



Meadow Lake Tribal Council

Virtual Justice Conference

October 25-29, 2021

Monday, October 25

9:00 am Opening Prayer

9:15 am Welcoming Remarks & Introductions

Tribal Chief Richard Ben



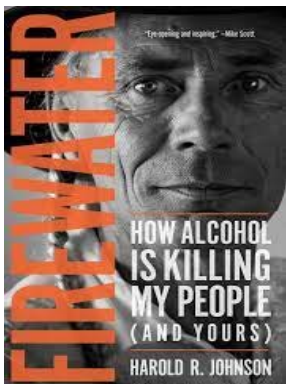
10:00 am Session 1: Criminal Justice, Society and Environment - Perspectives on Indigenous Restorative Justice

This session will elaborate on Indigenous perspectives in restorative justice, including the roles of community, culture, society and the criminal justice system. Land is foundational to the Indigenous identity. In many instances Indigenous people have been disconnected from this foundation and marginalized from their ancestral territories. Land-based program initiatives within restorative justice models help to promote reparation and reconnect Indigenous people to the land by utilizing supports for relearning and reclaiming traditional wellness fundamentals.

Speakers

Harold R. Johnson

Harold is a Canadian lawyer and writer, whose book *Firewater: How Alcohol Is Killing My People (And Yours)* was a shortlisted nominee for the Governor General's Award for English language non-fiction at the 2016 Governor General's Awards. The book, an examination of the problem with alcohol consumption among Canadian First Nations, draws on Johnson's work as a Crown prosecutor in Northern Saskatchewan. Johnson told CBC Radio interviewer Shelagh Rogers in 2016 that his father was a Swedish immigrant and his mother a Cree aboriginal in Saskatchewan, where he was born. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy and worked as a logger, trapper and miner before going to university as an adult, completing his education in law with an MA at Harvard.





The Honourable Gerald Morin

Gerald was born and raised in Cumberland House, SK and is a member of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation. He attended Charlebois School up to grade 10, and because there was no high school at home, he left and completed his high school at the L.P. Miller High School in Nipawin, SK in 1971. Morin attained his Certificate in Social Work from the University of Regina in 1978. He has worked as a probation officer in Northern Saskatchewan, and a professor at the University of Manitoba, where he taught Community Development. In 1987, he returned to the University of Saskatchewan for his law degree. He has practiced law in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan at Pandila-Morin Law Office, and appeared in all levels of court including the Supreme Court of Canada. Judge Morin received a Queen's Counsel designation in 1999 – the first Indigenous person to receive a Q.C. designation in the history of Saskatchewan. Judge Morin was appointed to the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan on January 24, 2001 and retired in 2019.

12:00 pm

Lunch Break

1:00 pm

Session 2: PATHS – Provincial Association of Transitional Houses of Saskatchewan

This presentation will include statistics on the prevalence of intimate partner violence in Saskatchewan and available services. Messages will cover the importance of risk assessment and safety planning, how to recognize warning signs and risk factors, legislation to support survivors, and the importance of prevention education.

Speaker

Jo-Anne Dusel – Executive Director of PATHS

Jo-Anne Dusel is a long-time social activist who has spent 20 years working front line services with women who have experienced abuse. She is the Executive Director of PATHS, which is the member association for women's shelters, second stage housing and family violence counseling services in Saskatchewan. She served on the Saskatchewan Domestic Violence Death Review Committee and is a panelist for the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability.



2:00pm

Health Break

2:15 pm

Session 3: Family and Domestic Violence: Testimonies from Families of Murder-Suicide and Domestic Violence.

This session will consist of two (2) interviews from family members representing Aboriginal victims of domestic violence.



Charlene Graham's (nee Aubichon) life was taken by her estranged husband in a murder-suicide at Meadow Lake, Sk. during the summer of 2021. Her family speaks about the tragedy and shares their message to all affected by domestic violence.



