



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF FRIENDSHIP CENTRES

Friendship in Motion:
Urban Indigenous Summit

December 5-7, 2022

Hilton Lac-Leamy
Gatineau, Quebec

SUMMIT PROGRAM



National Association of Friendship Centres

The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) was established in 1972 to represent, nationally, the growing number of Friendship Centres emerging across Canada. The NAFC represents over 100 Friendship Centres and Provincial/Territorial Associations (PTAs) from coast-to-coast-to-coast and make up the Friendship Centre Movement (FCM). The NAFC's mission is "to support Friendship Centres and PTAs in achieving their diverse missions and visions within their urban Indigenous communities." Our vision is "ascending to a future that remembers the past and is rooted in our cultures to improve the well-being of Indigenous people living in urban environments."

As the national body of the FCM, the NAFC is democratically governed, status inclusive, and accountable to its membership. The NAFC seeks to be: a central, unifying body for the FCM; to promote and advocate the concerns of our member Friendship Centres and PTAs; and, to provide important urban Indigenous perspectives to, municipal, provincial and federal governments, and non-Indigenous civil society organizations.

Summit Purpose/Objectives

Thank you for joining the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) as we gather our members and friends on the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin Nation in a summit focused on urban Indigenous capacity building, knowledge sharing and action planning.

The purpose of the Friendship in Motion: Urban Indigenous Summit, taking place on December 5th–7th, 2022, is to provide opportunities amongst the FCM and our partners for information/knowledge exchange capacity building and action planning on matters that are relevant to Friendship Centres. It is also an opportunity to showcase the Friendship Centre Movement (FCM), the incredible work of Friendship Centres and raise the profile of our work.

To further build on the critical work of the Friendship in Motion: Urban Indigenous Summit, the NAFC is also hosting an Advocacy Day, December 8th, 2022. Friendship Centres and Provincial and Territorial Associations (PTAs) will have the opportunity to speak directly to their federal representatives in the House of Commons and Senate.



Welcome from NAFC President Kelly Benning

Wachay Misiway, Kwe, Tansi, Tungasugit,

Welcome to the inaugural *Friendship in Motion: Urban Indigenous Summit!* We are very excited to have you all here as we gather our members and friends on the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin Nation. On behalf of the NAFC, and the Friendship Centre Movement, we thank you for taking the time to be with us, share your knowledge and experiences and to learn from one another. To host this summit has been a dream of the NAFC for some time and we are so happy to have you all with us to see it come to fruition.

We have 3 days of panels, workshops, keynotes, and presentations relating to the work we do for Indigenous peoples in urban spaces from presenters from both Friendship Centres and partner organizations. Our hope is that over the next several days that you take this opportunity to meet each other, both for those working and volunteering within the Friendship Centre Movement as well as our partners, to share information, exchange knowledge, build capacity, and participate in action planning on matters that are relevant to Indigenous Peoples.

Enjoy yourselves and leave here having grown from the conversations we will have, the lessons we will learn, the planning that we will do, the networking we do over the next few days, and most importantly, the Friendships that we will put in motion.

In Friendship,

Kelly Benning, President, NAFC



SUMMIT INFORMATION

Simultaneous interpretation into french

Simultaneous interpretation into French is available in all sessions. Headsets can be picked up inside of the Mozart Ballroom and be taken to all workshop locations. A reminder to return all headsets at the end of the day; they need to be recharged.

Summit networking reception

Please join us for our networking reception at the Royal Salon over on the 2nd floor of the Casino Lac Leamy (near the buffet restaurant) from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday, December 5th, 2022. We will have light refreshments at this alcohol-free event and great entertainment.

Event will kick off with opening remarks from emcees Ella Mayer and Talon Fire Bird and then introductions Indigenous performer line up!

Elvis will be in the building! We will begin the evening with a performance by Nishnabe Aski Nation Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse. Deputy Grand Chief Narcisse is Ojibway from the Aroland First Nation located in Treaty 9 territory. Bobby enjoys spending time with his two daughters, friends and loved ones. He believes the best way to predict the future is to create it yourself!



CHELAZON LEROUX

Following that performance, we are pleased to have Chelazon Leroux as Layten Byhette, from Canada's Drag Race. Chelazon (she/he/they) is a Two-Spirit, Dene First Nation, Multidisciplinary artist. Chelazon's artistic pursuits include: Drag, stand-up comedy, and social media content creation. Chelazon uses her Indigenous identity— as a status member of Buffalo River Dene Nation (Treaty 10) and family ties to Fond Du Lac First Nation (Treaty 8) — as the foundation for her creative works. Chelazon is best known for her Auntie persona and TikTok posts. Chelazon's goal is to utilize her experiences as a Two-Spirit person, status as a multimedia artist, and social media influence, to educate and entertain audiences worldwide on the experiences, stories, and beauty of Indigenous identity.

Summit evaluation form

NAFC looks forward to hearing your feedback on the *Friendship in Motion: Urban Indigenous Summit*, please complete the Summit Evaluation Forms which you can find in the summit kit or around the facility.

Advocacy day

On December 8th, 2022, the NAFC will host Advocacy Day, where Friendship Centres and Provincial and Territorial Associations, board members and executive will have the opportunity to undertake lobby activities alongside the NAFC in and around the Ottawa area. Please note details and materials to support participation will be provided during the Summit.



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SUMMIT AGENDA

Join the National Association of Friendship Centres as we gather our members and friends in the Friendship in Motion: Urban Indigenous Summit. The Summit will focus on plenary presentations and workshops which follow four themes: (1) urban Indigenous capacity building; (2) knowledge mobilization (3) action planning; and, (4) showcasing the work of Friendship Centres.

Day 1 – Monday December 5, 2022		
7:30 a.m.	Summit Registration	Mozart Foyer
7:30 a.m.	Hot Breakfast	Mozart Foyer
9:00 a.m.	<p>Opening Ceremonies/Welcoming Remarks</p> <p><i>Masters of Ceremony: Ella Mayer and Talon Fire Bird</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Prayer – Elder Claudette Commanda, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg • Welcome to Algonquin Territory - Chief Dylan Whiteduck, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg • Welcoming Remarks from Kelly Benning, President, NAFC 	Mozart Ballroom
9:30 a.m.	<p>Advocacy Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background of Indigenous Advocacy Strategies <i>Presenter: Bonnie Leask, Blackbird Strategies</i> • Practical Tips on Advocacy <i>Presenter: Isabel Metcalfe, Public Affairs Counsel</i> • Advocacy 101 <i>Presenter: Olivia Chow, Former Member of House of Commons Canada</i> 	Mozart Ballroom
11:00 a.m.	<p>Opening Keynote Address</p> <p>Friendship in Motion: Setting the Stage for Urban Indigenous Success</p> <p><i>Jocelyn Formsma, CEO, NAFC</i></p>	Mozart Ballroom
12:00 p.m.	Lunch Provided	Mozart Foyer



Day 1 – Monday December 5, 2022

12:45 p.m.

