

RESPONSIBLE RESOURCE LEADERSHIP FORUM

FEB 25-26, 2026
OTTAWA, ONTARIO

PROGRAM



**NATIONAL FAMILY AND
SURVIVORS CIRCLE INC.**
Nothing About Us, Without Us

WELCOME TO THE **RESPONSIBLE RESOURCE LEADERSHIP FORUM**

LEADERSHIP FOR HUMAN SECURITY, SAFER COMMUNITIES, AND SHARED PATHWAYS FORWARD

This national forum will also focus on **Calls for Justice Calls for Extractive and Development Industries 13.1-13.5**. Participants will engage in advancing the safety and dignity of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

TOPICS:

- Human Security and Safer Communities
- Leadership Responsibility and Shared Pathways Forward
- Implementing the Calls for Justice in Practice
- Indigenous Women's Economic Participation and Safety
- Preventing Gendered Harm, Including Human Trafficking
- Identifying Governance, Decision-Making, and Establishing Public Confidence

HOSTED BY:



**NATIONAL FAMILY AND
SURVIVORS CIRCLE INC.**
Nothing About Us, Without Us

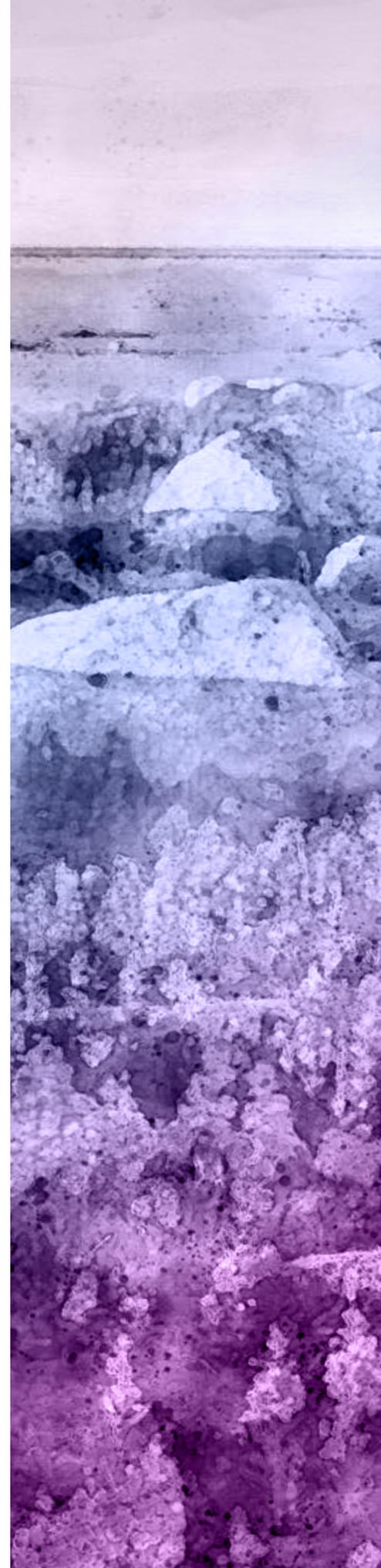




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AGENDA

DAY ONE – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026

UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT & OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

AGENDA ITEMS	SPEAKER(S)
<p>8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Welcome & Forum Orientation</p> <p><i>This opening hour grounds the Forum in Indigenous leadership, shared responsibility, and respectful dialogue, while orienting participants to the purpose, flow, and outcomes of the Forum.</i></p>	<p>Hilda Anderson-Pyrz President, National Family and Survivors Circle Inc.</p>
<p>8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Remarks</p>	<p>Honourable Rebecca Chartrand Minister responsible for the Northern Economic Development Agency</p> <p><i>The Honourable Rebecca Chartrand, an Anishinaabe, Inninew, and Métis leader, was elected as the Member of Parliament for Churchill—Keewatinook Aski on April 28, 2025. On May 13, 2025, she was appointed Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs and Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, becoming the first Indigenous woman to hold this portfolio, and the first First Nations woman from Manitoba to be appointed to the Cabinet.</i></p>
<p>9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Opening Ceremony</p>	<p>Grandmothers of the National Family and Survivors Circle</p>

DAY ONE – AGENDA

**9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. | Keynote:
Responsible Resource Leadership in Canada**

This keynote explores what responsible resource leadership means in today's Canadian context, examining shared leadership roles across industry, government, regulators, and communities in supporting safety, trust, and long-term community wellbeing.

Chastity Davis-Alphonse
Founder, Deyen

Chastity Davis-Alphonse is an Indigenous business leader, consultant, and advocate advancing reconciliation through Indigenous women's leadership and policy transformation. She is the founder of Deyen – An Invitation to Transform and recipient of the King Charles III Coronation Medal for her contributions to Indigenous relations.

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Break

10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. | Evidence, Accountability, and Human Security: Strengthening Responsible Resource Leadership

Erin Whitmore and Aja Mason will present a critical examination of the impacts of resource development on Indigenous women and girls, bringing together national and regional perspectives.

Erin draws on her experience as a writer researcher with the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, contributing insight into the Calls for Justice and systemic accountability frameworks. Aja brings forward current research from the Yukon, analyzing the territory’s impact assessment process and identifying significant data gaps that undermine evidence based decision making.