At Prince Albert, Sk. in February 2012, **Dianne Martell**, was murdered by her husband before taking his own life. Her family shares their story about Dianne and her experience with domestic violence.

Tuesday, October 26

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| 9:00am | Opening Prayer |
| 9:15am | Welcome Remarks & Recap |
| 9:30am | Session 4: Addictions & Impact on Justice |

Speaker

Jake Bouvier

Jake Bouvier is a member of the Canoe Lake Cree First Nation in Treaty 10 Territory. He graduated from the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) in 2018 with a Diploma in Mental Health & Wellness and has been working in the Addictions and Mental Health Field for 4 years. Jake is currently working in Cold Lake, Alberta as a Mental Health Support Worker and is a Certified Addictions Counselor through the Canadian Council of Professional Certification (CCPC Global). His healing journey began in 2008 at Ile a La Crosse, SK. where he embarked on a healing retreat called Search. This was where he gained a greater understanding about Spirituality and Recovery. Jake later participated in numerous retreats such as: Red Road to Recovery, Cursillo, 12 Steps Pilgrimages, etc. Using the tools that he acquired from these retreats Jake was able to see where he needed to heal himself. As part of his ongoing healing process Jake continues to carry the messages of continuous learning, the development personal strength and determination and acceptance of oneself.

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| 10:30am | <u>Health Break</u> |
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| 11:00am | Session 5: Gang Awareness - How to identify gang activity in your community? |
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Speaker

Staff Sgt. Ryan How

Ryan How is a 15 year veteran of the RCMP with posts in Spiritwood, Canoe Lake, Beauval, Loon Lake, and Meadow Lake. Ryan currently serves as Detachment Commander at Meadow Lake RCMP and his key role with the department has been to help suppress and disrupt local and regional gang activities in Saskatchewan since 2013. Ryan's direct involvement in community safety and gang suppression strategies has in his words, been "a passion project" along with his extensive community outreach work with both First Nation and non-First Nation communities alike.

Ryan is also an advocate for First Nation authority and abilities to enact enforceable bylaws on First Nation land and has, in the past, testified to a House of Commons Committee supporting those outcomes.

12:00pm

Lunch Break

1:00pm

Session 6: **STR8UP**



STR8 UP works in the core community in Saskatoon with ex-gang members and their families, to help support individuals as they embark on a healthier path. STR8 UP is a grassroots organization that is driven by its members. As their ongoing vision STR8 UP aspires to help former gang members contribute to a healthy society, while assisting individuals in mastering their own destiny and helping to liberate them from gangs, addictions and criminal street lifestyles.

2:00pm

Session 7: **A Personal Stories: Life in the gangs and the exit strategy**

Speaker

Joe Keesaynow

Joe is an ex-gang member who is originally from Big Island Lake Cree Nation in Saskatchewan. He has provided his story and presentation to numerous audiences describing his personal life emersed in the gang culture and how he eventually exited.

Wednesday, October 27

9:00am

Opening Prayer

9:15am

Welcome Remarks & Recap

9:30am



Session 9: **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)**

This session will focus on the Final Report of the National Inquiry on MMIWG released in 2018, its recommendations and the regional initiatives and programs that are striving to support and advocate for impacted First Nation communities and families in Saskatchewan.

Speaker



Camay Coghlan-Cameron (B. A, B.Ed., M. Ed, Anti-Oppression in Education) is a member of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabek First Nation and currently resides in Saskatoon, SK.

Camay is currently serving as the Interim Executive Director of the Women's Secretariat at the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations. She has a diverse work and educational experience working to advocate for First Nations youth and families in Saskatchewan. She served as a Family Information Liaison (FILO) for 2 years at the FSIN. She uses her strengths to both advocate and improve services for families impacted by MMIWG. Camay is also a member of the Sexual Assault Investigations Review Committee (SAIRC) with other front -line professionals in Saskatchewan to review and make recommendations to support victims and improve the quality of sexual assault investigations with in the RCMP in Saskatchewan specifically. Camay was additionally selected to lead in the pilot of the Sakiyiso curriculum at the FSIN. The curriculum utilizes a strength-based approach by highlighting the strengths of culture and traditional values to address lateral violence.

