

BIOGRAPHIES



INDIGENOUS CO-CHAIR

Richard Aisaican (Saskatchewan First Nations)



Richard Aisaican is an elected Council member of Cowessess First Nation. Richard is deeply committed to the protections of our environment and advocates for responsible Major Project development for Cowessess and all impacted Nations. Richard holds the responsibility of Stewards of the Land for Cowessess First Nation. Land, air & water, and the duty to consult and accommodate is a vital interest of Cowessess First Nation.

As a leader with the best interest of mother earth and impacted nations along line 3, he joins the Indigenous Advisory Monitoring Committee (IAMC) with experience and education and continues to learn and benefit First Nations through his ongoing work.

Richard holds a Master of Science Degree from San Diego State University (SDSU) as well as a graduate certificate in administration from the SDSU research foundation. Richards undergraduate degree is in First Nations Studies, with a major in business, from Vancouver Island University. Richard also holds a Diploma in Business Administration from Yukon College specializing in First Nations management. As an elected leader for Cowessess First Nations Richards portfolio holdings are also Legal, Land Claims along with Stewards of the Land.

GOVERNMENT CO-CHAIR

David Murray (Natural Resources Canada)



In 2014, David joined NRCan and has held several roles across Government. He was involved in the early days of the establishment of the Indigenous Partnerships Office – West that supported the co-development of IAMCs. More recently, David was Acting Director of the Phase IV Partnership Office, engaging Indigenous groups on the implementation of TMX accommodation measures. David resides in Vancouver and in his spare time enjoys cycling, kayaking, and snowshoeing.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE

Craig Carey (Natural Resources Canada)



Craig Carey is currently acting as the Director General of the Special Projects team at Nòkwewashk, a new sector within Natural Resources Canada. Craig has responsibilities for partnerships with Indigenous counterparts, including the Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committees, and the Regional Energy and Resource Table process. Formerly, Craig has been Director of Strategic Policy and Coordination for the Trans Mountain Expansion Pipeline Project.

Craig joined Natural Resources Canada from the private sector in 2019 to lead Crown consultations with Indigenous groups impacted by natural resource projects requiring decision by federal cabinet. Prior to joining NRCan, Craig was a negotiator at BC Hydro, led engagement with Indigenous groups impacted by the Site C Project and represented the company in historic grievances negotiations with the Province of British Columbia. Craig is passionate about advancing meaningful dialogue and adds value to processes where diverging views are required to be coalesced to achieve a shared outcome.

Craig is from Dublin, Ireland and moved to Ottawa from Vancouver in late 2019. Since then, Craig has spent much of his time working from home and is getting to know Ottawa and the region on his daily runs. Craig has a Masters degree in French and Francophone studies and an international undergraduate degree from Université de la Sorbonne, Paris, and University College Dublin. Craig is a certified negotiator and is trained in mediation.

INDIGENOUS CAUCUS

Barb Hobson (Manitoba First Nations)

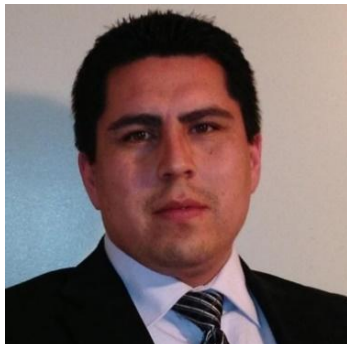


Barb is a proud member of Swan Lake First Nation located in Treaty 1 territory. She currently holds the position of Communication Liaison in her community. Previous to this, she worked as an intern with the Government of Manitoba's Aboriginal Public Administration Program. She held several roles as an intern at Manitoba Conservation, including Human Resources and with the Aboriginal Relations Branch. Upon completion of the internship program, she secured full time employment as a Logistics Coordinator for the East Side Planning Initiative.

In 2009, Barb took on an advocacy role as an Aboriginal Liaison with Banister Pipeline in Brandon, Manitoba where she ensured partnerships were developed and Indigenous people were hired and benefited economically from the Alberta Clipper and Southern Lights Pipeline Projects.