Together, they will explore how insufficient data collection, limited gender responsive analysis, and weak accountability mechanisms affect human security outcomes and restrict the ability of industry and regulators to meet legal and reconciliation commitments.

The presentation will conclude with practical, solutions oriented recommendations to strengthen data integrity, transparency, and responsible resource governance. The session will emphasize that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people must be meaningfully protected and supported in achieving equitable economic participation.

Erin Whitmore

CEO, Edgework Counselling and Consulting

Erin Whitmore is a strategic leader with extensive experience in national and community-based non-profit management. As Executive Director of the Ending Violence Association of Canada (2019–2024), she led national advocacy efforts to address sexual violence. She previously served as a Senior Researcher for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and held research and policy roles with the New Brunswick Women’s Council and other grassroots organizations.

A registered social worker, Erin grounds her policy and advocacy work in direct practice experience supporting survivors. She now leads Edgework Counselling & Consulting, helping individuals and organizations advance practical solutions to complex social challenges.

Aja Mason

Executive Director of the Yukon Status of Women Council

Aja Mason is a white settler born and raised on the traditional territories of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, and Ta’an Kwäch’än Council. She is a northern researcher and measurement specialist focused on exposing the gaps in official data systems.

As Executive Director of the Yukon Status of Women Council (2018–2024), she led research on precariously housed and unhoused women, pandemic impacts on northern livelihoods, and the experiences of Indigenous and racialized women in the mining sector. She is a co-author of multiple publications, has developed community-level indicators on gender-based violence in remote contexts, and now leads Boreal Logic Inc. while serving as a Commissioner on the Yukon Human Rights Commission.

11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Empowering Youth Voices – Collaborative Solutions from a Youth Perspective

This youth-led panel centres the voices of the next generation in shaping the future of Indigenous governance, community wellbeing, and responsible development. Young leaders will speak directly to what they want to see from governments, industry, and Indigenous institutions in the years ahead. Panelists will share their vision for safer communities, meaningful economic participation, environmental stewardship, and leadership that reflects Indigenous values in practice—not just in principle. They will discuss the kind of accountability they expect, the systems they believe must change, and the opportunities they see for long-term prosperity rooted in culture, rights, and collective responsibility.

Moderator Gabrielle Fayant

YOUTH PANELISTS

Cedar lahtail is from Attawapiskat First Nation with roots in Peawanuck First Nation and Timmins, Ontario. Cedar is a helper with Assembly of Seven Generations (A7G) and has spoken at the Senate on issues regarding Indigenous youth, and has made interventions at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Cedar is also a member of the Expert Advisory Committee for Reform of Indigenous Services Canada. Cedar also helps with research and report writing, presentations about A7G as a youth-led organization, and advocacy work toward fully implementing TRC Call to Action #66.

Bianca Cipriano is from Gjoa Haven, Nunavut and is a proud urban Inuk living in the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinabeg. Bianca is passionate about preservation and protection of Inuit culture and language across Inuit Nunangat. She is an Indigenous Trustee at the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board and works with many Inuit organization in Ottawa.

Rachael Heiser is a proud Métis from Saskatoon who serves as Youth President of Métis Nation–Saskatchewan and the Provincial Métis Youth Council. Rooted in her culture and guided by a deep sense of responsibility to her people, she is passionate about strengthening community, uplifting youth voices, and fostering connection to land, identity, and belonging. Through mentorship, collaboration, and relationship-building, she works to create spaces where Métis youth feel supported, empowered, and confident in who they are.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch

DAY ONE – AGENDA

<p>1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Remarks</p>	<p>Minister Rebecca Alty Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, MP for the Northwest Territories</p> <p><i>The Honourable Rebecca Alty is a Canadian Liberal politician serving as the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Member of Parliament for the Northwest Territories since April 2025. A former two-term Mayor of Yellowknife (2018–2025) and city councillor, she has a background in communications and municipal leadership.</i></p>
<p>1:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Keynote: Community-Centred Economic Development — Governance, Investment, and Long-Term Value</p> <p><i>This keynote explores what it takes to design economic development that strengthens communities over the long term. Drawing on experience in Arctic and northern contexts, Sima Sahar Zerehi examines how governance structures, investment strategies, and partnership models can align economic growth with local priorities, safety, and wellbeing. The session highlights practical leadership considerations for governments, Indigenous organizations, and industry to ensure that development decisions generate durable community value rather than short-term gains.</i></p>	<p>Sima Sahar Zerehi CEO, Arctic Opportunities Group</p> <p><i>Sima Sahar Zerehi is Founder and Principal of Arctic Opportunities Group, a firm focused on Arctic economic development, Indigenous partnership, and responsible resource leadership. She advises industry, governments, and Indigenous organizations on governance, investment, and community-centered development in northern and remote regions. Sima brings extensive experience bridging business strategy and public policy to advance sustainable, inclusive growth across the North.</i></p>
<p>2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Break</p>	