Concurrent Workshops

Workshop #1 - Best Practices in Board Governance and Friendship Centre Leadership Capacity Building

Location: Mozart Ballroom – Plenary

Presenter(s): Leslie Varley - British Columbia Association of Friendship Centres / Ms. Laurie Bouvier - Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan, and Myra Malboeuf – Ile a la Crosse Friendship Centre

Ms. Varley will provide an overview of the master’s degree in *Business Administration in Advancing Reconciliation project*. This is a joint project offered by the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, and the University of Victoria’s Gustavson School of Business. This opportunity, funded through the Province of BC enables every Friendship Centre as well as 50 additional BC based not-for-profit social services sector organizations to build capacity, succession planning, sustainability, and stability, for the future of the not-for-profit sector in BC communities. This first of its kind opportunity enables customized course development ensuring culturally appropriate urban Indigenous specific contributions to the provincial and national reconciliation agenda.

The Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan (AFCS) is honoured to present their innovative way of supporting their Friendship Centres through a Supportive Standards Model. This presentation will reflect on the intricacies of being an advocating body that manages and oversees funding agreements. This delicate relationship between the Provincial Territorial Association (PTA) and its member Friendship Centres has provided a holistic approach to how they support their needs and provide resources to adequately support the growth in governance, financial management and program development. The presentation will be tailored to provide the perspective of the PTA and that of a Friendship Centre to provide context on its inception and effectiveness over the past 5 years.

Workshop #2 - Friendship Centre Anti-Violence Programming

Location: Julien/Gagnon/Walker Room

Presenter(s): Brenda Robertson – Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan/ Jason Gobeil and Jenny McKay - Dakota-Ojibway Tribal Council

Ms. Robertson will present the Honouring Her Spark project. Honouring Her Spark focuses on improving the economic landscape for Indigenous women in Saskatchewan. Through honouring women and supporting their inner sparks and flames, the project is geared toward increasing awareness and understanding Indigenous women



Day 1 – Monday December 5, 2022

12:45 p.m.

women including barriers they encounter, exploring their passions and seeking out what they need to succeed. Honouring Her Spark has a three-part approach to build economic security and prosperity as defined by Indigenous women in the community engagement phase of this project.

Mr. Gobeil and Ms. Mckay will present on the Ohitika/Ogichidaa Program - Keeping the Fire Burning for Our Men. This Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services (DOCFS)/ Movember-funded program, combines land-based activities focused on rediscovering a greater sense of self, community, and connection to culture with strengthening social connections, promoting a belonging and social inclusion while supporting men's overall physical and mental wellness and wellbeing.

Workshop #3 - NAFC Access to Justice Strategy

Location: Suzor-Cote Room

Presenter(s): Stephane Laroche and Roxane Bilodeau - Val D'or Friendship Centre / Gabriel Maracle and Rachel Miletti – National Association of Friendship Centres

Mr. Laroche and Ms. Bilodeau will kick-off this session with a presentation on their model of urban Indigenous community justice, an example of social innovation developed at the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre. Anchored in an approach that fosters social and cultural security, their justice model aimed to reduce the disparities that persist between Indigenous populations and Quebec society as a whole, by ensuring better access to justice services and getting partners involved in the carrying out concerted and complementary sustainable actions.

Next, the NAFC policy team will engage attendees on the first stage in the creation of the NAFC's Indigenous Justice Strategy. This session will include a presentation on the NAFC's literacy review and proposed scope for a national access to justice strategy. Following the presentation, the policy team will conduct a community engagement session where participants will be encouraged to share their perspectives on access to justice, the proposed scope of the NAFC's access to justice work and to share examples of access to justice initiatives in their communities.



Day 1 – Monday December 5, 2022		
12:45 p.m.	<p>Workshop #4 - Decent Work for Youth: Urban Indigenous Youth Leadership</p> <p>Location: Delfosse Room</p> <p><i>Presenter(s): Samantha Santoro, Leah Prisque and Monida Eang – NAFC and the NAFC's Indigenous Youth Council (IYC)</i></p> <p>The Decent Work for Youth (DWFY) project aims to empower urban Indigenous youth across Canada to succeed in employment settings by strengthening their diverse leadership skills and networks. The mission of the project is to develop a program for urban Indigenous youth to explore leadership training, cultural teachings, and professional development opportunities while navigating the world of work. The project will spread knowledge on specialized supports while helping urban Indigenous youth build confidence for navigating employment. This presentation will speak about our program and include an explanation of the different project components.</p>	
3:00 p.m.	Adjourn for Day 1	



4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
+


Town Hall with the Conservative Party of Canada Shadow Cabinet
Location: Off-site
+

*Participants will depart from the front entrance at the Hilton Lac Leamy at 3pm
Government issued photo ID will be needed to get through security to enter West Block at Parliament Hill*

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
+

Networking Social and Entertainment
+

*Salon Royale, Casino Lac Leamy
Light refreshments provided, alcohol-free
Chelazon Leroux, Drag Performance, and, Bobby Narcisse, Elvis Impersonator*