Barb reconnected with her roots and culture when she moved back to Swan Lake First Nation, where she has served several roles including Employment and Training Coordinator, Brighter Futures Program Coordinator, then later as an Income Assistance Administrator.

Bradley Swiftwolfe (Saskatchewan First Nations)



Brad Swiftwolfe is a former Chief of Moosomin First Nation and has over 14 years serving the membership of Moosomin First Nation. He brings formal certification in board and governance along with a great working relationship with nation leadership in the Battlefords region of Saskatchewan.

Tribal Chief Isabel O'Soup (Saskatchewan First Nations)



Isabel O'Soup is a proud Anishinabek woman from The Key First Nation. She was born in Alberta but raised on her first nation her entire life. Isabel was first elected to the Tribal Chief position in April 2014 and had previously served as Chief of Key First Nation for 6 years, and Band Council for 4 years. She is the second female Chief to lead her First Nation, and the first female Chief of Key First Nation elected in 1953.

Isabel has a degree in Corporate Governance from Director's College in Ontario and was the first First Nation woman to Chair the Audit & Finance Committee for SIGA from 2006 to 2010 and has served on numerous boards including the Sunrise Regional Health Board.

Kirk Poitras (Métis Nation, Alberta)



Kirk Poitras is a business owner, consultant and an oil and gas commercial representative who partners with CEOs, executives, and corporations to build and grow their business infrastructure and the human-to-human element. Kirk has spent over two decades working in the oil and gas industry as a logistics, consultant, marketer, and commercial representative for both large corporate entities and start-ups.

Kirk served as the chair on a large oil sands committee that consisted of Shell, Chevron, Marathon, and ATCO. Kirk has worked as a consultant since 2015 specializing in economic development and industry engagement with Indigenous communities, and government. Kirk is currently working as a consultant for the Metis Nation of Alberta Region 3. Kirk holds a CET in chemical engineering technology from Southern Alberta Institute of Technology and is currently enrolled in BS program at the University of Athabasca.

Don Ross (Saskatchewan First Nations)

Don Ross is a member of the George Gordon First Nation with over 40 years' experience in business development. Federal/Provincial Government relations and First Nations and Metis community development. He has over 10 years of direct experience working for First Nations and First Nations Corporations with the FSIN and directly with First Nation leaders.

Mr. Ross completed the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business Internship Program and attended the University of Regina as well as the First Nations University of Canada. He was also an integral part of the Line 3 IAMC co-development process.

Kyra Northwest (Alberta First Nations)



Kyra Northwest is from the Montana First Nation (Akamihk), one of the four Maskwacis Cree Nations within Treaty Six Territory.

She currently works for the Samson Cree Nation (Nipisihkopahk) as the Traditional Land Use Lead in the Consultation Office. Kyra also sits on Samson Cree Nation's Nipiy Committee, which has developed a vision for water security and water sovereignty to ensure future water use by Nation citizens.

She is a founding member of the International Buffalo Relations Institute, which is an Indigenous-led board that has worked together since the inception of the Buffalo Treaty.

Her educational background is in Anthropology, and she attended Grant MacEwan University in Edmonton, AB.

In her downtime, Kyra likes to play sports and is active in hockey and slo-pitch. She also loves to travel and attend concerts.

Marci Riel (Manitoba Métis Federation)



Marci Riel is the Director of the Energy and Infrastructure department at the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF). The Department was created by a Resolution of the MMF Caucus to address the development and management of hydroelectricity, solar power, wind power, nuclear power and energy pipelines constructed on lands utilized by the Manitoba Metis Community.

Although Marci is not an elected representative, her role on the committee is to best represent the needs of the citizens of the Metis Nation and to assist Canada and the National Energy Board (NEB) in better understanding the potential impacts of the project on the rights, claims and interests of the Manitoba Metis Community.