DAY ONE – AGENDA

<p>2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Group discussion: From Dialogue to Practical Solutions</p> <p><i>This facilitated roundtable session moves the Forum from keynote insights to shared problem-solving. Participants will work in small groups to respond to structured questions focused on governance, safety, Indigenous rights, and responsible development.</i></p> <p><i>Each table will be asked to identify practical actions, key risks, and enabling conditions required to strengthen accountability and community wellbeing in resource-related decision-making. Discussions will encourage participants to draw on their professional experience, regional context, and sector perspective to surface both barriers and workable solutions.</i></p> <p><i>The session is designed to generate concrete, transferable insights rather than general reflections. Key themes and recommendations will be captured and synthesized to inform the Forum’s final plenary and the Responsible Resource Leadership Report.</i></p>	<p>FACILITATOR:</p> <p>Hilda Anderson-Pyrz President, National Family and Survivors Circle Inc.</p>
<p>3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Day One Reflections</p> <p><i>A facilitated reflection capturing key insights and themes from Day One to inform the focus on shared pathways forward.</i></p>	<p>FACILITATOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gabrielle Fayant, Metis youth

DAY TWO – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026

FROM DIALOGUE TO SHARED PATHWAYS FORWARD

AGENDA ITEMS	SPEAKER(S)
<p>8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Welcome Back</p>	<p>Hilda Anderson-Pyrz President, National Family and Survivors Circle Inc.</p>
<p>8:45 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Keynote: Governance & Partnership Models That Work</p> <p><i>This keynote explores governance and partnership models that have supported safer communities, strengthened trust, and enabled collaboration across sectors.</i></p>	<p>Dr. Tracy Friedel Co-Chair, Circle on MMIWG2S+ and Resource Development, IAMC-TMX</p> <p><i>Tracy is President and spokesperson for the Lac Ste. Anne Métis Community Association, where she leads efforts to advance her community’s Section 35 rights following Alberta’s formal recognition of their Métis harvesting rights in 2022. She has held key advisory roles, including serving on the Banff Centre’s Indigenous Leadership and Management Program Advisory Council (2011–2024) and since 2017 as Alberta Métis Member and Socioeconomic Subcommittee Chair for the Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee for the Trans Mountain Expansion Project, supporting Indigenous, environmental, and regulatory oversight. Tracy began her career in academia as a tenured Associate Professor at UBC and Canada Research Chair at Mount Royal University, leading nationally funded research on Indigenous health, education, and well-being. She continues to mentor emerging Indigenous scholars as an Affiliate Associate Professor at UBC.</i></p>

DAY TWO – AGENDA

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. |

Keynote: Community Leadership, Housing Solutions

This session explores how the Community Housing Transformation Centre supports community-led, non-market housing solutions, with examples from across Canada and a focused look at Nunavut's Nunalingni Piruqpaalirut Fund. Participants will hear concrete project examples and engage in small-group discussion on the conditions that enable Indigenous women to lead housing solutions.

Lisa Ker

Executive Director, Community Housing Transformation Centre

Lisa Ker is the Executive Director of the Community Housing Transformation Centre, where she advances equity-driven approaches to strengthening Canada's community housing sector. With over 35 years of experience across government and community organizations, including the Province of Ontario, Toronto Community Housing, and as Executive Director of Ottawa Salus, she is a respected voice in national housing policy. Lisa serves on the boards of the Ottawa Community Land Trust, the Lowertown Community Resource Centre, and the Community Housing Management Network. She holds a Master of Public Administration from Queen's University and lives in Hull, Québec.

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. | Break

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. |

Keynote: From Inquiry to Action: Moving From Findings to Structural Change

National inquiries produce powerful findings — but real change depends on what happens next. In this keynote, Commissioner Marion Buller reflects on the hard work of implementation: what it takes for governments, institutions, and industries to move beyond acknowledgement toward measurable reform. She will examine the structural barriers that stall progress and outline the leadership, accountability, and sustained commitment required to turn Calls for Justice into lasting systemic change.

Marion Buller

Former Chief Commissioner, National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Marion Buller is a lawyer and retired judge who served as Chief Commissioner of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls from 2016 to 2019. A member of the Mistawasis Nêhiyawak First Nation, she was the first Indigenous woman appointed as a judge in British Columbia.

Over the course of her legal career, she has worked as a prosecutor, advocate, and jurist, with a focus on Indigenous rights, justice reform, and systemic accountability. As Chief Commissioner, she led a national examination into the root causes of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people, culminating in the landmark report *Reclaiming Power and Place* and its 231 Calls for Justice.

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Panel:
Calls for Justice 13.1–13.5 in
Practice**

A solutions-focused plenary on translating Calls for Justice 13.1–13.5 into practical leadership considerations, with particular attention to prevention, coordination, and the safety and wellbeing of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

MODERATOR:

Michele Okere

Executive Director, Indigenous Prosperity Foundation

Michele Okere is Executive Director of the Indigenous Prosperity Foundation, where she leads national efforts to strengthen Indigenous economic prosperity through access to capital, community investment, and Indigenous-led financial infrastructure. With extensive experience in Indigenous economic development and financial governance, she works across industry, governments, and Indigenous financial institutions to advance sustainable growth and long-term community wealth creation.

PANELISTS:

- **Hilda Anderson-Pyrz**

President, National Family and Survivors Circle Inc.

- **Josie Nepinak**

President, Native Women’s Association of Canada

Josie Nepinak is a proud Anishinaabe woman from Treaty 4 territory with roots in Minegoziibe Anishinabe. With more than 30 years in leadership, she has dedicated her career to supporting Indigenous women, families, and communities by blending Indigenous healing and Western approaches. She holds a bachelor’s degree in women’s studies, chaired the Calgary Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Committee, and serves on several national and provincial boards.

