

NATIONAL CHILD DAY

National Child Day is the day when people across the country take time to celebrate Canada's most precious resource: Our Children!

National Child Day (November 20th) was proclaimed by the Government of Canada on March 19, 1993 to commemorate the United Nations adoption of two landmark documents concerned with the basic human rights to which all children and youth are entitled: The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child (1959) and The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).

The Canadian Child Care Federation has selected Article 30, the Right to Practice Own Culture, Language and Religion, as the theme for National Child Day this year. Article 30 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states, in places where "ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of Indigenous origin exist, a child belonging to such a minority or who is Indigenous shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practice his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language."

National Child Day is a day to remember that children need love and respect to grow to their full potential. It is a day to marvel at the uniqueness of children and all they have to offer. It is also a day to celebrate the family and think about how adults affect the development of children close to them.

OBJECTIVES

The National Child Day Forum, hosted by Healthy Child Manitoba with community partners, has become an annual tradition providing an opportunity for community partners from across the province to gather for two days of networking and learning together about early child development.

This year's forum, *Coming Back to the Drum: A Shared Journey*, is focused on working with First Nations, Metis and Inuit children and families in Manitoba, with a priority focus on the early years (prenatal to six years).

The objectives of the National Child Day Forum 2012 are:

- To increase general knowledge about Aboriginal peoples and their cultures;
- To highlight the importance of partnerships and the need to work more closely with Aboriginal peoples;
- To demonstrate positive initiatives in this regard;
- To contribute to professional development; and
- To provide opportunities for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples to network and learn from each other.



PLANNING COMMITTEE

We wish to acknowledge the contributions made by Claudette Michell, who played a key role in our planning for the National Child Day Forum 2012. Sadly, on October 5th, 2012, our dear friend and colleague, Rattle That Glows In The Dark and Turtle Shooting Star Woman, was called upon by our Creator to make her journey home. Claudette was a remarkable and beautiful woman who inspired the title that was chosen for this year's forum, Coming Back to the Drum: A Shared Journey. She will be remembered with honour and respect.

“The drum is very important in reclaiming an identity ... women need to come back to the drum. This will help them in their healing. We need to believe that her heartbeat will be the healing energy that will help our families and Mother Earth to heal.”

- Claudette Lizette Michell (June 3, 1966 – October 5, 2012)

National Child Day Forum 2012 Planning Committee:

- Nichola Batzel, Manitoba Urban Inuit Association
- Wendy Church, Healthy Child Manitoba Office
- Arlene Flatfoot-Beaulieu, Manitoba First Nation Education Resource Centre
- Terra Johnston, Healthy Child Manitoba Office
- Karen Kejick, Manitoba Health
- Brigitte Lamoureux, Health Canada
- Monica Lytwyn, Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care
- Kathy Mallett, Community Education Development Association
- Debra Mayer, Manitoba Education
- Kim McPherson, Aboriginal and Northern Affairs
- Claudette Michell, University of Winnipeg, Urban and Inner City Studies
- Lisa Murdock, Healthy Child Manitoba Office
- Karen Naumiuk, Parent Child Programs in Community Schools
- Rachele Neault, Manitoba Metis Federation
- Wanda Phillips-Beck, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
- Marilyn Robinson, Manitoba Education
- Betty Anne Scott, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- Edna Stevens, Health Canada
- Lorraine Thomas, Imaituk
- Jennifer Wood, Healthy Child Manitoba Office

A special thank you is extended to Carmen Neufeld, Elena Gagliardi and the team at Planners Plus Inc.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

The Circle of Courage: Early Childhood



Dr. Martin Brokenleg will discuss how those who work with young children have the best opportunity to lay the foundation of experiences that strengthen a child from within. The Circle of Courage philosophy operates at the level where all children are alike regardless of the ethnic community from which they come. Positive youth culture works, and research documents that positive approaches are effective in actually helping children.

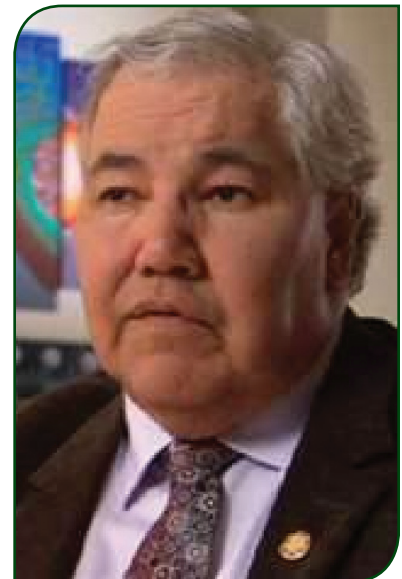
Dr. Martin Brokenleg consults worldwide, is co-founder of the Circle of Courage model and serves as a Vice President of Reclaiming Youth International, providing training for individuals who work with youth at risk. He holds a doctorate in psychology and is a graduate of the Anglican Divinity School. Dr. Brokenleg is a retired professor and was most recently Director of Native Ministries and Professor of First Nations Theology and Ministry at the Vancouver School of Theology in Vancouver, British Columbia. For thirty years, Dr. Brokenleg was Professor of Native American studies at Augustana College of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He has also been a director of The Neighborhood Youth Corps, chaplain in a correctional setting, and has extensive experience as an alcohol counselor. Dr. Brokenleg has consulted and led training programs throughout North

America, New Zealand and South Africa. He is the father of three children and an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, practicing the culture of his Lakota people.