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Day 2 – Tuesday December 6, 2022		
8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	Mozart Foyer
9:00 a.m.	<p>Opening Prayer</p> <p>Recap of Day One - Overview of Day Two</p> <p><i>Masters of Ceremony: Ella Mayer and Talon Fire Bird</i></p>	Mozart Ballroom
9:15 a.m.	<p>Panel Presentation: Urban Indigenous Women in Leadership</p> <p><i>Moderator: Francyne Joe, Partnerships Manager, NAFC</i></p> <p><i>Panelists; NAFC Vice-President Pam Glode-Desrochers, Indigenous Youth Council President Averi Doxtator and NAFC Senator Marge White</i></p> <p>This interview style panel will discuss best practices in Urban Indigenous Women in Leadership from a multi-generational lens on what is needed to support the leaders of the Friendship Centre Movement, ensuring Friendship Centres continue to be vibrant, inclusive, culturally grounded community hubs into the future that contribute to a sustainable women's movement.</p>	Mozart Ballroom
10:00 a.m.	Health Break	Mozart Foyer
10:30 a.m.	<p>Concurrent Workshops</p> <hr/> <p>Workshop #5 - An Introduction to the Media: The Dos and Don'ts of Media Interviews</p> <p>Location: Mozart Ballroom – Plenary</p> <p><i>Presenter: Kim Blanchette - Argyle Communications</i></p> <p>Whether you're trying to raise awareness or manage an issue, the media has a big role to play in how we communicate. In this interactive session, Kim will guide you through today's media landscape, what those reporters really want and what to do when that surprise call comes in. You'll come away with some useful tips and tools to manage your next media opportunity with confidence.</p> <hr/> <p>Workshop #6 - Urban Indigenous Social Economy</p> <p>Location: Julien/Gagnon/Walker Room</p> <p><i>Moderator/Presenter: Shady Hafez - National Association of Friendship Centres</i></p> <p><i>Presenter(s): Heidi Dixon - First Light Friendship Centre / Shelly Rickard – Under One Sky Friendship Centre and Donna Webster – Lac La Biche Friendship Centre</i></p> <p>The NAFC is one of four Readiness Support Partners mandated by the Government of Canada to deliver funding under the Investment Readiness Program (IRP). The NAFC's Investment Readiness Program seeks to support urban Indigenous social purpose organizations in the development and growth of their social enterprises as well as to increase their participation in Canada's growing social economy.</p>	Mozart Ballroom



Day 2 – Tuesday December 6, 2022

10:30 a.m.

The NAFC has already distributed nearly \$4.5 million in non-repayable capital to Friendship Centres, Provincial / Territorial Associations, and other urban Indigenous Social Purpose Organizations. The NAFC will be launching another IRP funding round in the new year.

This panel will showcase the objectives and successes of the NAFC's IRP, demonstrating the significant growth and participation of urban Indigenous social purpose organizations in Canada's social economy. In addition, this panel will showcase three IRP funded Friendship Centres who are actively operating successful social enterprises and will showcase how these enterprises address community needs, positively impact the community, and contribute to the growth of collective wealth in their respective communities.

Workshop #7 - Housing, Homelessness and Social Infrastructure

Location: Suzor-Cote Room

Moderator/Presenter: David Gray - Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres

Presenter(s): Ken Munro and Cathy Wenstob – Elbert Chartrand Friendship Centre / Laurent Odjick and Bruno Lemieux - Société immobilière du Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec / Rachel Sansregret - Winnipeg Indigenous Friendship Centre

The Elbert Chartrand Friendship Centre Housing discussion and hot stove will be a collection of organizations presenting and speaking about Affordable and Social Housing in Canada.

The Société immobilière du Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec (SIRCAAQ) was founded in 2019 to build, acquire, promote, develop and/or carry out community housing projects for urban Indigenous populations in Quebec. Their first developments arose out of the Plan d'action gouvernemental pour le développement social et culturel des Premières Nations et des Inuits 2017-2022 (Government Action Plan for the Social and Cultural development of First Nations and Inuit), which was rolled out in 2017 by the Quebec Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MÉES). Four living environments for Indigenous students are currently being developed - Sept-Îles, Trois-Rivières, Québec City and Chibougamau.

Ms. Sansregret will present on the unique needs of the urban Indigenous people of Winnipeg. She will present on the challenges facing Winnipeg such as significantly increased rates of violence, drug usage, poverty and homelessness, and how this is impacting our most vulnerable community members including our youth and the seniors in our community. She will discuss plans for the new Friendship Centre that is to be built at 45 Robinson, the site of the previous Indian and Métis Friendship Centre, and how they plan to demolish, and revitalize the existing location to include a 24 safe spaces for youth and supportive housing for seniors in their community.



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Day 2 – Tuesday December 6, 2022		
10:30 a.m.	<p>Workshop #8: Friendship Centre Best Practices In Programming</p> <p>Location: Delfosse Room</p> <p><i>Presenter(s): Stephane Laroche – Val D’or Friendship Centre / Miranda Laroche and Abby Bourque – Grande Prairie Friendship Centre</i></p> <p>The presenters will be presenting <i>Mino Pimatisi8in</i> - Indigenous Health and Wellness Initiative. Developed at the Val-d’Or Native Friendship Centre, this social innovation model is a unique response that renews the offering of care, health and social services, increases accessibility to these services, fosters wellness and improves the health status and living conditions of urban Indigenous people. The Mino Pimatisi8in initiative is based on a strategic partnership that has been growing for over 12 years between the Val-d’Or Native Friendship Centre and the Quebec health and social services network.</p> <p><i>Combatting Food Insecurity - A Community Collaborative Approach</i> - A true collaborative culinary experience is the essence of our Community Kitchen. In November of 2019, the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre and the Salvation Army entered into a one-of-a-kind partnership. The partnership ensures everyone in the community has equitable access to nourishing, home cooked meals. Lead by our Red Seal Chef, the teams from each organization have merged to provide three meals each day so that the community can enjoy great quality meals in a warm and welcoming space, where friends, old and new, can gather. We are excited to share how two community serving organizations can work together to serve their community, reduce operational costs, increase food security in the community, and so much more!</p>	
12:00 p.m.	Lunch Provided	Mozart Foyer
1:00p.m.	<p>Plenary Presentation: Addressing Anti-Racism in Health Care and Community Driven Health Care</p> <p><i>Presenter(s): Tanya Sirois – Regroupement des centres d’amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ) / Leslie Varley, British Columbia Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) / Jocelyn Formsma - National Association of Friendship Centres</i></p> <p>The NAFC is committed to ending systemic racism in healthcare. The answers to healthcare systems by and for Indigenous people lies within our communities. Friendship Centres help ensure that urban Indigenous peoples can access healthcare services with dignity, without fear and, free from discrimination. NAFC will share their engagement to date and the current recommendations to advance work in improving health care outcomes and addressing racism in healthcare for urban Indigenous people. RCAAQ will provide information on best practices in advocacy and working with multiple levels of Government and BCAAFC will present on their Safe Spaces App, an online web app that provides a safe and anonymous way for you to share your healthcare experiences to make a difference, without the fear of retaliation.</p>	



Day 2 – Tuesday December 6, 2022

2:00 p.m.

Concurrent Workshops

Workshop #9 - GBA+ and Anti-oppression In Practice

Location: Mozart Ballroom – Plenary

Presenter(s): Matthew Thompson - Canadian Community Economic Development Network, Patrick Wray – Social Research and Demonstration Corporation, Jannah Kohlman - Nawican Friendship Centre, Jillian Leblanc - Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), and Monida Eang – National Association of Friendship Centres

Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) is an intersectional equity tool to help recognize and move beyond assumptions to address the unique needs of everyone. In this workshop, an external facilitator will introduce the GBA+ tool and discuss the importance of integrating and applying GBA+ in programs, services, and policies. NAFC will share examples in practice by highlighting the collaborative model of the CreateAction program - a partnership between NAFC, the Canadian Community Economic Development Network, and the Social Research and Demonstration Corporation. CreateAction aims to create meaningful work opportunities in the social economy for youth, partnering with employers and practitioners to apply an equity and anti-oppression-informed approach to address barriers to employment.