- **President Melanie Omeniho**

President, Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (LFMO)

President Melanie has been LFMO President since 2010, advocating tirelessly for MMIWG2S+, Métis women’s health, justice, equity, and education. A long-time political activist, Melanie has contributed to key legislation including the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the Meech Lake Accord, the Charlottetown Accord, and the Kelowna Accord. Melanie has received numerous awards for her exceptional work on behalf of Métis women, including the King Charles III Coronation Medal and the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch

DAY TWO – AGENDA

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Presentation / Q & A: Federal Accountability & Legislative Pathways for the Calls for Justice

This presentation examines how federal institutions can translate the Calls for Justice into enforceable policy, legislative reform, and sustained oversight. Senator Mary Lou McPhedran reflect on the role of Parliament in advancing gender equality, Indigenous rights, and systemic accountability. The discussion will explore where legislative tools are working, where gaps remain, and what political leadership is required to move from commitments to durable federal action.

- **Marilou McPhedran**
Senator, Parliament of Canada

Marilou McPhedran is a Canadian lawyer, human rights advocate, professor, and independent senator. Appointed to the Senate of Canada in 2016, she has a long career advancing equality and legal reform, including co-founding national organizations such as the Women’s Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF) and the Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women and Children (METRAC). McPhedran played a key role in the 1981 Ad Hoc Committee of Canadian Women on the Constitution, helping secure stronger equality rights in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and has since worked across law, education, and civil society to promote systemic human rights protections. She was named a Member of the Order of Canada in recognition of her impact on gender equality and human rights.

2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. | Break

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. | Working Session: Building Shared Pathways Forward

A facilitated working session focused on synthesizing insights into shared pathways, identifying cross-cutting best practices, solutions, and key risks participants can carry forward within their roles and organizations.

FACILITATOR:

Hilda Anderson-Pyrz
President, National Family and Survivors Circle Inc.

DAY TWO – AGENDA

3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Closing Plenary & Next Steps

A closing session summarizing key insights, outlining next steps, and explaining how Forum discussions will inform the Responsible Resource Leadership Report, followed by closing reflections.

Highlights of What We Heard

SPEAKERS



Master of Ceremonies

TINA KEEPER, O.C., O.M., M.S.M

Tina is from Norway House Cree Nation, and on her maternal side she is from Muskrat Dam First Nation. She is a mother and a Kookum. She is currently the President of Kistikan Pictures Inc. which has produced Indigenous content for film and television since 2010.

Keeper won a Gemini award for acting in 1997 for her portrayal of RCMP Officer Michelle Kenidi in the CBC series North of 60 which ran from 1992-2003.

In 2005 Keeper ran and won in a federal election and served as a Member of Parliament. She introduced a Private Member's Bill into the House that would ensure Canadian laws are consistent with UNDRIP, a Private Member's Bill regarding Jordan's Principle to address First Nations children's healthcare in Canada, and she spoke on behalf of her party in the House of Commons to the IRS Settlement Agreement when it was formally finalized for implementation.

In 2014, in her role as an Honorary Witness for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Keeper co-produced with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and the TRC, a highly acclaimed new works ballet based on and guided by the IRS Survivors. It was called "Going Home Star."

Tina currently serves on the board of directors for the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television. She is a recipient of an Aboriginal Achievement Award, a Gemini Award, a Meritorious Service Medal, a Canadian Civil Liberties Association award for Public Engagement, a Canadian Screen Awards Lifetime Achievement award, a University of Winnipeg Distinguished Alumni Award, and an Honourary Doctorate of Letters from Wilfred Laurier University.



**HILDA
ANDERSON-PYRZ, she/her**

Hilda Anderson-Pyrz is a proud member of O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation (OPCN) and a nationally respected Indigenous leader whose work turns lived experience into powerful advocacy and systemic change.

As President of the National Family and Survivors Circle Inc., she brings the strength of a survivor and the perspective of a family member directly impacted by the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people (MMIWG2S+). Her leadership is grounded in deep community connection and frontline expertise.

Hilda's work is rooted in the understanding that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people are sacred. She is committed to centering the voices of families and survivors, and to advancing Indigenous-led, rights-based, and decolonizing approaches to justice and healing. Her advocacy is guided by cultural knowledge, humility, and a vision for self-determined futures for all Indigenous peoples.

Raised on the shores of South Indian Lake and Rusty River, Hilda's early life was shaped by the land and the teachings of her late father, a commercial fisherman and trapper. These foundations instilled a deep sense of identity, responsibility, and purpose, anchored in the strength of her Cree language, values, and traditions.

For over two decades, Hilda has led transformative initiatives at the local, regional, and national levels. She played a key role in creating the MMIWG Liaison Unit at Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc., where she served as Director for five years. Her leadership has also extended to the Families First Foundation and the Manitoba MMIWG Coalition. Whether at community gatherings or international forums like the United Nations, she speaks with the authority of lived experience and the power of collective truth.

Hilda's lifelong dedication has earned numerous awards recognizing her impact on justice, healing, and systems change. She is not only an advocate, she is a movement builder, a truth-teller, and a protector of community. With courage and compassion, she carries forward the stories of those who are missing, murdered, and surviving and calls on all to stand together in building a just future rooted in accountability and action.