They Were the Future: the Legacy of Indian Residential Schools

The Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair acknowledges that much has been said about the violence experienced by Aboriginal children in Indian Residential Schools and the impact of the schools on individuals. In his keynote presentation, Justice Sinclair will address the significance of these schools to Aboriginal peoples of this country; their loss of language, culture and identity; and the future of their communities.

The Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair was appointed Associate Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Manitoba in March of 1988 and to the Court of Queen's Bench of Manitoba in January 2001. He was Manitoba's first Aboriginal Judge. Justice Sinclair was born and raised in the Selkirk area, north of Winnipeg. In the course of his legal practice, Justice Sinclair practiced primarily in the fields of civil and criminal litigation and Aboriginal law. He represented a cross-section of clients, but by the time of his appointment, was known for his representation of Aboriginal people and his knowledge of Aboriginal legal issues. Shortly after his appointment as Associate Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Manitoba in 1988, Justice Sinclair was appointed Co-Commissioner, along with Court of Queen's Bench Associate Chief Justice A. C. Hamilton, of Manitoba's Aboriginal Justice Inquiry.





Upside Down Planet: Perspectives When Working With Children, Youth and Families



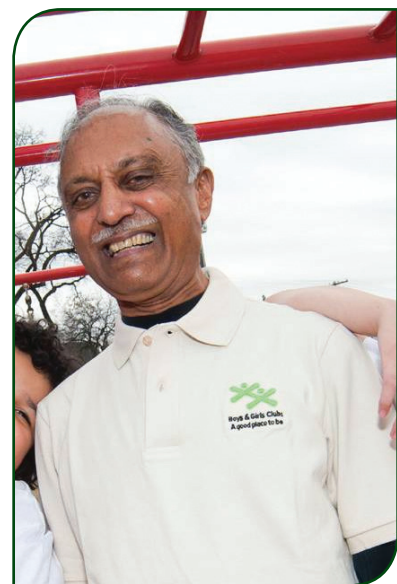
Kevin Lamoureux will focus on the incredible capacity of children and young people to create change. Though sometimes hidden behind misdirected behavior, masked by social challenges, or cloaked in silence, the natural resilience, curiosity, and enthusiasm of children and youth provide almost limitless opportunities and possibilities. This session will explore the disconnect between the unrecognized talent and potential of children and youth and the struggles they sometimes endure. How we, as adults, be an effective support by growing more aware of the perspectives we bring into relationships with our young people?

Kevin Lamoureux is an instructor in The University of Winnipeg's Faculty of Education and for the Faculty's ACCESS Education Program. He is a PhD candidate at the University of New England (UNE), in Armidale, Australia, where he also completed his Master's degree in the same area. Kevin works closely with schools and school divisions throughout Manitoba in support of Aboriginal education and the inclusion of Aboriginal perspectives; enrichment and talent development, as well as working with troubled and disengaged students. He has published many articles and chapters on the subject of Aboriginal education, at-risk children and youth, gifted education, mentoring, and creativity. He is the senior author of

Mentoring in a Canadian Context (published by the Institute of Urban Studies), the recent recipient of the International Center for Innovation in Education (ICIE) Young Scholar Award, and UNE's Merit award for outstanding academic performance. As a member of the Faculty of Education's ACCESS community, he works directly with pre-service teachers preparing for careers in the Inner City.

MASTER OF CEREMONY

Strini Reddy is the former Chair of the Provincial Healthy Child Advisory Committee, dedicated to the well-being of all children in Manitoba. Strini has had a lengthy career in education, extended over a period of 42 years. His experience in 5 different countries included all levels of education from primary to post-secondary. Throughout his career, Strini served in a variety of capacities from teacher and principal, to consultant and lecturer, to superintendent and executive director. Strini has received a number of distinguished award for his excellence in leadership and outstanding contributions to education. Currently, Strini is a member of the Social Council of Winnipeg, where he works with the Committee on Child Poverty. In 2000, Strini was among the first Manitobans to be invested in the Order of Manitoba, "the highest honour the province of Manitoba can bestow on one of its citizens".