Workshop #10 - Building data capacity within the Friendship Centre Movement

Location Julien/Gagnon/Walker Room

Presenter(s): Michael Budgell – First Light Friendship Centre / Jason Googoo – Membertou Geomatics Solutions / Sheila Moerkoert – Grande Prairie Friendship Centre / Andrew Macumber – National Association of Friendship Centres

Data is found in all forms from collecting numbers, to sharing stories to capturing our experiences through photos. Data informs us about the needs of our communities, tells us whether we are honouring our missions, documents our successes and showcases our impacts. This panel includes speakers from across the movement discussing how they are building capacity to collect and leverage data to drive community wellness.



Day 2 – Tuesday December 6, 2022

<p>2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Workshop #11 - Urban Path to Reclaiming Power and Place, Regardless of Residency</p> <p>Location: Suzor-Cote Room</p> <p><i>Presenter: Diane Redsky - Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata (Ma Mawi) Centre</i></p> <p>It is undeniable there is a vital, innovative, resilient and strong urban Indigenous presence in Canada. The MMIWG2S+ Urban Working Group developed a National Action Plan and Implementation Plan to eliminate violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people in response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The MMIWG2S+ Urban Working Group drew on the strengths, knowledge and experience of urban Indigenous-led service organizations from across Canada in outlining 8-Pathways to end violence and three themes as part of a holistic model to implement the urban approach to end violence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urban Reality: is to ensure the Urban voice and place in solutions. 2. Responsibilities and Accountabilities: this is the Urban Indigenous responsibility to ending violence through measured goals and monitoring impacts while ensuring accountabilities for all governments. 3. Co-development, coordination, and collaboration: this emphasizes “nothing about us without us” and builds on the fact that we are stronger when we work together. This interactive session will present our work and provide an opportunity to give input in amplifying the urban Indigenous-led organization voice in Canada. <hr/> <p>Workshop #12 – Smooth Operation: Building Internal Capacity/ Human Resources with Group Benefits and Pension</p> <p>Location: Delfosse Room</p> <p><i>Presenter(s): Heidi Dixon - First Light Friendship Centre / Sherri Lynn Gobeil and Dion McKay - TIPI Insurance Partners and Laurie Sinclair – Legacy Bowes</i></p> <p>Ms. Dixon’s presentation Smooth Operation: Building Internal Capacity outlines how capacity building can come in many forms and will look different for every Friendship Centre, depending on current operations and team structure. We often end up outsourcing services and processes that we don’t have the capacity to do internally. Creating an internal Operations team is one way to ensure we are reducing the amount of outsourcing and building our own internal capacity, to strengthen our Friendship Centres overall. In this presentation, we’ll talk about the Operations team at First Light Friendship Centre, why and how it was created, and the impacts it has had on the organization as a whole. We’ll also touch on some of the ways the Operations team works with each different department, and the systems and tools that have helped throughout the work.</p> <p>The TIPI Insurance Partners will present on the done work through Create ACTION project and will provide information on this project as well as other current projects being done through Legacy Bowes whom TIPI Insurance Partners have partnered with. TIPI Insurance Partners would like to discuss the different opportunities for Group Benefits and Group Pension. We would like to highlight the ways we can help the Friendship Centres and Provincial and Territorial Associations achieve peace of mind with our holistic approach to managing employee benefits and pension.</p>	
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Day 2 – Tuesday December 6, 2022		
3:30 p.m.	<p>Panel Presentation – Municipalities and Friendship Centres</p> <p>Moderators: Ella Mayer/Talon Fire Bird</p> <p><i>Panelists: Charlie Clark – Mayor of Saskatoon / Charlotte Commonda - Maniwaki Friendship Centre</i></p> <p>This panel presentation will highlight the strength in building relationships with municipal governments to better support the work of Friendship Centres. Mayor Clark will speak on his experiences working with community and how the Federation of Canadian Municipalities brings together nearly 2,000 municipalities of all sizes representing more than 90 percent of Canadians and how empowering local leaders builds better lives.</p> <p>Charlotte Commonda will discuss best practices in how the Maniwaki Friendship Centre built partnerships with their municipal governments to get the support needed for their programming in addressing community needs.</p>	Mozart Ballroom
4:15 p.m.	Adjourn for Day 2	

Day 3 - Wednesday, December 7, 2022		
8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	Mozart Foyer
9:00 a.m.	<p>Opening Prayer</p> <p>Recap of Day Two - Overview of Day Three</p> <p><i>Masters of Ceremony: Ella Mayer and Talon Fire Bird</i></p>	Mozart Ballroom
9:15 a.m.	<p>Highlighting the Friendship Centre COVID-19 Response</p> <p><i>Presenter(s): Philip Meilleur and Jean-Francois Cote – RCAAQ / Shane Gauthier – Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary / John Paille – National Association of Friendship Centres</i></p> <p>This session will provide an overview of the NAFC's COVID-19 related efforts and campaigns including Take Care in COVID, Take Action in COVID, My Vaxx Journey, advocacy for urban Indigenous inclusion in ICSF, priority vaccinations, and allowing Friendship Centres and other urban Indigenous organizations to host vaccination clinics. Presentations from the Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary, Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec, and the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre on how their PTA and/or Friendship Centre(s) responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, maintained front-line services throughout the pandemic, ensured members and staff safety, in addition to new services and partnerships to respond to the pandemic and vaccination efforts.</p>	
10:00 a.m.	Health Break	Mozart Foyer



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Day 3 - Wednesday, December 7, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Workshop # 13 - Children and Youth Programming

Location: Mozart Ballroom – Plenary

Presenter(s): Michelle Cuvelier – Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre / Patsy McKinney and Shelly Rickard, Under One Sky Friendship Centre / Calvin Albright - Kamloops Aboriginal Friendship Society

Jordan's Principle makes sure all First Nations children living in Canada can access the products, services and supports they need, when they need them. Funding can help with a wide range of health, social and educational needs. Ms. Cuvelier's presentation will give an overview of eligibility, application processes as well as coordination of services.

