

# *Soaring Beside Our Children with Dignity and Determination*

September 30 – October 2, 2021

BCACCS FALL CONFERENCE PROGRAM



BC **Aboriginal**  
**Child Care** Society



For Indigenous parents, families, and communities, caring for children is a sacred responsibility. With heightened awareness of the critical importance of safe and culturally rich early learning and child care and the spotlight on Truth and Reconciliation, this year our conference theme focuses on now, being a time of action.

We have an opportunity to make real progress in determining the future of Indigenous early learning. We have a real chance to progress in our bid to self-govern and self-determine the needs of our children, families, and communities. We have renewed determination to re-assert traditional ways of caring for our children and strengthen their futures.

Workshops will focus on:

- Taking action to support self-determination of needs
- Promoting dignity and well-being;
- Engaging in cultural activities; and

- Sharing strategies that support leadership and change

The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) is honoured that we are joined by two outstanding keynote speakers this year: Sue Sterling-Bur and Cindy Blackstock.

We are also privileged to welcome our special guests Shane Pointe (Te'ta-in) and Knowledge Keepers Eugene Harry (XiQuelem) and Wendy Harry who will encourage and support us with their knowledge and wisdom.

As always, we extend many thanks to the volunteers and sponsors who make this important event possible.

Mussi cho,

Mary Teegee, President

Karen Isaac, Executive Director

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society

# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE



TIME	DAY ONE	DAY TWO	DAY THREE
9:30 – 10:15 AM	OPENING CEREMONY	MORNING WORKSHOP	MORNING WORKSHOP
10:15 – 10:30 AM	HEALTH BREAK	HEALTH BREAK	HEALTH BREAK
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	OPENING KEYNOTE	FRIDAY KEYNOTE	LATE MORNING WORKSHOP
12:00 – 12:45 PM	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
12:45 – 1:00 PM	DOOR PRIZES	DOOR PRIZES	DOOR PRIZES
1:00 – 2:45 PM	AFTERNOON WORKSHOP	AFTERNOON WORKSHOP	AFTERNOON WORKSHOP
2:45 – 3:00 PM	HEALTH BREAK	HEALTH BREAK	HEALTH BREAK
3:00 – 4:30 AM	LATE AFTERNOON WORKSHOP	LATE AFTERNOON WORKSHOP	CLOSING KEYNOTE AND CEREMONY
4:30 – 4:45 PM	DOOR PRIZES	DOOR PRIZES	



## Sue Sterling-Bur

Associate Vice President - Students with  
Nicola Valley Institute of Technology

Sue Sterling-Bur comes from the Nlakap'mux Nation and Sto:lo Nation and is a member of the Dumdehmyoo (Bear) Clan with the Nadleh Whut'en from the Carrier Sekani Nation.

Sue is an Instructor for the Social Work Department at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology in Merritt, BC. She is an active Board Member for the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society.

Sue is a Ph.D. student at The University of British Columbia Okanagan Campus and working with Dr. Jeannette Armstrong and Dr. Rachelle Hole. Sue's doctoral research focuses on gaining a better understanding of an Indigenous perspective on the belief of giftedness for children with disabilities. Her research will be critically analyzing the Nlakap'mux stories from one of her Nations, to determine the ethics, values and beliefs that will provide guidance and direction for working and supporting people with disabilities.



## Cindy Blackstock, Ph.D. (Social Work)

Executive Director, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada

A member of the Gitksan First Nation, Cindy is honoured to serve as the Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society and a professor at McGill University's School of Social Work. She has over 30 years of experience working in child welfare and Indigenous children's rights and has published on topics relating to reconciliation, Indigenous theory, First Nations child welfare and human rights. Cindy was honoured to work with First Nations colleagues on a successful human rights challenge to Canada's inequitable provision of child and family services and failure to implement Jordan's Principle. This hard-fought litigation has resulted in hundreds of thousands of services being provided to First Nations children, youth and families.



**Jo-ann Archibald (Q'um Q'um Xiiem), Ph.D.  
(Education)**

Professor Emeritus, UBC Educational Studies

Q'um Q'um Xiiem, a member of the Stó:lō Nation, also has St'at'imc ancestry. She continues to hold an appointment as Professor Emeritus in the Faculty of Education, University of British Columbia. Q'um Q'um Xiiem received a Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) degree from the University of British Columbia, Master of Education (M.Ed.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees from Simon Fraser University. Over a 45 year educational career, Q'um Q'um Xiiem has been a school teacher, curriculum developer, researcher, author, university leader and professor. In 2018, Q'um Q'um Xiiem was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada for her lifelong contributions in advancing Indigenous education in K-12 and post-secondary education through policy, programs, curricula, and research. In her retirement, Q'um Q'um Xiiem continues her involvement in various educational and research projects, but her priority is time with grandchildren.