SCHEDULE

November 6, 2012

- 8:00 am Registration
Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 am Welcome – **Leanne Boyd**, Healthy Child Manitoba Office
Opening Prayer – **Rita Cullen**
Overview of the Day
- 9:20 am **Dr. Rob Santos**, Healthy Child Manitoba Office
The Importance of Early Years Development and How Our Aboriginal Children are Doing
- Wanda Phillips-Beck**, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
Our Sacred Gifts: What we learned from 2008-2010 Manitoba First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey
- Judy Mayer**, Manitoba Metis Federation
Introduction to Metis and Inuit Child & Family Services
- In this panel presentation, our presenters will share information about what they are currently doing for and with Aboriginal children and families in Manitoba, through their evidence-based programs and services.*
- 10:45 am Refreshment Break
- 11:00 am **Caroline Cruz** and **Annette Chastain**, Eagle Cruz Consultants
Many Pathways to Follow: Tribal and Minority-based Practices
- In the United States, Native American and minority people have been conducting, implementing, and doing practices for years that have been shown to be effective within their own communities. Yet most Native American and minority practices have not been scientifically validated. In this discussion, the presenters will respond to two questions: Should we have culturally relevant tools to measure what we do in Native American and minority communities? Should Native Americans be the ones to validate their own programs from a culturally relevant perspective?*
- 12:00 pm Lunch



1:15 pm

Research to Action: Sharing Our Stories
Moderator – **Leanne Boyd**

Gwen Merrick, Manitoba First Nation Education Resource Centre
EDI, Roots and Seeds of Empathy, PAX, Early Years

Jean Johnson, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
Raising a New Generation

Patricia Gregory and **Lynda Tjaden**, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
Partners for Integrated Inner City Prenatal Care Research Project

Carolyn Young, Manidoo Gi Miini Gonaan
Work on the Abecedarian Project: the Abecedarian Centre

Yvonne Jordaan, First Nations & Inuit Health Branch
STAR (Success Through Advocacy and Role Modeling) Mentor Program

In this panel presentation, our community partners will share information about what they are currently doing for and with Aboriginal children and families in Manitoba, through their evidence-based programs and services.

2:45 pm

Refreshment Break

3:00 pm

Dr. Herman Michell, NORTEP-NORPAC
Walking in Multiple Worlds: Educating the Whole Child Using Aboriginal Philosophy and Practices

Dr. Michell will provide closing key messages for the knowledge sharing portion of the forum. Focusing attention to the issue of cultural inclusion, Dr. Michell will talk about conducting research from start to finish, highlighting the must dos and must remembers of inclusion, consultation and other ethical considerations. His messages are relayed in relation to a canoe trip. This story is sure to be a perfect way to summarize the whole knowledge sharing day, and send the audience off with enlightening and exciting information.

4:00 pm

Closing Remarks – **Leanne Boyd**
Closing Prayer – **Rita Cullen**

5:30 pm

Evening Banquet
Celebrating Community Partners, with Special Recognition of an Exceptional Community Champion: Strini Reddy, Retiring Chair of the Provincial Healthy Child Advisory Committee

November 7, 2012

7:30 am Pipe and Water Ceremony – **Thelma Morrisseau**

Traditionally, the pipe ceremony was used to open negotiations between different nations, as a way for good talk to take place, and as the way for people to be truthful, respectful and abide by the decisions and agreements that were made during the ceremony. The pipe ceremony continues to be a sacred and significant part of First Nations beliefs and practices. Today, First Nations peoples hold pipe ceremonies at the start of gatherings, as a sign of respect and friendship, and to honour the sacredness of the Four Directions, the Spirit World above, Mother Earth below, and the Centre for all living things. Water ceremonies are often held in conjunction with pipe ceremonies, to honour and show respect for our water and Mother Earth, and to give thanks to Mother Earth for providing us with water to sustain life.

8:00 am Registration
Continental Breakfast

9:00 am Welcome – **Strini Reddy**
Opening Prayer – **Thelma Morrisseau**

Walking in a Good Way on Mother Earth: A video in memory of **Claudette Michell**

Honour Song and Exhibition Tribute

Keewatin Otchitchak Traditional Women Singers

Chickadee Richard, Cheryl James, Shannon Buck, Betty Maud, Ocean White, Nicole Gordon, Renee Green, Deanna Cook, Kelly Chinchilla, Candace Pruden, Ivana Yellowback, Tricia Seymour, Connie West-Buck, Nootin Buck, Lauren Chopek, Cheyenne Chartrand, Jo Redsky, Beatrice Foxx and Eva James

Creator Spirit Dance Troupe

Les Michell, with Kances, CJ, Kessin and Chantyn Thompson-Michell

Overview of the Day

Greetings

Chief Derek Nepinak, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

9:30 am **Keynote: Dr. Martin Brokenleg**, Reclaiming Youth International
The Circle of Courage: Early Childhood

10:30 am Refreshment Break

10:45 am **Dr. Martin Brokenleg** (Cont'd)

12:00 pm Prayer – **Garry Robson**
Lunch



12:30 pm

Entertainment: Metis Fiddling and Jigging Group

Edward Klyne (Fiddler)

Maryanne Klyne, Shania Guimond, Astra Amyotte and Erica Chartrand (Jiggers)

L'Assomption Sash / Ceinture Fleche was named after a town in Quebec where it was produced. In the west, the name "L'Assomption Sash" gave way to today's term, "the Metis sash," likely because the sash was most popular among the Métis of the Red River. This colourful sash had many functional uses: It had fringed ends that served as emergency sewing kits when the Métis were out on a buffalo hunt. It was a trump line for carrying heavy loads. The Sash also served as a key holder, first aid kit, washcloth, towel, and as an emergency bridle and saddle blanket. When wrapped tightly around the waist, the sash helped to prevent hernias. Today the "Métis Sash" continues to be an integral part of Métis cultural celebrations.