The Under One Sky Friendship Centre - the Take it Outside project was designed and developed by Under One Sky Head Start using nature to promote health and well-being and to teach outdoor education and leadership to Indigenous children, educators, and parents. For many Indigenous families, active lifestyles are lacking and health issues such as childhood obesity and diabetes have increased. Developing a culturally appropriate and enriching outdoor education curriculum for preschool aged Indigenous children builds confidence, increases healthy social interaction, enhances staff and parent expertise, and promotes healthy lifestyle choices. The goal moving forward is to increase leadership capacity to facilitate culture and land- based programming for adult participants and include Cultural Diversity Training as Healing on the Land.

In the final presentation, Mr. Albright will discuss how many Friendship Centres are renting buildings that are not designed for the programs they deliver. This presentation is about one Friendship Centre, Kermode Friendship Society, that did something about that. It began with the board having a vision to purchase a piece of property but not having a plan. There was no movement for 10 years but a plan began with the development of a 40 space Aboriginal daycare. Within 3 years, they not only a 40 space daycare but a skokum, 18,000 sq. feet that houses programs and services and has an immense impact on the community and the clients that come to the Friendship Centre for services. It is possible for every Friendship Center to create a building and own an asset.

Workshop # 14 - Gathering Courage: Engaging The Movement on Women

Location: Julien/Gagnon/Walker Room

Presenter(s): Gaelle Mushyirahamwe and Paige Kezima – National Association of Friendship Centres

The goals of this workshop include engaging with representatives of the Friendship Centre Movement around ideas of what leadership looks like for gender-diverse folks and women, and how we can address the possibility of creating systemic change in the future. Facilitated by Paige and Gaelle, we will divide the room into groups to discuss lived experiences in leadership roles, and report back to the larger group to find similarities and shared hopes for the future. As part of the Gathering Courage project (funded by WAGE), this session is vital because it will inform the development of a national action plan.



Day 3 - Wednesday, December 7, 2022		
10:30 a.m.	<p>Workshop #15 – How The Urban Indigenous Knowledge Mobilisation Hub Advances UNDRIP Activation</p> <p>Location: Suzor-Cote Room</p> <p><i>Presenter(s): Chelsey Schmidtke – National Urban Indigenous Coalition Council</i></p> <p>As local and national networks work together to strengthen urban governance in cities, this session profiles the role of NUICC’s Knowledge Hub to support the implementation of UNDRIP in cities. The National Urban Indigenous Coalition Council team will share experiences, successes, and learnings of their work around the UNDRIP framework. Speakers will discuss the relation between Knowledge Hubs and public policy in the work for reconciliation and redress of Indigenous and urban Indigenous peoples’ rights.</p> <hr/> <p>Workshop # 16 - The Journey of Reconciliation</p> <p>Location: Delfosse Room</p> <p><i>Presenter(s): Gwen Cardinal - Prince George Native Friendship Centre</i></p> <p>On May 27, 2021, the world received confirmations of the significant loss of children in the Indigenous community from the government imposed residential school system; we found ourselves at a poignant time in our community. We understand that there were and are many questions that we all have and we wanted to create a space for our staff to share in our discovery of the truth of residential schools and relate it to the journey of our Friendship Centre. We brought our staff together over a series of 3 Truth Telling sessions to begin to unpack this dialogue that impacts us as an organization, community, professionals and most importantly as individuals in part of the fabric of this Nation. Our Friendship Centre nourished a compassionate learning opportunity for all staff members on this journey of discovery. We invite you to be part of this session to hear our truth and teachings as we support our staff and community in this journey of “Reconciliation”.</p>	
12:00 p.m.	Lunch Provided	Mozart Foyer



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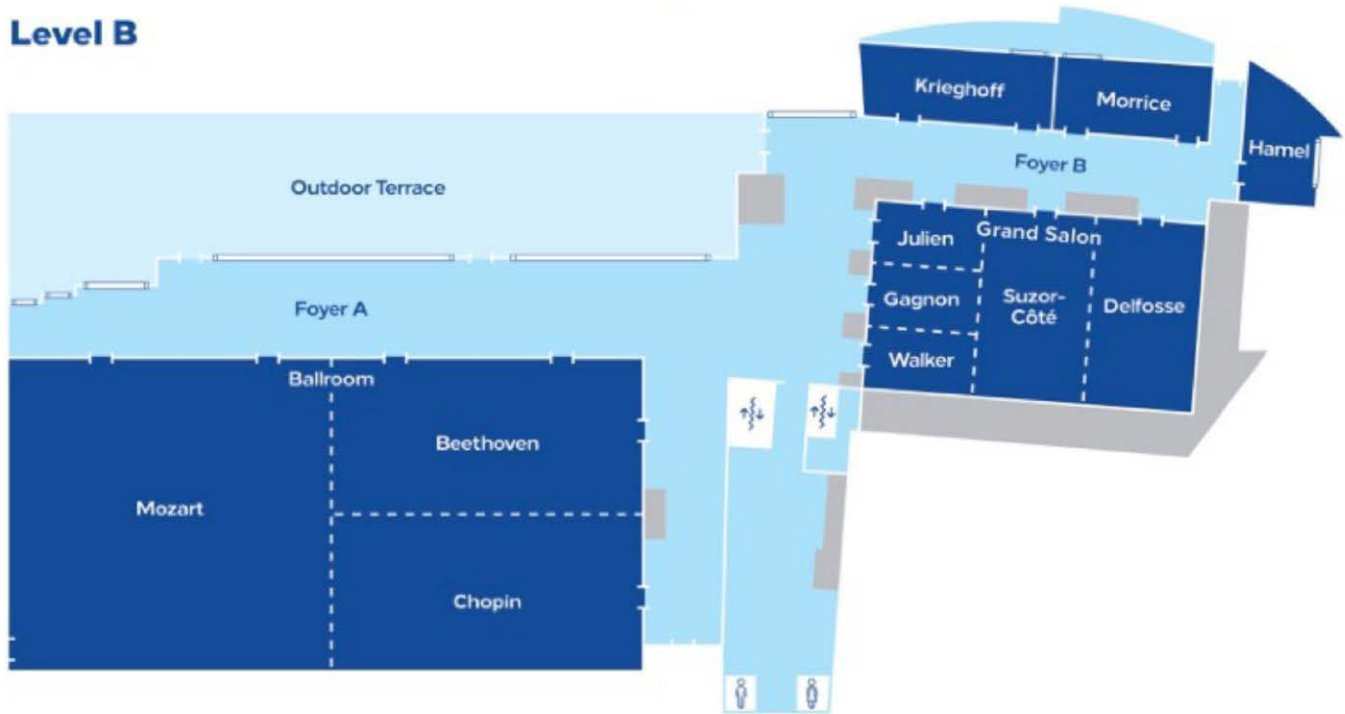
Day 3 - Wednesday, December 7, 2022		
1:00 p.m.	<p>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Upholding the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Urban Environments</p> <p><i>Moderators: Ella Mayer/Talon Fire Bird</i></p> <p><i>Presenter(s): David Gray – Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres (MAFC)/ Jocelyn Formsma and the Policy Team - National Association of Friendship Centres</i></p> <p>The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) has the potential to make monumental strides in developing the relationship between Indigenous People and Canada and the redress of past wrongs. How it is implemented and interpreted will be a watershed moment in the reconciliation between Canada and Indigenous People. David Gray will present on the legal implications of UNDRIP and foster a collective understanding of UNDRIP, its place in a legal context, and the issues that will arise.</p> <p>Jocelyn Formsma will discuss how Friendship Centres can be involved with UNDRIP and how NAFC wants to engage the movement on this topic with our policy team.</p> <p>To build upon the knowledge and ideas shared during this session, the NAFC's policy team will facilitate an engagement session guided by key questions regarding UNDRIP and how the movement views UNDRIP as well as how they conceptualize the communities they live in and serve.</p>	Mozart Ballroom
2:30 p.m.	Closing Plenary/Wrap up in Plenary	Mozart Foyer
Closing Protocols		