**Shane Pointe (Te'ta-in)**

Shane (Te'ta-in) is from the Pointe family and is a proud member of the Musqueam and Coast Salish people. He is a highly respected Musqueam community member, ceremonial traditional speaker, and cultural educator. He provides protocol and ceremonial guidance for many cultural events – locally, nationally and internationally.



**Eugene (XiQuelem) and Wendy Harry**

Eugene (XiQuelem) and Wendy Harry will be Cultural Advisors during the conference. XiQuelem has been the Cultural Advisor at BCACCS since 2007. He is a member of the Cowichan Tribes, and a Shaker Church Minister in Squamish First Nation; he also works at Vancouver Native Health. His partner Wendy also has many years experience as a Cultural Advisor.



## Mary Teegee (Maaxswxw Gibuu)

Mary is Gitk'san and Carrier from Takla Lake First Nation and is a proud member of the Luxgaboo Wolf Clan. She holds the Hereditary Chiefs name Maaxswxw Gibuu (White Wolf). She has been raised to live her culture, customs, laws and traditions. Mary has long espoused that in order for nations to be revitalized; nations have to heal from the atrocities that occurred through colonization. She maintains that all services, programs and initiatives developed to benefit First Nations have to be built on a cultural foundation. Mary is the Executive Director of Child and Family Services at Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) and BCACCS Board President.



## Deb Foxcroft

Deb is a member of the Tseshaht First Nation and daughter of Jeanette Gallic and the late James Gallic, and granddaughter of the late Jessie Gallic (nee, Campbell) and Je (Jimmy) Gallic. She is a founder of BCACCS and a recipient of the Order of British Columbia. Deb has made significant contributions and continues to direct her positive energies as a committed, responsible and strong leader with over 30 years experience working with, and advocating for the health and well-being of First Nations peoples.

## Kirsten Bevelander

Kirsten is the manager of the BCACCS Aboriginal Child Care Resource and Referral program (ACCRR). The team supports Indigenous and non-Indigenous educators and child care providers across BC through training, advocacy and sharing of resources. She has worked with children and families for over 25 years, specializing in toddler care, children with additional needs, literacy learning and Aboriginal early child development and care. Kirsten is also a Burnaby ECE Continuing Education Program instructor .



# DAY ONE – MORNING

## OPENING CEREMONY AND KEYNOTE



9:30 AM –  
12:00 PM

**Kirsten Bevelander, Conference Director (MC)**  
**Shane Pointe (Te'ta-in), Knowledge Keeper (Acknowledgement)**  
**Eugene Harry (XiQuelem), Knowledge Keepers (Opening Ceremony)**  
**Mary Teegee, BCACCS Board President (Board Welcome)**  
**Sue Stirling-Bur, Associate Vice President - Students with Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (Opening Keynote)**

*Bios for keynote speakers and guests are included in previous pages of the program.*

The opening ceremony of the Fall conference will bring us together in our online platform to celebrate the important work early childhood education professionals and support staff do to help Indigenous children and families thrive.

Our opening keynote, Sue Stirling-Bur, will share how the Nle7kepmx Speta'kl and Spilahem stories identify Indigenous laws supporting Indigenous children and families. Sue will share Nle7kepmx stories and how these stories identify the values, beliefs, and ethics within familial, communal, and nation-based systems of support can be provided for Indigenous children.



# DAY ONE – AFTERNOON

## EPIGENETIC EMBEDDING OF EARLY LIFE EXPERIENCES—HOW ENVIRONMENTS GET “UNDER THE SKIN”



**Dr. Michael S. Kobor (Professor, Department of Medical Genetics, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia)**

1:00 PM –  
2:45 PM

*Dr. Michael S. Kobor is a Professor in the Department of Medical Genetics at the University of British Columbia (UBC). A champion for translational research, he serves as the Lead for the “Healthy Starts” Theme at BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute. Dr. Kobor’s own research program is focused on illuminating the mechanisms by which environmental exposures and life experiences can “get under the skin” to persistently affect health and behaviour across the lifespan.*

Epigenetics is emerging as an important interface between our environment and our genome. In human populations, the most studied epigenetic modification is DNA methylation. This presentation will draw on several multidisciplinary human population studies that use a “society to cell” paradigm to illustrate how diverse early life experiences and environments can become embedded into our genome by way of DNA methylation.