***-Did You Know? Métis Inventions and Other Interesting Fact,
Louis Riel Institute***

1:00 pm

Breakout Sessions: Truth

"There are a vast number of people in this country with little or no knowledge of Indian Residential Schools and the impact that those schools have had on Aboriginal people ... It's high time we put this issue to bed."

-Justice Murray Sinclair, June 2010

Centennial 3

Aboriginal Children Count:

A Campaign for Social Justice in Early Childhood Development

Kathy Mallett, Wendy Prince and Gerrie Prymak

The presenters will discuss their ongoing research and continued efforts in advocating for more targeted programming for Aboriginal children (prenatal to four years) living in the Inner City and North End neighbourhoods of Winnipeg.

Centennial 4

The Hollow Circle

Corinne Stevens

For Aboriginal parents, factors such as historical trauma, racism, poverty, violence and family dysfunction have profoundly impacted the self of the parent. This has resulted in what the speaker terms, "The Hollow Circle". This presentation will discuss the Hollow Circle and how Aboriginal parents need assistance in making sense of the impacts of these life events on their own ways of parenting.

Restoring the Circle

Shannon Buck

Through this interactive workshop, Shannon Buck will demonstrate the differences in traditional Aboriginal and western social systems, as well as the effects of these two world views coming together and their impact on Aboriginal cultures.

Centennial 5 **Poverty and the Social Determinants of Health: Aboriginal Children in Manitoba**
Dr. Michael Hart

Aboriginal peoples have some of the worst health and social statistics in Canada. In this presentation, Dr. Hart will explore the social determinants of health among First Nation peoples in Manitoba and the underlying mechanisms for consistent Indigenous ill health, which likely hold true in other Indigenous contexts.

Carlton **Digital Stories: Intergenerational Effects of First Nations Women Whose Mothers are Residential School Survivors**

Roberta Stout, Sheryl Peters, Lisa Forbes, Lorena Fontaine, Lisa Murdock, Wendy McNab, and (in memory of) Claudette Michell

In his formal apology to former students of Indian Residential Schools, in 2008, Prime Minister Stephen Harper acknowledged that the legacy of Indian Residential Schools had contributed to social problems that continue to exist in many Aboriginal communities today. While there has been ongoing research about the effects of residential schools on survivors, there are few studies that look at how these schools have affected the children of residential school survivors. This panel of women will share their stories, through a series of short videos, about how they had been affected by the legacy of residential schools.

Regency **Inuit Childrearing Practices**
Levinia Brown

Inuit people believe children are very sacred beings. As such, Inuit ways of life are rooted in the health, safety, well-being and survival of Inuit children. From lessons taught to children and their mothers, to cultural sewing practices, to the different roles women and men fulfill in the community, this presentation will take a genuine look at traditional teachings and cultural childrearing practices, as they relate to Inuit children, families and communities.

2:30 pm Refreshment Break

3:00 pm **Dr. Martin Brokenleg** (Cont'd)

3:45 pm Closing Remarks – **Jan Sanderson**
Closing Prayer – **Garry Robson**



November 8, 2012

- 8:00 am Registration
Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 am Welcome – **Strini Reddy**
Opening Prayer and Lighting of the Quilliq – **Levinia Brown**
- Greetings
Minister Judy Mayer, Manitoba Metis Federation
- 9:15 am Keynote: The Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair, Truth and Reconciliation Commission
“They Were the Future: the Legacy of Indian Residential Schools”
- 10:15 am Refreshment Break
- 10:45 am Breakout Sessions: Reconciliation

“Together, we can achieve the greatness our country deserves.”
- National Chief Phil Fontaine, June 2008

- Centennial 3 **Makoonsag Intergenerational Children’s Centre: Sharing Our Vision of the Elders**
Eleanor Thompson and **Stella Blackbird**

This presentation will outline the Elders’ vision for the Makoonsag Intergenerational Children Centre and highlight the need for children to be surrounded by Elders and other Aboriginal role models, and to experience from infancy the strength of Aboriginal culture as a way of life.

- Centennial 4 **Inclusion: From Indigenous Knowledge to Cultural Safety**
Fjola Hart Wasekeesikaw

The presenter will address the questions: What does cultural safety look like for children? How do our stories inform the process? The presentation includes a discussion on getting started, learning to use the moment, and creating new pathways together for a better world for our children.

Centennial 5 **Providing a Balance: It Takes Two...Teaching from Men and Women Give Children the Balance They Need to Grow, Learn and Develop**
Mindy Sinclair

As caregivers, we contribute equally but in very different ways to the lives of children. This presentation will focus on why parental balance is so important and valuable for children's development. Mindy Sinclair will share an excerpt from the DVD, "Aboriginal Men in Early Childhood Education: Providing the Balance," and she will talk about her work in advocating for and strengthening the representation of men in the child care community.