SUMMIT FLOORPLAN

Hilton Lac Leamy

Level B



FLOOR MAP KEY

- Conference Rooms
- Public Space
- Private
- Windows



Speaker/Presenter Biographies

Commanda, Claudette

Professor Claudette Commanda is an Algonquin Anishinabe from Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation who has dedicated the last 35 years to promoting First Nations people, history, culture, and rights. At the University of Ottawa, she is the former chair of the Indigenous Education Council and a professor for the Institute of Women's Studies; Faculties of Education and Law; and the Aboriginal Studies Program. She is also the Special Advisor on Reconciliation for the Dean, Faculty of Law. In 2017, Claudette was the first Elder-in-Residence for the Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa, and the first person of a First Nation heritage appointed to the University's Board of Governors. In March 2020, Claudette received the 2020 INDSPiRE Award for Culture, Heritage and Spirituality.

She was inducted into the Common Law Honour Society, serving two terms on the Board of Governors for the First Nations University of Canada and three terms on the Kitigan Zibi band council, and she is CEO of the First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres. Claudette is a proud mother of four and grandmother of ten.

Benning, NAFC President Kelly

Kelly Benning is a Métis woman from northern Alberta, with roots in both Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Kelly was elected to serve as President of the National Association of Friendship Centres in November 2021, having previously served as Vice President. Kelly has been part of the Friendship Centre Movement for over 20 years, first and foremost as part of the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre, serving locally, provincially, and nationally. She is an advocate for the urban Indigenous community and equity at every table. Kelly is a mother, grandmother, wife, daughter, sister, cousin, and auntie. Kelly firmly believes that we all have our place in the circle and that it is when we step into the circle, that we become the people we were meant to be.

Blanchette, Kim

Kim has close to 30 year's experience in PR, communications, media relations and public engagement, with extensive work in crisis communication. Kim serves as Argyle's senior VP of Reputation, Risk & Public Affairs and supports Argyle's Settlement Communications work for the Federal Indian Day Schools, Day Scholars and the First Nations Drinking Water settlements. Kim is an accredited communications professional and Canada's first Chartered Public Relations professional. She began her career in Nova Scotia moving to the Federal government in various departments, including Consul at the Consulate General in Seattle before joining the Alberta Energy Regulator as VP of Communications.

Bourque, Abby

Abby is Cree Metis woman, originally from Lac La Biche, Alberta, located in Treaty 6 territory and Metis Nation Region 1. She is a mother to four amazing children, three boys and one girl. Abby grew up in the same community as her husband, though they did not find each other until their paths crossed again in Grande Prairie, Alberta in 2008. She is currently the Assistant Executive Director with the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre. Her journey with the Friendship Centre Movement began in 2009, when her son began his first year with the Aboriginal Head Start. She considers this a pivotal point in her life, as she found a community that aligns with her core values of helping others, while encouraging and supporting each other along the way.



Budgell, Michael

Michael is a First Nations drummer and IT lover with a passion for problem-solving. Since joining First Light in 2020 he has made every effort to use technology to enhance and modernize the organization. By holding to the mantra “the sky is the limit,” First Light has been able to harness a number of technologies to collect and analyze data. By constantly asking what is possible, Michael has been able to automate and streamline many tedious processes and integrate them in a way which helps the organization run at its peak.

Cardinal, Gwen

Gwen Cardinal is of Cree descent and has positioned herself on the ancestral territory of the Lheidli T’enneh. She has the honor of upholding the responsibility as the Director of Health for the Prince George Native Friendship Centre. She is one of many truths in this community, and she leads herself as a daughter, sister, mother, and auntie to many in addition to her professional commitment. Her birthplace is the Treaty 8 Territory and she came to be in this community to pursue educational and life opportunities. She is relentless in the pursuance of transforming inequities to ensure that “every child matters”. Gwen seeks out opportunities in the Friendship Centre Movement and personally that contribute and make space for reconciliation and community driven models of services that support health, wellness, and inclusion of our people. When she thinks of the commitment of service from our Friendship Centres, especially over the last 2 years, she is grateful. The courage and strength to ensure the safety and well-being for all is our collective journey of reconciliation and she is committed on this path.

Charlie Clark, Mayor of Saskatoon, Vice Chair BCMC

Charlie is passionate about Saskatoon. He believes our history of innovation, problem-solving, and collaboration can position us as a leading city across Canada. His approach is centered on the belief that partnerships among groups with different perspectives can offer the best solutions to the challenges being faced by cities across the world. He is committed to building a community where people see each other’s strengths instead of differences, where families can thrive, and children are able to see a future for themselves here.

He is married to Sarah Buhler, a law professor at the University of Saskatchewan, and they have three children: Simon, Ben, and Rachel.

Before serving as Mayor, Charlie was the Ward 6 City Councillor for ten years. Before elected life, he worked in the areas of mediation and community economic development. He has bachelor’s degrees in conflict resolution and education as well as a master’s degree in environmental studies.

Côté, Jean-François

Jean-François Côté is Wendat from the community of Wendake. He began his career in biochemistry and administration at Université Laval and has been working for the Regroupement des centres d’amitié autochtones du Québec (RCAAQ) since 2014 as its project and program coordinator. There, he oversees the implementation of programs with the Friendship Centres and project planning with our programs and partnerships staff and advisors. He has a comprehensive view of the needs, issues and challenges faced by urban Indigenous people.