THE HONOURABLE REBECCA CHARTRAND

Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs and Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency

Represents the riding of Churchill—Keewatinook Aski

The Honourable Rebecca Chartrand, an Anishinaabe, Inninew, and Métis leader, was elected as the Member of Parliament for Churchill—Keewatinook Aski on April 28, 2025. On May 13, 2025, she was appointed Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs and Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, becoming the first Indigenous woman to hold this portfolio, and the first First Nations woman from Manitoba to be appointed to the Cabinet.

For 25 years, her career was in education, holding senior leadership roles in both K–12 and post-secondary institutions as well as Vice President of Indspire.

A nationally recognized advocate for Indigenous inclusion and cultural revitalization, she has served on the boards of the Children’s Hospital Foundation of Manitoba, the Canadian Museum of Nature, and the Indigenous Education Advisory Council.

She is the founder of the Manitoba Aboriginal Education Awards and the Council for Indigenous Education in Manitoba (now named Full Circle). Her contributions have been recognized with the Indigenous Women in Leadership Award, the Banff Leadership Award, and the Excellence in Education Award from the Canadian Race Relations Foundation.

Her cultural work is equally impressive. She led the creation of Manitoba’s first Ojibwe bilingual school (2016) and recently guided Seven Oaks School Division’s development of the province’s first anti-racism education policy. She is also a musician and playwright—her award-winning album *Onjida* and her play *Those Damn Squaws* reflect her deep commitment to Indigenous storytelling, healing, and truth-telling.

She brings a wealth of experience in Indigenous education, community development, and cultural leadership to her role, championing reconciliation, infrastructure investment, and economic opportunity across the North



HON. MARION R. BULLER, C.M.

The Honourable Marion Buller is a member of the Mistawasis Nehiyawak, a Cree First Nation in Saskatchewan. Ms. Buller was a lawyer, practicing criminal and administrative law for six years before being appointed as a BC Provincial Court judge.

Ms. Buller was the initial First Nations woman to be appointed as a judge in any level of British Columbia courts. She presided in Provincial Court in many locations across BC, including the northern circuit court. Ms. Buller founded and presided in the First Nations Court, in New Westminster, BC. This was the first Indigenous Court in BC. She also built the foundation for BC's first Indigenous Family Court.

After presiding in BC Provincial Court for twenty-two years, Ms. Buller was appointed as the Chief Commissioner for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The National Inquiry was the first truly national inquiry in Canada and created precedent-setting procedures and practices. The National Inquiry's strongly-worded Final Report and Calls for Justice have attracted both national and international attention.

After the National Inquiry, Ms. Buller returned to the practice of law at Miller Titerle. She is also the Chancellor of the University of Victoria.

Ms. Buller has been Director and President of the Indigenous Bar Association. She has served as Director for numerous other organizations, including the Law Foundation of BC. Ms. Buller has written numerous articles and spoken widely about human and Indigenous rights.

In recognition of her work, Ms. Buller has received several awards, including an Honourary Doctor of Laws degree from Thompson Rivers University and Lakehead University. In 2022, Ms. Buller was appointed as a Member of the Order of Canada.



chastitydavis.com

CHASTITY DAVIS-ALPHONSE

Chastity Davis-Alphonse is a mixed heritage woman of First Nations and European descent. She is a proud member of the Tla'amin Nation and married into the Tsilhqot'in Nation. Chastity is sole proprietor to her own multi-award-winning consulting business. She has worked with 100+ First Nation communities in British Columbia and several well-known corporations, companies, not-for-profits, and Indigenous organizations. Chastity's work is completed in the spirit of reconciliation and focuses on building knowledge and capacities for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals, organizations, communities, and governments. In 2025, Chastity was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal in recognition of her contributions to Indigenous relations.

Chastity's approach is from an Indigenous women's lens. She is on the leading edge of Indigenous Gender-Based Analysis Plus (IGBA+) in Canada working with the federal and provincial governments, Tsilhqot'in National Government, British Columbia Assembly of First Nations, and several others to weave the Indigenous women's lens into their daily practices including Impact Assessment processes, policies, and procedures.

Chastity is creator and visionary of "Deyen – An Invitation to Transform" – one of the only online learning platforms in the world that centers the wisdom, knowledge, and lived experiences of the original Matriarchs of the lands often called Canada. She is also Editor of one of the only Indigenous Business Magazines in Canada titled Makook pi Selim (Chinook Jargon/Language) published in partnership with Business In Vancouver (BIV). Makook pi Selim is in its second year of publications and features 100% Indigenous writers and covers a wide and deep variety of topics as they relate to Indigenous Peoples and economic development.

Chastity has a Master of Arts in Intercultural and International Communications, a Bachelor of Arts in Professional Communication, and a Diploma in Marketing Management & Professional Sales from BCIT. Chastity is also a certified yoga teacher in two modalities: Yin and Kundalini. She weaves the ancient practice and philosophy of yoga into her personal and professional life.



**TRACY L.
FRIEDEL, PhD.**

Tracy is President of the Lac Ste. Anne Métis Community Association, an organization representing her home community of Lac Ste. Anne Métis, in the Cree language known as âpihtawikosisânak ohci mânitow sâkahikanihk. As President and spokesperson, Tracy leads leveraging the formal recognition of her community's Métis harvesting rights by the Province of Alberta in September 2022 to further advance the community's section 35 rights as informed by Lac Ste. Anne Metis' political, economic, spiritual and social values.