Neah Kee Papa
Andrew Bird

As the Neah Kee Papa program coordinator, any amount of time that is spent providing a man with information, counseling, programming, and guidance will provide that man with the tools he needs to utilize and effect positive changes within himself, in his relationship, in his family, in his children and in his community. In this presentation, Andrew Bird will share his experiences in delivering the Neah Kee Papa program and discuss what he has learned about influencing positive changes in the men who turn to this parenting program for help.

Carlton **Mother Nature: What She Gives and What She Needs**
Ron Blatz

Instilling a love for nature in preschoolers is the first step in developing the next generation of caregivers. This presentation will explore some of the great possibilities that exist inside and outside of our cities to aid in the healthy, physical and emotional development of children, while setting the stage for the growth of our next generation of caregivers.

Land Based Education on Opaskwayak Cree Nation
Ida Moore

It is believed that one of few North American Indigenous languages to survive into the 22nd century will be the Cree Language. Who we are as Muskêgô Inîñêwak is rooted in the land; the teachings of the land are in the language. The leadership and Education Authority of Opaskwayak strive to transmit the teachings of Inîñêw Pimâtsîwin through land-based education and language preservation. This presentation will provide an overview of how the Opaskwayak Education Authority strives to incorporate the cultural teachings of land-based education, from Nursery through to Grade 12.



Regency

Treaties: Building Bridges to the Future
James Wilson

Treaty Commissioner James Wilson will highlight the work of the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM) in three areas: Research, Facilitation, and Public Education. Partnerships and Elder involvement are cornerstones to the success that the TRCM has been experiencing in these three mandated areas. Particular focus will highlight the work of the Treaty Education Initiative which is developing Treaty education resources to complement the Manitoba Social Studies Curriculum from Kindergarten to Grade 12. The learning outcome of the Treaty Education Initiative is that all Manitoba students should be expected to demonstrate knowledge of the topics, concepts and understandings of the Treaties and the Treaty relationship by the end of Grade 12. The goal of the Treaty Education Initiative is to achieve comprehensive integrated Treaty education across all subject areas in Manitoba curriculum for all Manitoba students.

12:15 pm Prayer – **Levinia Brown**
Lunch

12:45 pm Greetings
Wayne Clark, Vice President, Manitoba Urban Inuit Association

Entertainment: Inuit Throat Singing Group
Nikki Komaksiutiksak, with daughters **Chasity** and **Caramello**

Inuit Throat Singing is a distinct form of entertainment for Inuit women. Throat singing can be described in many ways, depending on the origin of the person living in the North. Mainly, throat singing is different sounds stemming from animals to various noises or sounds heard around us. Generally, how it works is two women stand face to face and make noises. Together, the sounds they make form one particular sound, such as a saw used to cut trees or a swarm of black flies.

1:15 pm **Through the Eyes of Our Grandmothers:
A Look at Aboriginal Children and their Families**
Moderator: **Kathy Mallett**

Levinia Brown – Inuit Perspective
Mae Louis Campbell – Urban Aboriginal Perspective
Rita Cullen – Metis Perspective
Marie Lands – First Nations Perspective

2:30 pm Break

2:45 pm **Keynote: Kevin Lamoureux**, University of Winnipeg
**Upside Down Planet:
Perspectives When Working With Children, Youth and Families**

3:30 pm The Last Word – **Strini Reddy**

3:45 pm Closing Prayer – **Levinia Brown**

Travelling Song
Keewatin Otchitchak Traditional Women Singers

PRESENTERS

Andrew Bird, a descendent of James Curtis Bird, comes from a long line of Metis stock dating back to 1788. Andrew draws from the vast life experiences in the way he views everyday life. As the Coordinator for the Neah Kee Papa program at Manitoba Metis Federation, Andrew believes that any amount of time spent providing men with information, counseling, programming, and guidance provides men with tools to effect positive change within themselves, and in their relationships, family, children and community. Positive change in any of these areas is a good thing, and must be provided, supported and encouraged by any means available, when men seek help.

Stella Blackbird is an esteemed Elder who is recognized across Canada for her wisdom and her knowledge of traditional teachings and medicine. She has been with Urban Circle for over 17 years and holds the vision for Makoonsag.

Ron Blatz has served as Executive Director of Discovery Children's Centre for the past 32 years. Discovery is on the leading edge (in Manitoba) of an international movement to reconnect children to nature. Ron is also one of the founding members of the Manitoba Nature Action Collaborative for Children (MNACC). This group gathers Early Childhood Educators, teachers naturalist, and landscape architects together to ensure the international movement puts down solid roots in our province.