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Dixon, Heidi

Heidi Dixon is a proud member of the Gwich'in First Nation and currently calls Mount Pearl home. As the Manager of Operations at First Light Friendship Centre in St. John's, Heidi plays a critical role in developing, streamlining and strengthening the internal operations across existing programs, services and social enterprises. Heidi has extensive experience with public speaking, facilitation, social economy, leadership training, and graphic design. In her spare time, Heidi is the owner & operator of Heidi Dixon Designs, where she sells her beadwork online, and has shipped earrings all across Turtle Island. Heidi was recognized for her entrepreneurial work in 2021 when she was selected as one of Atlantic Business Magazine's '30 under 30 Innovators'.

Eang, Monida

Monida Eang is a Project Officer with NAFC.

Formsma, Jocelyn

Jocelyn Formsma is the Executive Director of the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC). Ms. Formsma is a member of the Moose Cree First Nation in Northern Ontario. She holds an Honours Bachelor of Social Sciences and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Ottawa. Ms. Formsma has over 15 years of work and volunteer experience building strong relationships and advocacy on behalf of Indigenous peoples. She is called to the Bar of Ontario and has worked as a lawyer for a First Nations-owned law firm. Prior to this, she worked for numerous national Aboriginal organizations and First Nations organizations. In addition, Ms. Formsma serves as the Chairperson of the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, Board Member of the National Indian Child Welfare Association, Founder of the Morningstar Fund and is an Advisor to the Ontario Indigenous Youth Partnership Project. As Executive Director, Ms. Formsma brings her legal training and passion for Access to Justice to her work with Indigenous peoples in urban environments and the Friendship Centre Movement towards innovative, positive and effective systemic change for Indigenous peoples.

Glode-Desrochers, Pam

Pamela Glode-Desrochers has been the Executive Director of the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre for over 9 years, working with the Centre for over 27 years and an advocate for strengthen urban and rural Indigenous communities. Currently she sits on the Board of Directors of the National Association of friendship Centers. In June 2017, Pamela received the Governor General's award: Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers in Ottawa for Outstanding Indigenous Leadership.

Gobeil, Jason

Jason Gobeil is the Ohitika/Ogichidaa "Warrior" Wellness Coordinator with Dakota Ojibway Child & Family Services in Manitoba that works with 7 First Nation communities and 3 urban centres including Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie and Brandon. Jason is an advocate for change and facilitator in the development and support of working within the circles of men and Indigenous men for years in his home community of Brandon. Jason is committed to community and when he's not volunteering with events or committees he also sits as a Board Member on the Brandon Friendship Centre Board, the Vice Chair and Trustee with the Brandon School Division Board, and Board Member to the Manitoba Indigenous Tourism Association.



Gray, David

David is the President of the Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres, having just been elected to his 3rd, and expected to be his last, 2-year term. He is old. He has been a past Board and executive member of NAFC. He is a lawyer, called in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Yukon. He is currently employed by the Manitoba Metis Federation as its Chief Electoral Officer. He is not Indigenous. David began his Friendship Centre involvement in Swan River in the late 1970s as a volunteer. He then became a Board member and, for a short time, the Executive Director. Swan River, at that time, was less than tolerant or accepting of Indigenous People. He has served on the Board Friendship Centres in several Manitoba communities, and volunteered at others, but is not currently on any Centre Board.

Kezima, Paige

Paige Kezima is the Membership Officer with the NAFC.

Laroche, Miranda

Miranda Laroche is a proud Metis Cree woman from Treaty 8 Territory in Northern Alberta. Mother to 5 wonderful children and Kokum to a beautiful baby boy. Walking through the doors of the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre, she knew she was home. It is because of the Friendship Centre that she began to embrace her traditions, and learn to love the purity of ceremony, prayer, and connectedness. 6 years ago, she became the Executive Director and has continued to advocate for the Indigenous community and working with like-minded people. She enjoys projects that empower our people and have embraced a good challenge and has been blessed with many great things in life.

Laroche, Stephane

Stephane Laroche serves as the director of organizational and strategic development at the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre. His duties include actively contributing to the Friendship Centre's development and increasing its capacity by supporting the development of innovation initiatives, leading the Centre's knowledge mobilization, innovation, research and evaluation team, supporting strategic planning processes and advising the management team in organizational development.

Leask, Bonnie

Bonnie Leask's life story is as colourful and culturally diverse as the land she calls home. A member of Muskeg Lake Cree Nation signatory and located in Treaty 6, she was raised with a deep understanding of the special nature of Cree history and culture as well as the challenges in bridging the gap between first Nations people and Canada. She has used her lived experience on and off reserve to become a leader, a guide and an innovator for people interested in forging stronger relationships in our evolving cross-cultural world. As a member of Blackbird Strategies, she comfortably helps clients understand and navigate their challenges wherever necessary - from community halls to the halls of Parliament Hill.



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Lemieux, Bruno

Bruno Lemieux is non-Indigenous and lives in Wendake with his Huron-Wendat spouse and children. He holds a M.Sc. in Education and is pursuing an MBA. Serving as project coordinator at the Société immobilière du Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec since last February, Mr. Lemieux worked for eight years in the academic programs office of a college. His drive, leadership, and passion for educational success has allowed him to spearhead SIRCAAQ's innovative projects.

Macumber, Andrew

Andrew Macumber is the Senior Data Analyst with the NAFC.

Maracle, Gabriel

Gabriel Maracle is a Policy Analyst with the NAFC. His policy portfolio includes housing and homelessness, justice, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Mathews, Marrisona

Marrisona Mathews is a Senior Research Coordinator with the NAFC.

Mckay, Jenny

Jennifer Mckay is an Anishinaabe/Cree woman from Crane River/Opaskwayak Cree Nation and have lived in Brandon, MB since 1994. She is the Prevention Coordinator for Dakota Ojibway CFS. She has been with DOCFS for 22 years and has held different positions with the Agency such as the CFSIS Data Entry Clerk, Foster Resource Administration Assistant, Finance officer, Payroll officer, and in her current role as the Prevention Coordinator/Finance Assistant.

She enjoys spending time with her husband of 20 years Owen and their three children Tristan, Troy, and Joe. Jenny has currently enrolled back into Brandon University to complete my studies in Business Administration and Native studies.

