experience in mental health, and transportation sectors. Aroon has been fortunate to serve diverse organizational and community clientele – he has worked in Indigenous communities for 12 years providing leadership training, strategic planning, community healing programs and governance training. In addition to counselling services, he provides consultations to organizations on human factors such as conflict resolution, team building, and change management.



Cici Sterritt

Gitxsan

Cici Sterritt, traditional name
Nox Sa'tsen of Wilps Niisto, is a member of the Gitxsan
Nation from the Upper Skeena River Region near
Hazelton BC. In May 2013, Cici received her Masters in
Business Administration from the University of
Northern British Columbia formalizing 15 years of
senior management experience. Since then, her skills
have primarily focused on band management and
working closely with Chief and Council to establish
stable financial positions and create effective teams to
administer successful programs benefitting their
respective Indigenous communities. Cici is now
working for the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) as a
Commercial Account Manager, Indigenous Markets.



CLOSING PLENARY: PARTNERSHIPS AND THE PATH FORWARD



Sheila Malcomson

Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction BC

Sheila Malcolmson was first elected as MLA for Nanaimo in 2019. She previously served as minister of Mental Health and Addictions, working to improve mental-health services and address the ongoing toxic drug crisis, and as parliamentary secretary for the Environment, working to protect the environment and clean up coastal waters. Sheila was elected four times to the Islands Trust Council, serving six of those years as chair. She signed a government-to-government protocol between the Snuneymuxw First Nation and the Islands Trust – establishing a relationship of respect and co-operation in planning, land-use management and heritage conservation.



Robert Phillips

First Nations Summit (Tsqésceń First Nation)

Robert Phillips is a member of the Tsq'escen' (Canim Lake) First Nation, a part of the Secwepemc (Shuswap) Nation. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University College of the Fraser Valley.Mr. Phillips was previously elected by First Nations Summit delegates to three, two-year terms as a Commissioner of the British Columbia Treaty Commission (2007-2013). He also previously served as Chief Negotiator, and prior to that, as Self-Government Director at the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council (1998-2007). Mr. Phillips has an extensive background in aboriginal justice and economic development.

FNPSS STAFF MEMBERS

Jehan Casey - Director (Skidegate)

Celina Dorame - Associate Director (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)

Jacqueline Armstrong - Executive Assistant (Songhees First Nation)

Shannon Skeels - Communications Officer

Amory Adrian - Manager, Intergovernmental Relations & Policy (Tsal'alh of the St'at'imc Nation)

Bernice Timmer - Manager, Intergovernmental Relations & Policy (On Leave)

Amy Every - Project Officer (Ugpi'Ganjig)

Mia Anderson - Program Assistant (Siska First Nation)

Nicholas MacMillan - Project Officer

Amanda Reath - Project Officer

Jarra Ford - Manager, Corporate Services Callyn Melville - Corporate Services Officer

Julia Melesko - Manager, Engagement & Capacity
Jade Schleppe - Program Assistant (On Leave)
Angelina Gizzi - Program Assistant
Jennifer Prigl - Project Officer
Michaela Delong - Project Officer
Kianna Sposato - Project Officer