Shannon Buck is an Anishinabe/Metis mother and grandmother from Portage la Prairie. Shannon works within the Aboriginal community as part of the Keewatin Otchitchak Traditional Women Singers, is a Ceremonialist, a Traditional Teacher and a Sundancer. She has been utilizing the teachings of the Anishinabe and Cree peoples in her work as a counselor and has designed and developed family violence programs, addictions education programs and relapse prevention programs based on the traditional wisdom of her Ancestors. Currently, Shannon the coordinator for Red Road to Healing/ Traditional Teachings program at the West Central Women's Resource Centre in Winnipeg.

Annette Chastain and **Caroline Cruz**, a mother/daughter team from The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Oregon (one of the 9 tribes), have worked together to create and provide the training "Many Pathways to Follow: Tribal and Minority-based Practices," which describes the process toward Tribal Best Practices, and shares the template that the 9 tribes use in Oregon. In 2003, in response to legislation requiring federal agencies to fund Evidence Based Programs, the Oregon 9 tribes collaborated to voice objections to this movement to impose a linear approach to funding requirements that are greatly at odds with the circular worldview held by most Native American people. Caroline was an integral part of creating the Tribal Best Practices Template that is used in Oregon.

Lorena Fontaine is Cree/Anishnabe from the Sagkeeng First Nation in Fort Alexander, Manitoba and also considers the Opaskwayak First Nation in The Pas as home. Her mother attended St. Alban's and All Saints residential schools in Prince Albert and Elkorn residential school.

Lisa Forbes is an Aboriginal woman from Winnipeg, Manitoba. Her roots are Cree, Métis, Scottish, and English. Her right to Indian Status was restored in 1987. A member of Peguis First Nation, Lisa works in community development, and is a long-time human rights activist and member of Amnesty International.

Patricia Gregory completed her Bachelor of Nursing degree and Master of Nursing at the University of Manitoba, where she is currently a PhD candidate in Applied Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba. Patricia is the Program Director for Women's Health at the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, and she holds an appointment at the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Manitoba. Patricia's research is in the area of prenatal care, both in terms of women's experiences with prenatal care and access to care.



Dr. Michael Anthony Hart is a citizen of Fisher River Cree Nation residing in Winnipeg. As a father of two young boys, he has made a commitment to creating positive change for First Nations peoples. He has worked in the fields of child welfare, addictions, family therapy, and mental health. He is presently the Canada Research Chair for Indigenous Knowledge and Social Work and an Assistant Professor with the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Manitoba.

Fjola Hart Wasekeesikaw considers herself to be a 'bridge' in the facilitation of understanding of cultural competence and cultural safety in the provision of health and social services to Canadian Aboriginal populations. She is the principal author of the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada (ANAC) document – Cultural Competence and Cultural Safety in Nursing Education: A Framework for First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nursing. Ms Hart Wasekeesikaw assisted the Canadian Healthcare Association in their development of the "Cultural Competence and Cultural Safety in Health" course, designed to provide training to health care professionals who work in Aboriginal settings and with First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples.

Jean Johnson is a registered nurse from the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, located in Nelson House, Manitoba. She currently supervises and has been delivering the Strengthening Families Maternal Child Health Program in Nelson House, since its implementation to First Nation communities.

Yvonne Jordaan is the Acting Program Manager for the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and Maternal Child Health program at the First Nations & Inuit Health Branch. Yvonne has been involved in culturally relevant community-based services and initiatives for the past 12 years and continues that work with FNIHB's goal to improve the health outcomes of First Nations and Inuit individuals, families and communities.

Kathy Mallett is a long-time activist in Winnipeg's Aboriginal community, and currently, is a Co-Director at Community Education Development Association. She was a Trustee in Winnipeg School Division No. 1 from 1991 to 1993 and a Program and Policy Consultant with Healthy Child Manitoba. Kathy's interest in the development of Aboriginal children began with her own children and now grandchildren.

Judy Mayer is the Vice-President for The Pas Region and Minister of Child & Family Services at the Manitoba Métis Federation. Under Minister Mayer's leadership and guidance, the Metis people have successfully maintained a positive working relationship with the Government of Manitoba in the creation of the Metis Child & Family Services mandated agency serving the Metis and Inuit people across the province. Minister Mayer is a proud and strong leader who is committed to the Metis Nation, and she continues to work toward leaving a strong and secure legacy for the children and grandchildren, who are the future of Metis communities.

Wendy McNab is an OjiCree woman from Treaty 4 Area (Gordon's/Cowessess/Peeppeekiss First Nations). Her mother, Pete, attended the Marieval (Cowesses) and Qu'Appelle Indian Residential Schools in Lebret, Saskatchewan.

Gwen Merrick is originally from the Fisher River Cree Nation. She has worked in First Nations education for approximately 40 years. Currently, Gwen is the Associate Executive Director for the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre. Since MFNERC's inception in 1998, Gwen has provided leadership in organizational and program development, utilizing a community-based approach, thus ensuring that the MFNERC addresses the educational priorities, established by First Nations for First Nations schools. Gwen has extensive academic and experiential knowledge in all areas of First Nation education.