## MAKE & TAKE: BEADING AN ORANGE SHIRT



**Nicholas Louie (Qi7men), Knowledge Keeper**

3:00 PM –  
4:30 PM

*Nicholas Louie is from Xa’xtsa (Douglas First Nation) north end of Harrison lake, St’at’imc and lives in Mission, BC sharing knowledge, traditions and culture of the Sto:lo and St’at’imc Nations.*

*In 1993 Nicholas learned drumming, singing, craft making, in the last 4 years he learned Ucwalmicwts, and learned patience in the last 7 years of beadwork. He learned how to bead through the lessons of Jean Dan from Sqatin First Nation. His beadwork was encouraged and supported by his late Gma Och-Pia-Nuk / Florence Louie (nee Diablo). Nicholas misses her so much and knows she is walking alongside him on his journey. Kukstum’ckalap.*

Learn to bead an embroidery stitch while making an orange shirt pin.

# DAY TWO – MORNING

## JINGLE DRESS DANCING



### **Carol Cailing, Dancer**

9:30 AM –  
10:15 AM

*Carol Cailing has been dancing since she was two years old and has won numerous competitions at several different pow wows. She has won multiple Crowns throughout her 30 years as a pow wow Dancer . Her Jingle dress Regalia is a beautiful orange . She was instrumental in bringing dancers out to the local church to honour the original 215 children found. To see Carol dance and hear her jingles chime you feel the healing and her love that radiates to all who need it.*

More information on this workshop will be shared soon.

## KEYNOTE: A GRANDMOTHER'S PERSPECTIVE ABOUT INDIGENOUS EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: HANDS BACK, HANDS FORWARD TEACHINGS



### **Jo-ann Archibald (Q'um Q'um Xiiem), Professor Emeritus, Educational Studies**

10:30 AM –  
12:00 PM

*Jo-ann Archibald, Q'um Q'um Xiiem, a member of the Stó:lō Nation, also has St'at'imc ancestry. She continues to hold an appointment as Professor Emeritus in the Faculty of Education, University of British Columbia. Over a 45 year educational career, Q'um Q'um Xiiem has been a school teacher, curriculum developer, researcher, author, university leader and professor. In 2018, Q'um Q'um Xiiem was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada for her lifelong contributions in advancing Indigenous education in K-12 and post-secondary education through policy, programs, curricula, and research.*

Jo-ann Archibald Q'um Q'um Xiiem, in her role as grandmother and retired educator, will share her perspectives and teachings about the good care and education of Indigenous children. She will share traditional and experiential stories related to Hands Back, Hands Forward teachings that she learned from Elders, Cultural Knowledge Holders, and educators. Indigenous storywork is one pedagogical approach that will be highlighted. Relevant research and Indigenous ECE exemplars will also be shared. This session will provide lots of opportunity for participants to dialogue and share perspectives.

# DAY TWO – AFTERNOON

## BREAKING THE MOLD PANEL PRESENTATION



**Liz Williams**  
**Lisa Lightening**

**TBA**  
**TBA**

**Linda Mitchell**

1:00 PM –  
2:45 PM

Article 14 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:

“Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.”

Our educators are leaders in educating our children in Indigenous ways of living and being. This panel presentation looks to what others are doing to inspire and empower early childhood educators and managers to take early learning to the next level through culturally-based programming for children and families.

## TRADITIONAL SMUDGE AND TEA OF THE NORTH



**Charrine Lace, Knowledge Keeper**

3:00 PM –  
4:30 PM

*Charrine B. Naziel-Lace was born in Smithers, British Columbia. Charrine works with native crafts of all kinds in her large scale installations. Charrine completed the First year of the Gitanmaax (Kitanmax) School of Northwest Coast Indian Art in the historical village of 'Ksan at Hazelton, BC. She has had solo shows in Quebec and BC throughout the years. She is represented in the collection of Native Art in the “La Maison Amérindienne” Gallery in Mont-Saint-Hilaire, Québec. After 20 years in Quebec, Charrine is now living back in her hometown of Moricetown, BC with her husband and two children.*

We would like to invite you to come learn a new spiritual skill of the ancient Smudge Ceremony, to keep your year going on a good path.