Meilleur, Philip

Having a sensitivity for social justice, Philip began his professional career in the field of fundraising for organizations such as: Doctors Without Borders, Oxfam Quebec and Amnesty International Canada Francophone. In 2010, he joined the Équiterre team to work to improve Montreal's air quality. In 2014, he obtained the position of general manager of Montreal Native. Holding a bachelor's degree in business administration specializing in management, he immediately seized the opportunity to found and develop Montreal Native to achieve its mission, which aims to contribute to the holistic health, cultural strength and success of Aboriginal families, individuals and the community in Montreal.



Metcalfe, Isabel

A successful businesswoman, Isabel has built her business on a lifetime of community engagement. Founding Chair of Famous 5 Ottawa, a candidate at both the federal and municipal levels, a mother and grandmother, she is an advocate for Indigenous peoples, live performance unions, broadcasters, an airline and other national organizations. An international election observer and advocate for more women in politics, she has travelled to Ukraine, Lebanon, Albania and Azerbaijan to help foster and promote democracy.

Isabel has worked for 3 prime ministers – Pierre Trudeau, John Turner and Jean Chretien. She has been involved in Liberal politics for nearly 50 years, at the local, provincial and national level. She believes in engagement, commitment and loyalty.

With a Bachelor of Arts from Carleton University (graduating as the mother of 3 children); Grade 8 in Piano and Grade II Theory, she continues to do door to door canvassing for many candidates. Every Saturday night she serves dinner at the Community Drop In, Shepherds of Good Hope.

Miletti, Rachel

Rachel Miletti is a policy analyst with the NAFC. Her policy portfolio includes children and youth, environment and climate change and international policy concerns.

Munro, Ken

The current Executive Director of the Elbert Chartrand Friendship Centre and the Elbert Chartrand Friendship Centre Housing Corporation which is located in Swan River, Manitoba. The Elbert Chartrand Friendship Centre offers urban Indigenous programming for youth, families, homelessness, seniors, employment, education, culture and education. The organization provides over 50,000 points of service annually and serves over 10,000 people in 16 communities. The non-profit organization employs over 40 full and part time staff and has been an active part of the Swan River Valley since it was incorporated in 1969. The ECFC Housing Corporation began operations in the mid 1980's and has grown to an organization that owns 54 affordable housing units and manages another 345 for Manitoba Housing.

Mushyrahamwe, Gaelle

Gaelle Mushyrahamwe is the Research Assistant with the NAFC.

Odjick, Laurent

Laurent Odjick est un algonquin de la communauté de Kitigan Zibi. Il est détenteur d'un DEC en technique administrative profil gestion de projets, d'un Baccalauréat en administration des affaires profil management-entrepreneuriat et possède un certificat en crédit commercial. Monsieur Odjick est présentement le directeur de la Société immobilière du Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec depuis 1 an et a travaillé auparavant pour la Société de Crédit Commercial Autochtone pendant 17ans à titre de directeur de comptes. Sa longue expérience en développement et financement de projets chez les Premières nations lui permet de diriger la SIRCAAQ avec ses projets de grande envergure.

Prisque, Leah

Leah Prisque is a Youth Coordinator with NAFC



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Redsky, Diane

Diane Redsky is a First Nation member of Shoal Lake First Nation #40, Ontario; a community of Treaty #3 and resides in Winnipeg, Manitoba-Treaty #1 territory. She is a proud mother of three children, Kookum (grand-mother) and has dedicated her gifts towards promoting the growth and development of urban Indigenous peoples particularly the safety, protection and well-being of Indigenous women and girls. She is the Executive Director of the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre in Winnipeg; translated from Ojibway means, 'we all work together to help one another' is a community-based, community-led, Indigenous-driven family resource centre that is a leader in community-based care for Indigenous children, youth and families and operates the only rural healing centre in Canada for sexually exploited and trafficked girls/transgender 13-17 years of age. From 2011 until 2015, Diane was Project Director for the National Task Force on Human Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada. This meaningful work resulted in National Task Force Report with 34 recommendations to end sex trafficking in Canada. Dr. Diane Redsky has been acknowledged: Order of Manitoba, Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal, Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case, Senate of Canada Medal, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba Janice Filmon as Honorary Patron of the Nellie McClung Foundation, YMCA-YWCA Women of Distinction Award, Leadership and Innovator/Visionary Award by Joy Smith Foundation, Rotary Paul Harris Award and Honorary Doctor of Law from the University of Winnipeg. Diane's belief in the inherent strength of the community continues to guide her along her life's journey.

Robertson, Brenda

Brenda Robertson (she/her/hers) is a Saulteaux First Nations woman and daughter of a Residential School Survivor. She holds a Certificate of Indian Social Work and a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Regina. Brenda has actively advocated for and supported the goals of diversity and inclusion through-out her career. She has over 25 years of human rights experience from the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission. In addition, Brenda has worked with Indigenous organizations, healthcare and tourism in advancing opportunities for Indigenous people and designated equity groups.

Sansregret, Rachel

Rachel Sansregret is the CEO of the Winnipeg Indigenous Friendship Centre, she is honoured to have been working in partnership with the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre since 2020 to be part of the team of Indigenous led sister organizations in Winnipeg that are working passionately to revitalize a Friendship Centre for Canada's largest urban Indigenous population. Rachel is passionate about working with the WIFC team to provide a better quality of life for Winnipeg's urban Indigenous community, and looks forward especially to improving safety for youth in Winnipeg and providing our youth, and all community members with the drop-in, referral, advocacy and accessibility supports they are so greatly in need of at this time.

Santoro, Samantha

Samantha Santoro is a Partnerships Coordinator with NAFC.



Schmidtke, Chelsey

NUICC federates 34 urban Indigenous coalitions from coast to coast to coast, with many built with NAFC members. NUICC's Urban Indigenous Knowledge Mobilisation Hub is home to the Community of Practice for research on Urban Indigenous topics and issues. Here researchers share advice and knowledges on topics that need more discussion and attention and help curate the Hub's toolkits, Speaker Series events, and policy platforms to advance Indigenous voices from all urban areas in Canada.

Varley, Leslie

Leslie Varley is a Nisga'a Nation member, living at Musqueam First Nation in Vancouver. She is the Executive Director of the BCAAFC.

Whiteduck Chief Dylan

As the former Economic Development Officer for Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, Chief Whiteduck is proud to be a part of the success and achievements in the economic development portfolio. More recently, he was elected Chief of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg in 2020. As Chief, he acts in the best interest for the community and the members he currently serves. He has a strong desire to promote and develop clean energy projects and more recently, he also has a keen interest in the field of change management. He enjoys exercising his First Nations inherent rights of hunting and fishing and is an avid golfer during the summer and enjoy traditional powwows with his wife and daughter.



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