Dr. Herman Michell is the Director of Nortep-Norpac in LaRonge, in northern Saskatchewan and a published author. He has been involved in Aboriginal education in different capacities for over ten years. Originally from the small fishing/trapping community of Kinoosao, on the eastern shores of Reindeer Lake in northern Saskatchewan, Dr. Michell speaks fluent Cree ('th' dialect) and also has Inuit, Dene and Swedish ancestry. Previous to his appointment at NORTEP, Dr. Michell was a tenured professor at First Nations University of Canada. He has taught undergraduate courses in Indigenous Health Studies, Education, and Environment.

Claudette Michell (June 3, 1966 – October 5, 2012) whose people are Cree, was born in The Pas, Manitoba and studied and worked in Winnipeg. Her mother is a survivor of the Sturgeon Landing and Guy Hill Residential Schools. Claudette's hope was that these digital stories will encourage others on a personal journey of healthy living and healing.

Ida Moore has been conducting programs and cultural teachings at Joe A. Ross School and Oscar Lathlin Collegiate in The Pas, Manitoba for many years. It is Ida's belief that, along with the mainstream education children receive, they need to be grounded in cultural knowledge to develop strong, positive identities. Land-based education helps children develop survival skills that they can use throughout their lives. Ida is grounded in traditional education, western education supplements, and psychological practice.

Lisa Murdock is a First Nations woman from Winnipeg, Manitoba. She is a registered off-reserve member of the Hay River Dené Reserve (K'at'l'odeeche First Nation), located adjacent to the town of Hay River, Northwest Territories. Her mother is a survivor of St. Henry's Mission in Fort Vermillion and St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Residential School in Fort Resolution. Lisa currently works as a Program and Policy Consultant in the area of Aboriginal Initiatives, at Healthy Child Manitoba Office.

Sheryl Peters is a researcher with Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence in Winnipeg. She advocates using Indigenous methodologies, stories, and visual media in research and social advocacy.

Wanda Phillips-Beck is from the Hollow Water First Nation located on the eastern shore of Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba. Wanda has a background in northern nursing where she has worked in a number of First Nation communities. Currently, Wanda works with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, as a policy and practice advisor to the Strengthening Families Maternal Child Health program, in which she provides support the program through the interpretation and application of research and evidence into practice at the community level. Wanda is also collaborating on in a number of research projects in the area of maternal child health in partnership with the University of Manitoba, and she co-leads the First Nations International Indigenous Infant Mortality research project presently underway.

Wendy Prince is a proud Cree woman from Peguis First Nation and the Opaskwayak Cree Nation. Wendy brings her life experience, education, and traditional knowledge to the community, through her involvement in the Parenting Student Support Program at Mount Carmel Clinic, where she provides support to young parents (13 – 23 years), in their quest to become great parents to the future leaders of tomorrow. Wendy encourages parents to seek out educational opportunities that fit with their future career plans.

Gerrie Prymak is a retired elementary school teacher of 28 years and a proud member and former director of the Canadian Association for Young Children (CAYC). Since retiring in 2006, Gerrie has been an advocate for Aboriginal children and early years development, and she has volunteered with community based programs for early years children (0-4 years) and their caregivers in the North End.



Dr. Rob Santos is the Associate Secretary to the Government of Manitoba's Healthy Child Committee of Cabinet and Executive Director of Science and Policy at the Healthy Child Manitoba Office. Rob has represented Manitoba on several Federal/Provincial/Territorial committees, ranging from early childhood development to youth, as well as an advisor for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research – Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health; the Centre of Excellence for ECD; Statistics Canada's Aboriginal Children's Survey and National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth; and the Strategic Knowledge Cluster on ECD. He is also cross-appointed as a Research Scientist at the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba.

Mindy Sinclair is an ECE Level III who has overseen and managed the early years programs in Peguis First Nation, since the introduction of early programs in the community. She is an advocate and believes that we all have a role to play and contributions to make in the lives of our children.

Corinne Stevens is an Aboriginal woman of mixed heritage who holds a Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. She has spent over 20 years learning Indigenous healing ways, and has worked extensively with Aboriginal people in many different helping capacities. Corinne utilizes her knowledge and experience around blending Indigenous healing ways with Western psychotherapeutic methodologies, with people who choose to walk with her in therapy. This holistic way of working looks at the larger picture, and for many, it is refreshing.

Roberta Stout is a Cree woman from Kehewin First Nation in Alberta, and is a researcher at Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence in Winnipeg. Roberta's mother, Madeline Dion Stout, is a survivor of the residential school system.

Eleanor Thompson is one of the founders of Urban Circle Training Centre and has been with Urban Circle since its inception 22 years ago. Eleanor was offered tobacco by our Elders, seven years ago, to help bring the Makoonsag vision to reality.

