

Put your voice into action! Join the conversation! #FCSSBC

The Federation acknowledges that this *Reconciliation in Action Conference* is taking place on the ancestral and unceded lands of the Syilx Okanagan peoples.

The original people of the Okanagan are known as the Syilx speaking people – the “Okanagans” – and according to their history they have been here since the beginning of people on this land.

The Okanagans (Syilx) people occupied an area which extended over approximately 69,000 square kilometres. The northern area of this territory stretched from the area of Mica Creek, just north of modern day Revelstoke, BC and east to Kootenay Lake. The southern boundary extended to the vicinity of Wilbur, Washington and the western border extended into the Nicola Valley.

The Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) was formed in 1981 as the inaugural First Nations government in the Okanagan which represents the 8 member communities including: Okanagan Indian Band, Upper Nicola Band, Westbank First Nation, Penticton Indian Band, Osoyoos Indian Band and Lower and Upper Similkameen Indian Bands and the Colville Confederated Tribes on areas of common concern. Each community is represented through the Chiefs Executive Council (CEC) by their Chief or Chairman.

The Syilx/Okanagan people still affirm that the land is theirs, as no treaty has been negotiated.

To learn more, find time during your stay in the area to visit some of the following:

- The ƛt c̓p̓əłk̓ st̓im̓ Hatchery (Penticton)
- Sncewips Heritage Museum (Westbank)
- En'owkin Center (Penticton)
- Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre (Osoyoos)
- The Snaza'ist Centre/Mascot Gold Mine (Hedley)
- Snowy Mountain Tours (Cawston)

SAVE THE DATES

Trauma-Informed Practice in Action - Conference & Member's General Meeting
October 11–13, 2017 | Vancouver Airport Sheraton Hotel, Richmond, B.C.

Social Policy Forum & Members General Meeting
February 15–16, 2018 | The Marriott Victoria Inner Harbour, Victoria, BC

RECONCILIATION IN ACTION

JUNE 22–23, 2017

PENTICTON LAKESIDE RESORT,
21 Lakeshore Drive West, Penticton, BC



THE FEDERATION
of COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES of BC

Altogether better.

OKANAGAN WELCOME & CONFERENCE OPENING



Leon Louis

Syilx Cultural Knowledge Keeper

Leon Louis cewel'na is a member of the Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Syilx Nation. Leon has committed his life's work to uphold the love and respect of our traditions and world views of Indian people. These worldviews are the relationship between the Creator and the land, environment and each other. He has knowledge of Syilx Okanagan Culture and practices the harvesting of Syilx traditional foods and medicines. Leon is a Cultural knowledge person who is invited to organize many different ceremonies throughout the Territories. At the Syilx Nation he is an active member of the Okanagan Nation Critical Incident Response Team, Syilx Unity Youth Run, Indian Residential School Committee, Natural Resource and Fisheries Cultural support person and dedicated member and participant in the Annual Syilx Unity Canoe Trek. Leon travels and supports other Tribal initiatives and Ceremonies such as the Tribal Journey Canoe events where Indigenous Tribes throughout the world come and join in celebrating their cultures and languages in solidarity – on the water and throughout their beautiful lands.



Herman Edward

Syilx Cultural Knowledge Keeper, Artist, Musician and Language Teacher

Herman Edward is a humble man, having great respect for the traditional and cultural values of the Similkameen Syilx/Okanagan People. He is a fluent speaker of the nsyilxcen Okanagan language. He currently teaches the nsyilxcen Okanagan Language, culture and protocols to children and adults. In addition to being a teacher and fluent speaker, Herman is known both locally and afar as an aspired flute player, knowledge keeper and a dugout canoe carver. His recorded flute music CD titled "It's About Time" was nominated for a Native American Music Award in 2011. His second CD titled "Past and Present" was nominated for an award in 2016.

His life-long learning has provided him with the experience of being an accomplished artist who has worked with various aboriginal art forms including antler carving, buckskin tanning, moccasin, rattle, traditional regalia and tule mat making, beadwork and much more. Today in 2017, Herman Edward, a traditional flute player, educator and advocate for revival of traditional art forms resides in the Similkameen Valley, Syilx Okanagan Territory, within what is commonly known today, as the Southern Interior of British Columbia.