11:00 am

Health Break

11:10 am

Session 10: **MLTC Governance**

Speaker

Patrick Derocher, Project Manager, MLTC Governance Negotiations



Patrick is a member of the Flying Dust First Nation. He is a graduate of the Integrated Resource Management Program at Saskatchewan Applied Science and Technology (SaskPolytechnic) and is a trained Interest-Based Negotiator from the Banff Centre of Excellence. He has represented First Nation organizations at local, regional, and national levels on the subjects of Treaty Rights protection and policy development. Patrick possesses more than 2 decades of experience as a public servant working for First Nation and non-First Nation governments and has considerable experience working in senior government structures and project team environments.

Patrick is an advocate for the protection of Treaty Rights and a strong proponent for effective governance within First Nations and continues to provide technical support as an MLTC Governance Negotiations Team member.

Lunch Break

1:00pm

Session 11: Reintegration Support Program: A look at Federal Penitentiary Institutes, Inmate Needs and Supports

Speaker

Thomas Eischen, A/Project Officer – Indigenous Initiatives, Correctional Service Canada – Prairie Region

Tammy Logan, A/Indigenous Community Development Officer, Correctional Service Canada - MB/SK/NW Ontario District

Leah Gladue, MLTC Reintegration Support Coordinator

2:00pm

Session 12: Youth Engagement

This session showcases two dynamic and professional speakers who focus on Indigenous youth empowerment while sharing their personal stories of inspiration and achievement over hardship and limitation. Both speakers continue to carry the message of achieving your full potential in spite of life's many obstacles.

Speakers

JR LaRose

JR LaRose is a 2011 Grey Cup champion. A proud member of One Arrow First Nation, he is an ambassador for Aboriginal peoples. He is an accomplished speaker having delivered over 400 presentations throughout Canada and the United States since 2008. A proud family man, JR's path to success has been a long and hard-fought journey.

Growing up in low-income housing in Edmonton's inner city didn't exactly set JR up for success but it did give him the drive to succeed. JR grew up without a father. His father, of Nigerian heritage, was deported back to his native country before JR was born. JR never met his dad.

3:00 pm

Health Break





Michael (Bull) Roberts

Mike (Bull) Roberts grew up in small town Newfoundland, emerging from a childhood of physical and sexual abuse and extreme bullying. By the age of 16, Roberts was a full-blown drug addict and alcoholic who started self-mutilating and when his foster parents couldn't deal with him, he ended up in institutions. Emerged within prison culture, Roberts' lack of education and support from other sources led him embrace a racist ideology, gang life and later, organized crime. The circumstances of his life along with his personal decisions led Mike through 20 years of living a life of violence fueled by his childhood experiences and toxic ideologies, Mike had to find a way to live without the shackles of anger and hatred.

Ten years later, the former gang member now works with his former foes, the RCMP, and travels to schools to tell his story of escaping his white supremacist gang lifestyle, the journey he took to re-educate himself and how he became free of the anger and bitterness that brought him so low. Today, Mike is a man of faith and a Christian of 10 years carrying a message of hope to young people to "stop fighting yourself and things will start to change" and urges youth to reach out for help despite the difficulties. In Mike's own words he states, "Today I appreciate the opportunity to share my faith, my experiences, strengths and hope with others and hopefully, it will have some kind of impact."

Thursday, October 28

9:00am **Opening Prayer**

9:15am **Welcome Remarks & Recap**

9:30 am Session 13: **Panel: Role & Perspective on Sentencing Circle**

Retired Judge Linton Smith

Retired Judge Don Bird

Legal Perspective- Application and context of Sentencing Circles:

10:15 am Session 14: **Sentencing Circle Experience - Success Story & Challenges**

Speaker

Irene Peepeetch's Story

12:00pm **Lunch Break**

1:00 pm Session 15: **Elder Abuse**

This session will offer awareness and understanding to Elder Abuse while providing definition to its various forms. Presenters will shed light on the unique challenges that Elders face today within

community and social dynamics, including close-knit, and often remote, First Nations communities.