Wet'suwet'en Native Arts (WNA) is working towards bringing you closer to Mother Earth. You will learn where the ceremony originated from and why, how to do a Smudge of yourself, for your family and even for your home and/or workplace With the right way to ask for permission and why it is a good idea to do it during a full or new moon.

# DAY THREE – MORNING

## CHELSIE YOUNG: VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE



### **Chelsie Young, Indigenous Musician**

9:30 AM –  
10:15 AM

*The Canadian country music scene welcomes its newest emerging artist, Chelsie Young - originally from the Bigstone Cree Nation in Northern, AB now making her presence felt in Edmonton, AB from where she continues to wow audiences everywhere with her natural vocal talent.*

Emerging Indigenous country music singer and songwriter performs at conference.

## BREATHING YOUR OWN CULTURE INTO THE BCACCS CURRICULUM KITS AND IDEAS FOR BUILDING YOUR OWN



### **ACCRR team (Kirsten Bevelander, Jennie Roberts, Charmayne Nikal, Bahar Sadeghieh, Erica Skinner, Klara Schoenfeld)**

10:30 AM –  
12:00 PM

Join the BCACCS Aboriginal Child Care Resource and Referral (ACCRR) team as they share their process in developing cultural curriculum kits for early learning programs. The ACCRR has been developing and lending cultural resource kits for over a decade and are one of the most frequently borrowed resources through our library. Currently we have available: Drum, Salmon, Bear, Owl, Coyote, Raven, and Cedar kits. Soon to be released are Eagle, Canoe, and several Traditional Foods (Hunting, Plant Gathering, and Ocean Harvesting) kits. The team is also in the process of developing kits for Beaver, Moose, and Birch. Our kits have been designed in hopes that individual communities will be able to add their own languages, stories and teachings as they use them with the children.

In this workshop we will share our approach to building kits, resources for finding materials, and developing resource sheets to support the kits. Our team will share our ideas on how we hope programs and educators will bring their own knowledge, teachings and languages to the BCACCS kits or how they could build kits of their own.

# DAY THREE – AFTERNOON/CLOSING

WORKING TITLE: SOCIAL JUSTICE



**Joanne Jefferson**

*TBD*

1:00 PM –  
2:45 PM

Qwi:qwelstóm is the Halq’emeylem word that best describes “justice” according to the Sto:lo worldview. It reflects a “way of life” that incorporates balance and harmony, it is a way of helping one another to survive and to care and share amongst all people; it is a form of justice that focuses on relationships and the interconnectedness of all living life.

CLOSING KEYNOTE AND CEREMONY



**Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada (Closing Keynote)**

**Deb Foxcroft (Indig name?), BCACCS Board Director (Board Closing)**

**Eugene Harry (XiQuelem) Knowledge Keeper (Closing Ceremony)**

**Kirsten Bevelander, Conference Director (MC)**

3:00 PM –  
4:35 PM

*Bios for keynote speakers and guests are included in previous pages of the program.*

The closing ceremony of the Fall conference will bring us all together online to end our journey in good way.

Our closing keynote, Cindy Blackstock, will share lessons about the diverse history of First Nations to prepare them to implement the TRC's calls to action and the importance of the full implementation of Jordan's Principle. Also, to teach children about the importance of equity as a part of self-determination for all children.

# NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION



BC Aboriginal  
Child Care Society



As you may be aware, the government recently passed legislation to make September 30<sup>th</sup> a federal statutory holiday called the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**.

This day provides an opportunity for people to recognize and commemorate the legacy of residential schools.

We thank you for choosing to join our event as part of this day.

Find out more about the work done through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

<https://nctr.ca/about/history-of-the-trc/trc-website/>

This day, and some workshops may bring up difficult memories and trigger trauma.

We have Knowledge Keepers Eugene (XiQuelem) and Wendy Harry available to provide guidance and a safe space. A direct link to them will be provided before conference begins.

The National Residential School Crisis Line 1-866-925-4419.



## Sponsor Thanks

We want to thank Native Northwest for supporting our conference for so many years and for their continued dedication to supporting Indigenous organizations and causes.

Thank you, Early Childhood Educators of BC, for helping making conference a special experience for everyone.

## Thanks to Board, Staff and Volunteers

This conference would not be possible without the support of our Board of Directors, the staff who organize this training and the amazing volunteers who help make sure this conference goes smoothly and inspires participants each year.

*Thank you for  
joining us!*

September 30 – October 2, 2021



[WWW.ACC-SOCIETY.BC.CA](http://WWW.ACC-SOCIETY.BC.CA)



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