Lynda Tjaden holds a Bachelor of Nursing degree and Masters of Business Administration at the University of Manitoba. Currently, Linda is the program Director for Population and Public Health within the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

James Wilson has been a school counselor, a curriculum developer and a cultural awareness trainer. He has experience conducting various sports camps, classes in survival, land navigation, subsistence living and group counseling. As a Traditionalist, James has advocated for the equality of women in ceremony and in leadership. In April 2010, James was honored in the Manitoba Legislature for his outstanding accomplishments while Director of Education for the Opaskwayak Education Authority, and in June 2010, James was appointed the Treaty Commissioner for the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM). In addition to his duties as Treaty Commissioner, James writes a column for the Winnipeg Free Press addressing modern day Treaty related issues. He also serves on the University of Winnipeg's Indigenous Advisory Circle which oversees the Master's in Development Practice Indigenous Development focus and the Canadian Education Association as a Council member.

Carolyn Young is the executive director of Manidoo Gi Miini Gonaan which operates R.B. Russell Infant Centre, David Livingstone School Age Program, Lord Selkirk Park Child Care Centre and Resource Centre. Carolyn has worked in the North End for the past 24 years and is passionate about creating a positive future for the children and families that her centers serve. Over the past five years, Carolyn's focus has been on the revitalization of the Lord Selkirk Park Neighborhood, and in January 2012, she opened the first centre in Canada to pilot the Abecedarian Project.

ELDERS, GRANDMOTHERS, MIDEWIWIN PERSONS

Levinia Brown was born in Dawson Inlet - just south of Whale Cove, in 1947. Levinia was the first teaching aid in Rankin Inlet. A graduate of St. Anthony Hospital in The Pas, Manitoba, Levinia has worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant in the Northwest Territories, British Columbia, and Alberta. Levinia is a role model and leader for Inuit children and youth. Dedicating her life to the development and promotion of community capacity building for health and social services, she projects a positive outlook on life. Her belief that life is a precious opportunity that should not be wasted is clearly expressed in her thirst for education, strength in leadership, and compassion for social issues.

Mae Louise Campbell is an Ojibway Métis Elder. She has gained respect within the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community as an Elder with a vision of healing for the people, a warm generous heart, and a sense of humor that “makes the medicine go down”. Mae Louise has traveled across Canada sharing traditional Aboriginal teachings. She has sat on many boards, been the guest speaker at numerous organizational and political meetings, and led thousands of sharing/healing circles. Mae Louise was the keeper of Grandmother Moon Lodge, created for the healing of women and built totally by women for women. Mae Louise, along with her daughters, offered various programs such as drum making and talking stick workshops for organizations, agencies and groups of individuals who are in need of spiritual healing and growth. She continues her work as an Elder in residence at Red River College, as well as within other community agencies across Manitoba.

Debbie Cielen is the Senior Resolution Health Support Worker with the IRS Resolution Health Support Program at Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre of Winnipeg, Inc.

Rita Cullen was born in Portage La Prairie in 1936. Rita’s mother was a strong Metis women who raised her children to know their Metis culture and respect their identity as Metis people. Today, Rita is very proud of her Metis culture and identity. She retired from the Brandon School Division in 1998, after serving 34 years as an administrative secretary. Rita has served on the Board of Directors for the Manitoba Metis Federation, and she’s represented the Southwest Region of the province for 12 years. In 2006, Rita was appointed chairperson for the board of the Metis Child and Family Service Authority, a position that she continues to hold, today. Rita has been married her lift partner, Tom Cullen, since 1954. Together, they have five children, nine grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Rita and her husband feel truly blessed with their family.



Marie Lands is Executive Director for Ikwe-Widdjitiwin, Inc., a crisis shelter for women and children leaving domestic violence situations. Marie's work history has been both rich and rewarding as she worked in every level of child welfare, from direct front-line service to Chief Executive Officer. Marie has worked in remote, rural, and urban Aboriginal child welfare organizations. She was an instructor and counselor in the Inner-City Social Work Access Program with the University of Manitoba, and she continues to teach as a sessional instructor for various programs at the University of Manitoba. Marie and her spouse have two adult children and two grandchildren. Marie believes that being a Kookum has created more desire for her family to be close and reconnect with their roots and cultural history. To Marie believes her greatest accomplishments in life were being a wife, mother, and now, Kookum.

Thelma Morrisseau is an Anishinaabe mother and grandmother of the Three Fires Western Doorway. Thelma's roots are with the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota. For many years, Thelma has been connected with the Three Fires Midewiwin Lodge, where she continues to learn and pass along the cultural teachings and ceremonies from our ancestors of long ago. Thelma's belief is that our children and grandchild are our greatest gifts from the Creator, and it is for them that she carries her Sacred Bundle forward, into the future seven generations and beyond.

Garry Robson (Anishinaabe), an Ojibway from the Peguis First Nation, was an Aboriginal Awareness Consultant with the Aboriginal Education Directorate for 28 years until his retirement. A member of the Turtle Clan, Garry presents and provides teachings on traditional culture and history to schools, teachers, administrators, parents, community agencies and government departments within the province of Manitoba. Garry is also a poet and storyteller, who speaks about stories of the traditional life of his people as well as the Clan System, Prophecies, 7 Stages of Life and Cradle Board to name a few. Garry Robson is one of the Elders in residence at the University of Manitoba and also the spiritual advisor for the Elders Gathering planning committee.