From 2011-2024, Tracy served on the Indigenous Leadership and Management Program Advisory Council at the Banff Centre and since 2017, as the Alberta Métis Member and Socioeconomic Subcommittee Chair for the Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee (the "IAMC" Committee) for the Trans Mountain Expansion ("TMX") Project. The IAMC-TMX brings together Indigenous and senior federal representatives to enhance oversight regarding safety and protection of environmental and Indigenous interests as this pertains to the TMX Project and existing pipeline, and whose mandate also includes providing advice to government and regulators.

Tracy spent her early career working in various post-secondary educational contexts, including as a tenured Associate Professor (Indigenous Education) at UBC-Vancouver and as a Canada Research Chair (Indigenous Studies) at Mount Royal University-Calgary. Tracy has been Principal Applicant on various CIHR grants, leading research focused on topics linked to Indigenous health, education, and well-being. Tracy continues to mentor the next generation of Indigenous researchers through her role as Affiliate Associate Professor at UBC-Vancouver.



**LISA
KER**

Lisa Ker is the Executive Director of the Community Housing Transformation Centre, where she advances equity-driven approaches to strengthening Canada's community housing sector. With over 35 years of experience across government and community organizations, including the Province of Ontario, Toronto Community Housing, and as Executive Director of Ottawa Salus, she is a respected voice in national housing policy. Lisa serves on the boards of the Ottawa Community Land Trust, the Lowertown Community Resource Centre, and the Community Housing Management Network. She holds a Master of Public Administration from Queen's University and lives in Hull, Québec.

TOPIC OVERVIEW

Community Leadership, Housing Solutions: This session explores how the Community Housing Transformation Centre supports community-led, non-market housing solutions, with examples from across Canada and a focused look at Nunavut's Nunalingni Piruqpaalirut Fund. Participants will hear concrete project examples and engage in small-group discussion on the conditions that enable Indigenous women to lead housing solutions.



AJA MASON, she/her
(Pronounced "Asia")

Aja Mason is a white settler born, raised, and benefiting from the traditional territories of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. She is a northern researcher and measurement specialist who has spent over a decade working to make visible what official data systems erase.

As Executive Director of the Yukon Status of Women Council from 2018 to 2024, she led research on the experiences of precariously housed and unhoused women, pandemic impacts on northern livelihoods, and the conditions faced by Indigenous and racialized women working in the mining industry. That work brought her directly into contact with the gap between what families know to be true and what data systems are designed to count.

She is co-author of multiple publications and has worked extensively on community-level indicators for gender-based violence in northern and remote contexts. She currently runs Boreal Logic Inc and serves as a Commissioner on the Yukon Human Rights Commission.



MICHELLE OKERE

Michelle Okere is a proud Métis-Cree leader dedicated to advancing Indigenous economic participation, community empowerment, and systems-level change. She serves as Executive Director of the Indigenous Prosperity Foundation (IPF), where she leads national initiatives that strengthen access to financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and capital for Indigenous women, youth, and early-stage entrepreneurs across Canada.

Michelle holds an Executive MBA in Indigenous Business Leadership from Simon Fraser University's Beedie School of Business and is widely recognized for her leadership in building pathways for Indigenous economic inclusion. She has spoken at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and represented Canada at the G20 Young Entrepreneurs Alliance Summit in Brazil, contributing to global conversations on Indigenous economic development and inclusive growth.

Michelle serves on the boards of the Edmonton Community Foundation and PolicyWise for Children and Families and is a member of the University of Alberta Senate. Her contributions have been recognized through honours including Edify Magazine's Top 40 Under 40, the Deputy Minister's Award for Innovation, and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal.

Her work focuses on building equitable economic systems that support Indigenous prosperity, leadership, and safety across sectors and communities.



ERIN WHITMORE

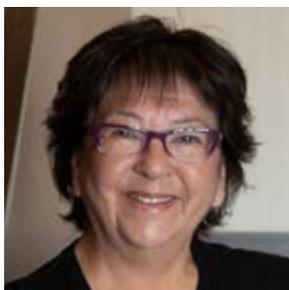
Erin Whitmore is a strategic leader with extensive experience in non-profit management at both the national and community levels. As the Executive Director of the Ending Violence Association of Canada from 2019 to 2024, Erin shaped and led the organization's advocacy efforts aimed at building a unified, coordinated voice to address sexual violence in Canada. Prior to this role, Erin served as a Senior Researcher for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. She has also worked in research and policy analyst roles with the New Brunswick Women's Council, as well as with a variety of grassroots and community-based organizations. In these roles, she led multiple national and provincial-level community-based research projects focused on a range of gender equity issues.

As a registered social worker, Erin's policy, research, and advocacy efforts are deeply informed by her extensive direct practice experience supporting survivors of sexual violence. Erin currently leads Edgework Counselling & Consulting where she continues to support individuals and organizations in identifying and promoting possibility-rich solutions to complex and systemic social challenges.



MELANIE OMENIHO

Melanie has been Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak (LMFO) President since 2010, advocating tirelessly for MMIWG2S+, Métis women's health, justice, equity, and education. A long-time political activist, Melanie has contributed to key legislation including the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the Meech Lake Accord, the Charlottetown Accord, and the Kelowna Accord. Melanie has received numerous awards for her exceptional work on behalf of Métis women, including the King Charles III Coronation Medal and the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal.