Ms. Riel holds a Master's degree in Sociology and prior to joining the MMF in 2011, Marci worked in the field of public safety and crime prevention. Marci is the mother of two active young boys and together with her husband Kevin is proud to be raising the next generation of citizens of the Metis Nation. Marci lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba – in the homeland of the Metis Nation - less than a mile from the historic Riel House site.

Tribal Chief Mark Arcand (Saskatchewan First Nations)



Tribal Chief Mark Arcand joined the Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC) Treaty Office as the Tribal Chief after two successful terms as Vice Chief. STC works for the seven communities as well as Chiefs and Councils who guide the STC vision and direction. As an STC leader and former employee who grew up in an STC community, Tribal Chief Arcand was driven to improve the quality of life through capacity building and bringing forward momentum with emphasis on reversing residential school effects through bridging strong cultural connections for coming generations.

His greatest commitment is helping youth excel and build their dreams through developing the gift in each child. This means working to decrease the barriers they face and increasing access to equal opportunities. Tribal Chief Arcand believes strongly in being a positive leadership role model. STC has grown into a leading First Nations organization, working together with leaders, knowledge keepers, and community members to support their nations through fostering growth and prosperity.

Chief Matthew T. Peigan (Saskatchewan First Nations)



Chief Peigan was elected Chief of Pasqua First Nation on March 4, 2011. When first elected in 1993, Chief Peigan was the youngest Chief in Saskatchewan at the age of 26. Under Chief Peigan's leadership, Pasqua First Nation has advanced a wide range of strategic goals and objectives related to economic development, environmental stewardship, training and employment, and ensuring Aboriginal treaty rights are respected.

Chief Peigan has also played a key leadership role with the Qu'Appelle Valley Indian Development Authority. Chief Peigan was appointed to the FHQ Developments' Board of Directors in 2014.

Melvin Abraham (Alberta First Nations)

Melvin Abraham is from the Frog Lake First Nation and works as an off-reserve Consultation Officer. He speaks fluent Cree and has worked previous with Enbridge as an Indigenous Construction Liaison. His involvement in the oil and gas sector for the purposes of maintaining and restoring traditional lands of the Cree peoples has been instrumental in the process of reconciliation with industry.

Mike Sutherland (Manitoba First Nations)



Mike Sutherland is a member of the Peguis First Nation in Treaty 1 and is the current Director of Peguis' Consultation & Special Projects Office.

Before Mike started the Consultation & Special Projects office, he was a Councillor for Peguis. Under Mike's leadership, the office has participated in over 30 environmental projects at the regional, provincial, and federal levels.

Mike has been in and out of post-secondary institutions throughout his lifetime, however he places the greatest value on the education he received from living on the land. Mike has been an active trapper for the past 43 years, being taught at a young age by his grandfather.

Mike has also held positions in forestry, fishing, farming, in addition to several years spent on a contract working for Manitoba Conservation with the Aboriginal Relations Branch.

Minister Marg Friesen (Métis Nations, Saskatchewan)



Marg is a Métis woman from the Qu'Appelle Valley, a devoted wife, mother of five, and a grandmother of seven grandchildren. She resides in the town of Indian Head, SK, part of the historical Métis Homeland. Her family has a strong history in the valley and has lived there for generations. Her spirit has brought her back to her roots and she is motivated to make a difference with communities and the people she serves.

Marg is a governing member of the Provincial Métis Council and holds multiple roles for Métis Nation – Saskatchewan as Minister of Health, Minister of Finance, and the Regional Director for Eastern Region III. She is also a governing member of the Métis National Council Health Committee. She has a diverse background working in the private and public sectors in the education and health industries.

Marg's formal education was completed at the University of Regina.