Outma Sqilx'w Cultural School

Children from the Outma Sqilx'w Cultural School will share some of their native language and Okanagan hand-drumming songs.

FCSSBC YOUTH EDUCATION BURSARY SILENT AUCTION

A career in the social services

The silent auction at The Federation's Reconciliation in Action conference is 100% in support of the FCSSBC Youth Education Bursary.

The bursary assists young people that are or have been in care and want to pursue a career in the field of Human and Social Services. Bursaries support students with the financial costs of tuition, books, and supplies for post-secondary academic education.

The bursary was established by Federation members in 2009 to encourage and support young people to develop a career in our sector. The bursary program supports young people 25 or younger who either are or have been in care and who want to pursue post-secondary education towards a career in human social services.

Since 2009, the bursary program has awarded over \$150,00 in bursaries to 138 recipients, helping them with the financial costs of tuition, books, and supplies for post-secondary study. For more information about the Bursary Program or to contribute to the Youth Education Bursary visit www.fcssbc.ca

"There was a point in life where I thought I could never succeed or amount to anything. Receiving this award really gives me a sense of purpose in my career and in life. It gives me confidence going forward in my post-secondary education and provides me with hope. Thank you so much for all you have done for me, and other people like me that want to make a change."

– Bursary Recipient

"As a two-time recipient of the FCSSBC bursary, I cannot express my thankfulness and appreciation of the support I have received. I was a child that grew up in a very low-income family with a single mom and five siblings. We frequently sought help from food banks, low-income housing, and welfare. When I turned 11, I was placed into foster care and separated from my siblings. From my very rocky and unstable journey through the foster care system, I knew I wanted to help children who were being put into a situation that was out of their control. I wanted to empower youth to reach their fullest potential. I decided on a career in social services, and now because of the help and support I have received from organizations like The Federation, I am starting my Masters of Clinical Social Work degree in the fall of 2016. Thank you for helping me help others."

– Bursary Recipient

STORIES FROM THE COMMUNITY: STORYTELLERS



Bernadette Spence

Bernadette Spence is a First Nations Social Worker from the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation located in Northern Manitoba. She actively participates in reclaiming and incorporating ancestral traditional knowledge and practices within her work with individuals and organizations.

She has worked collaboratively with First Nations, Federal and Provincial Governments in the area of education and child welfare; has completed the Planning Process for the establishment of three delegated agencies in BC; has served as a volunteer; and participates in supporting community members through the reclaiming of ceremony as a healing process. Since 2005, she has held the role as CEO at VACFSS.



Kelly Terbasket

IndigenEYEZ Program Director Kelly Terbasket has a contagious laugh, a talent for connecting people, and a passion for the power of community. With more than 20 years' experience managing community projects, Kelly is known in First Nations throughout BC for her inspiring workshops on everything from team building to strategic planning to effective leadership. As a person of mixed heritage, Kelly has been bridging distinct worlds all her life, weaving together the strengths of her Syilx and European ancestry. A mother of two beautiful young women, Kelly lives in her family's ancestral home in the south Okanagan.

NOTES

KAIROS BLANKET EXERCISE



The **KAIROS Blanket Exercise** is an interactive learning experience that teaches the Indigenous rights history we are rarely taught. Developed in response to the 1996 Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples—which recommended education on Canadian-Indigenous history as one of the key steps to reconciliation, the Blanket Exercise covers over 500 years of history in a one and a half hour participatory workshop.

Blanket Exercise Facilitators:

Janette McIntosh: Vancouver KAIROS Network
Ian McLean: Pastor, Peachland United Church
Bess Williams: Federation Events Coordinator

Syilx/Okanagan Cultural Advisors:

Leon Louis and Herman Edwards

STORIES FROM THE COMMUNITY: FACILITATOR



Chris Corrigan

Chris Corrigan is a well known Open Space facilitator and host of strategic conversation. He has worked extensively in BC, in the community sector on large strategic initiatives such as Aboriginal Delegated Agency negotiations, indigenous governance, and strategic support for agencies, government and communities on child and family services.