**JOSIE
NEPINAK**

President, Native Women's Association of Canada

Josie Nepinak is a proud Anishinaabe woman from Treaty 4 territory with roots in Minegoziibe Anishinabe. With more than 30 years in leadership, she has dedicated her career to supporting Indigenous women, families, and communities by blending Indigenous healing and Western approaches. She holds a bachelor's degree in women's studies, chaired the Calgary Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Committee, and serves on several national and provincial boards.



THE HONOURABLE REBECCA ALTY

Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations. Represents the riding of Northwest Territories

The Honourable Rebecca Alty, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, was elected as the Member of Parliament for the Northwest Territories in April 2025.

A lifelong resident of Yellowknife, Minister Alty began her career in politics as a City Councillor, serving for six years. In 2018, she became the second woman to be elected Mayor of Yellowknife, a post she served in until 2025.

Throughout her more than twelve years on the Yellowknife city council, Minister Alty was known for her open collaboration and passionate advocacy on issues such as reconciliation, housing affordability, and sustainable development.



**GABRIELLE
FAYANT, she/her**

Gabrielle Fayant originates from Fishing Lake Metis Settlement, Alberta and identifies as a proud Metis woman, a woman of Lii Michif/Otipemisiwak. Currently living in Ottawa, ON, the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples, Gabrielle has worked with a number of national, provincial and local Indigenous and youth serving organizations, groups and councils. She has worked in various capacities for organizations such as the Aboriginal Healing Foundation (AHF), Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC), the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC), Metis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) Infinite Reach Program, KAIROS Canada, and the Circle's Ontario Indigenous Youth Partnership Program (OYIPP). Gabrielle also worked as an Independent Youth Advisor to the former Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Carolyn Bennett.

Inspired by the Idle No More Movement in 2012, Gabrielle along with a team of Indigenous youth began an initiative called Assembly of Seven Generations (A7G) that supported youth through cultural events and celebrations and developed an empowerment program called ReachUp! North.

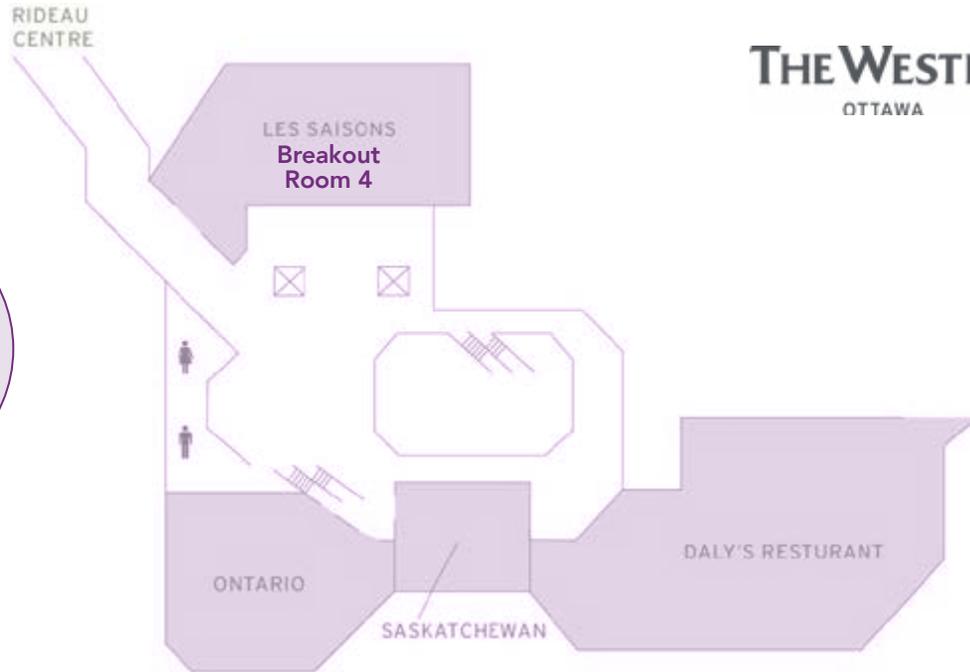
For her commitment and work over the years, Gabrielle was honoured with the 2015 Inspire Metis Youth Award and the 2016 JS Woodsworth Individual Leadership Award. Gabrielle also served as co-host and producer of the Michif Hour on CKCU-FM, a radio show that talks about Metis history and contemporary realities while spotlighting Metis artists, past and present.