Minister Tim Roussin (Métis Nations, Saskatchewan)

Tim is a proud Métis, originally from Gerald, Saskatchewan, within Eastern Region 2A. He currently resides in Yorkton with his wife and son, daughters, and granddaughters. His family history dates back to the 1885 Rebellion and beyond. He is a dedicated, authentic leader who brings passion, energy and a wealth of knowledge to any task. He has 17 years of experience in education and employment support through past employment and volunteer roles. Tim holds multiple roles for Métis Nation – Saskatchewan as the Minister of Early Learning Child Care/Education and as Regional Director for Eastern Region 2A.

FEDERAL COMMITTEE MEMBER

Jonathan Timlin (Canada Energy Regulator)



Jon became Vice President of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation in October 2020. He joined the regulator in 2012 and has served as Vice President of Energy Adjudication, Vice President responsible for modernization, and provided executive leadership for the CER's pandemic response. He also served as the Director of Regulatory Policy.

In 2015, he established the organization's Vancouver regional office and served as its first Director.

Before joining the organization, he was a senior policy advisor at Natural Resources Canada and Transport Canada. He has also worked in the private sector in the electricity industry, and for a Cabinet Minister on Parliament Hill.

A graduate of Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, Jon is a recipient of the Public Service Award of Excellence in Policy.

HOST and MODERATOR

John Snow



John Snow, B.Sc., P.M.L.M., M.A., M.Div., O.M., ICD., CAPL, CAPLA, Stoney Nakoda, Treaty 7

John is an advisor, teacher, consultant for Indigenous communities, colleges, universities, governments, and churches. John is an Indigenous instructor and lecturer for Traditional, Cultural, Land and Environmental courses. John is a lead writer, researcher, and interpreter working amongst Indigenous Elders on multiple projects.

John is a specialist on legislative, regulatory, and corporate processes. In 1996, he finished a Master of Arts Degree, Political Science, from the University of Calgary specializing in Public Policy, Law, and Administration. In 2022, John completed a Master of Divinity, Vancouver School of Theology, advising on reconciliation and the unmarked graves.

His visionary approach has shaped and implemented innovative solutions for mitigating issues of sensitive Indigenous traditional, cultural, sacred, and burial sites.

John is a Nakoda pipe holder, knowledge holder and knowledge keeper. Rev. Snow is Ordained in the United Church of Canada. He is pursuing his PhD through Vancouver School of Theology and Pretoria, South Africa.

CULTURAL PERFORMERS

Taylor Fleming



Taylor Fleming is a fiddle player from Minitonas, MB. She first started learning the fiddle when she was 9 years old through a Manitoba Métis Federation-funded fiddle program and instantly fell in love with it.

Today, she is grateful for all the opportunities she has had and is in awe of the places she has been promoting Métis culture through the art of traditional Métis fiddle music.

Kyle YoungPine



Kyle is Niitistapi Blackfoot from the Kainai First Nations Blood Tribe and father to 7-year-old Blackfoot/Ojibwa/Metis Cree, son, Phoenix. Motivational speaker, Journey person in Plumbing and Gas and pow wow fitness educator.

Kyle enjoys skateboarding, encouraging youth to embrace their Indigenous roots and finds opportunities to bridge the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. Kyle's Recovery journey began in November of 2013 and prides himself of his journey within Recovery.

A southern-style fancy feather dancer, his pow wow travels have taken him all over North America. When he's not dancing, bridging the gap, skateboarding, or hanging with Phoenix, he is building his small plumbing business.

Jessica McMann



Jessica McMann is an Alberta-based Cree (Cowessess, SK), multi-disciplinary artist. She interweaves land, Indigenous identity, history, and language throughout her dance and music creation/performance practice. A classically trained flutist, she holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Calgary and an MFA in Contemporary Arts from Simon Fraser University.

Her award winning Indigenous-Classical album *Incandescent Tales* was released in June of 2021. She is currently working on her second album slated to be released mid-2023.

Jessica currently resides in Cochrane, Alberta, where she works for the City of Calgary as Curator of Indigenous Art. She is also co-founder and co-director of [Wild Mint Arts](#), an Indigenous arts company and is a Laureate of the Hnatyshyn Foundation REVEAL Indigenous Art Awards (2017).