Speakers

Amanda Brown, MSW, RSW - - Vancouver Coastal Health



Amanda is the Director of Vancouver Coastal Health's Re:Act Adult Protection Program. She provides education, consultation and systemic support to designated responders who investigate and intervene in situations of vulnerable adult abuse, neglect and self-neglect. She is the regional lead on issues related to the Adult Guardianship Act and her work includes partnering with community agencies and First Nations to develop response protocols. She is a past Director of the BC Association of Community Response Networks, and she currently sits on many provincial committees and networks working to prevent abuse of vulnerable adults. She has participated in several provincial Dialogues where she learned from Elders and other members of the community about the unique challenges that Elders are experiencing in relation to abuse and neglect. Her approach is to look for strengths and build solutions from within a community and this has provided her with opportunities to develop resources and materials that communities can use and adapt as they see fit to prevent and address the issue of abuse of Elders.

2:15pm

Health Break

2:30pm

Elder Abuse: Session Cont'd



Darlene Stonestand, MLTC Health and Social Development, Professional Mental Wellness Therapist and Registered Social Worker

Darlene was born and raised in her home community of James Smith First Nation located in East Central Saskatchewan. Darlene explains that she grew up in a happy family with eleven (11) other siblings and large extended families from both her parents. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Indigenous Social Work from the University of Regina and various other educational and training designations from her many years of public service.

With her parents as a tremendous positive influence in her life she has served other First Nation communities and institutions in a wide variety of roles such as: Correctional Officer, Pinegrove Correctional Centre; Band Councillor, PMFN; Welfare Worker and Child Protection Worker, Sask. Ministry of Social Services; Child Protection Worker, BTC, YTC, STC and Montreal Lake First Nation; Child Therapist, ACTC Asihkwanehk Youth Lodge; and currently serves as a Mental Health Therapist for the MLTC.

Friday, October 29

9:00am **Opening Prayer**

9:15am **Welcome Remarks & Introductions**

9:30am **Traditional Role of Men**

Colonization has interfered with the traditional roles of Indigenous men. This session provides insight into historical roles of men as warriors, providers, teachers, and defenders and protectors of culture and a way of life. The session delivers a narrative to the interrupted flow of cultural, spiritual and individual awareness and identity of Indigenous men today as well as healing and wellness as a course of action.

Speaker

Elder AJ Felix

AJ is a member of the Sturgeon Lake First Nation in Saskatchewan. He is a renowned public speaker, traditional knowledge keeper, and pipe carrier.

AJ has shared his knowledge with young and old alike and continues to provide historical insight and interpretation of his knowledge in today's changing social climates.

10:30am

Health Break

10:45 am

Moosehide Campaign

The Moose Hide Campaign is a grassroots movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous men and boys who are standing up against violence towards women and children. The Campaign was founded on the side of the 'Highway of Tears' in response to the injustices and violence faced by too many women and children in Canada, particularly those who are Indigenous.

Speakers

David Stevenson, CEO, Moose Hide Campaign

Raven Lecerte, Ambassador, Moose Hide Campaign

11:45 am

Closing Remarks

12:00 pm

Conference End



The Meadow Lake Tribal Council represents nine (9) First Nations in North West Saskatchewan whose ancestral lands span the territories of Treaties 6, 8 and 10. The communities represent both Cree and Dene culture and language.

Birch Narrows Dene Nation



Buffalo River Dene Nation



Canoe Lake Cree First Nation



Clearwater River Dene Nation



English River First Nation



Flying Dust First Nation



Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nation



Ministikwan Lake Cree Nation



Waterhen Lake First Nation



Thank you to all who participated and supported this year's conference!