BREAKOUT ROOM LOCATIONS

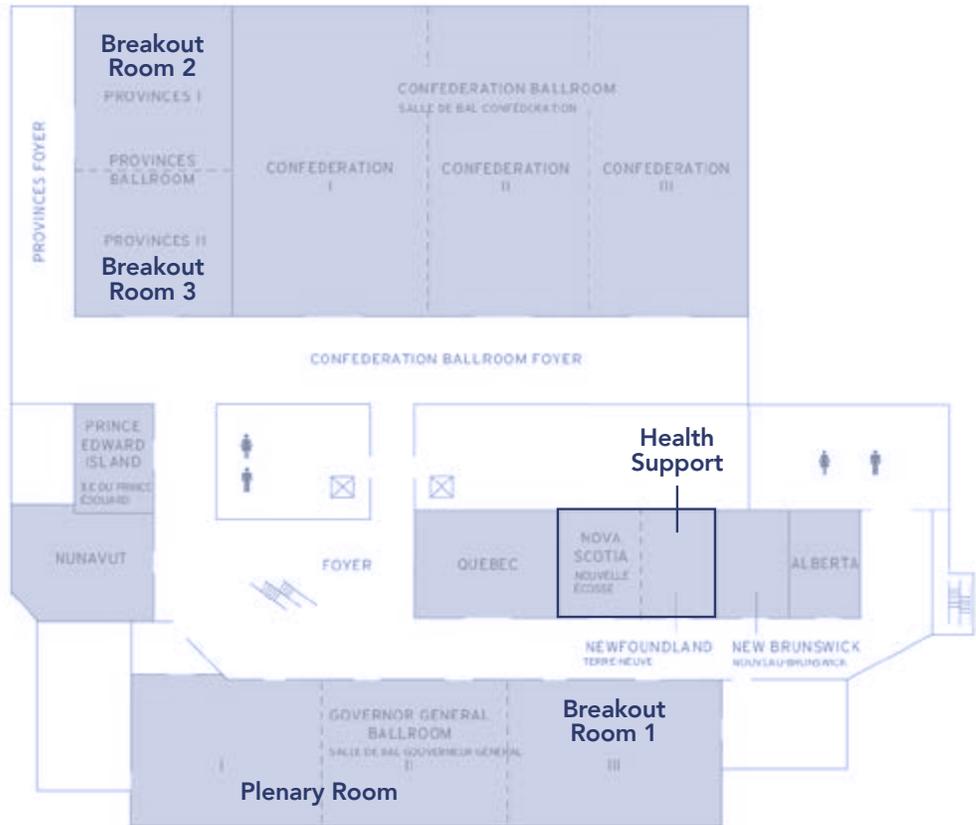
BREAKOUT ROOM LOCATIONS

THE WESTIN
OTTAWA

**3RD
FLOOR**



**4TH
FLOOR**



HEALTH SUPPORT WORKERS

4TH FLOOR – NEWFOUNDLAND & NOVA SCOTIA
ROOMS AT WESTIN OTTAWA HOTEL

HEALTH SUPPORT WORKERS

1. ROCKY WARD

*Native Counselling Services of Alberta
Metis Health Support Worker*

Email: Rocky-Ward@ncsa.ca

Phone: 780-905-0848

Available February 25th & 26th, 2026

2. IRIS ACOOSE

*Yorkton Tribal Council
First Nation Health Support Worker*

Email: iris.acoose@ytai.org

Phone: 306-641-5382

Available February 25th & 26th, 2026

3. CECILIA HOGULAK

Inuit Health Support Worker

Email: ceciliahogaluk@cambridgebay.ca

Phone: 867-983-1843

Available February 25th & 26th, 2026

4. NICOLE BAXTER

*First Nation Health Support Worker
Nishnawbe Aski Nation Office*

Email: nbaxter@nan.ca

Phone: 807-355-0427

Available February 25th & 26th, 2026

5. ASHLEY MCKAY

*First Nation Health Support Worker
Nishnawbe Aski Nation Office*

Email: amckay@nan.ca

Phone: 807-357-1099

Available February 25th & 26th, 2026

6. JOYCE FORD

*Inuit Health Support Worker
Tungasuvvingat Inuit*

Email: jfor@tiontario.ca

Phone: 613-222-8235

Available February 25th & 26th, 2026

7. ROSANNA INUARAK

*Inuit Health Support Worker
Tungasuvvingat Inuit*

Email: rinuarak@tiontario.ca

Phone: 343-540-7474

Available February 25th & 26th, 2026

8. JAMIE-SUE SYKES

*First Nation Health Support Worker
Nishnawbe Aski Nation Office*

Email: jsykes@nan.ca

Phone: 226-881-2318

Available February 25th & 26th, 2026



NATIONAL FAMILY AND SURVIVORS CIRCLE INC.

Nothing About Us, Without Us



WHO WE ARE

The National Family and Survivors Circle Inc. (NFSC Inc.) is a national non-profit organization created to return Power and Place to Indigenous girls, 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and women. NFSC Inc. was formed in 2020 after the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, and Girls (MMIWG) published its Final Report along with 231 Calls for Justice overall and an additional 21 Calls for Justice specific to Quebec. As an advisory circle, its role was to centre missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people, as well as survivors, and families, in the work to end race- and gender-based violence in these communities.

NFSC Inc. led the fulfillment of the first call for justice by working with other contributing partners to co-create the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People National Action Plan. The National Action Plan (NAP) provides a detailed framework for addressing the multifaceted issues that contribute to the crisis of MMIWG, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people (MMIWG2S+).

The plan was published in 2021 with contributions from more than 100 Indigenous women, 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and others, including representatives from national Indigenous organizations and officials from federal, provincial and territorial governments. In April 2023, NFSC Inc. was legally incorporated as a non-profit organization. Today, we are the only national Indigenous organization independent of all governments, including Indigenous governments, that centres families of MMIWG2S+, survivors of gender- and race-based violence and Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people, in the work to end all forms of violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

To learn more visit familysurvivorscircle.ca





**RESPONSIBLE
RESOURCE
LEADERSHIP
FORUM**

PROGRAM