He worked as a facilitator on special projects with the Child and Youth Officer of BC, addressing suicide in north western BC and a child death on Vancouver island. He has also worked on staff with the BC Association of Friendship Centres and the BC Assembly of First Nations. He has been a core member of the Leadership 2020 leadership team. Chris lives with his family on Bowen Island BC. He has two teenage children.

STORIES FROM THE COMMUNITY: STORYTELLERS



Dr. Bill Cohen

Dr. Bill Cohen is from the Okanagan Nation with extensive kinship ties throughout BC and Washington. He specializes in the areas of Indigenous knowledge, research, education, and transforming pedagogy. He is an educator, artist, story-teller and author. The focus of Bill's continuing research is to identify, understand and theorise the transforming potential of Indigenous and Okanagan knowledge and pedagogy through organic language and cultural knowledge revitalization.

STORIES FROM THE COMMUNITY: STORYTELLERS



Chad Eneas

Chad Eneas is the elected Chief of the Penticton Indian Band. He's a former band councilor who has worked as a traditional knowledge keeper for the Okanagan Nation and as the ECommunity Place co-ordinator. During his elected term (2016-2020) Chief Eneas also carries the portfolios of Economic Development and External Inter-Governmental Affairs on behalf of Penticton Band Administration.



Catherine Hall

Wey'tk Hello, My name is Catherine Hall. I am traditionally from the Simpcw First Nation, Shuswap Nation. I am a survivor of the Residential School era. I received a Bachelor of Education Degree in 1993 from University of British Columbia. I worked with Hope School District and the Calgary Catholic School District from 1989-1993 as a Native Education Support Worker, providing cross-cultural awareness to teachers and families, as well as, tutoring, counselling and home/school liaison. I returned home to administer the Headstart Program on reserve for 5 +years and also ran an in-home daycare. I have also completed the Early Childhood program with Thompson Rivers University. Since then, I have worked with the Kamloops Child Development Society as a Afterschool Supervisor/Bus Driver.

In 2001, I met my wonderful husband, and returned to live in the Okanagan. My job here started off with Early Childhood Education and is now as Aboriginal Supported Child Development Consultant for the Osoyoos Indian Band Development Corp. I have been in this job for 3 years. I have made many good lasting connections with the children, families and outlying programs and services such as the Nqsilt program.



Janet Hanuse

Janet Hanuse is from the Gwa'sala, 'Nakwakda'xw and 'Wuikinukv Nations. She is the mother of three boys and one daughter. Janet has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from UVIC and currently works as the Executive Director at Sacred Wolf Friendship Centre in Port Hardy, BC.



Jennifer Houde

Jennifer Houde is a member of the Okanagan Nation and registered Band Member of the Penticton Indian Band. She has been married for 16 years and has two boys ages 13 & 15. She has a Bachelors Degree in Social Work and is currently working on finishing a Master of Indigenous Social Work from the University of Victoria. Jennifer works as the Child, Family, Youth and Health Services Manager with the Okanagan Nation Alliance.

STORIES FROM THE COMMUNITY: STORYTELLERS



Wendy Kenward

Wendy Kenward originated from Richmond, BC. Her mother was Gertrude Kenward, and her father is Wilfred Kenward, both originally from Montreal, Quebec. Wendy grew up in the Lower Mainland where she first took her Early Childhood Education training in 1987. Since then, Wendy has worked in a variety of early childhood environments including therapeutic preschools and a group child care setting in the Downtown Eastside in Vancouver.

While raising a child with special needs, her family made the move to the Okanagan where she initially joined the Child Care Resource & Referral team at Penticton & District Community Resources Society (PDCRS) in 1999. From here, she moved into a variety of roles that fused her experience in the ECE field with her passion for community development. Wendy has been the Coordinator for the CATCH Coalition (Make Children First ECD Coalition) in the Central Okanagan, a founder of the Dragonfly Pond Family Society which supports families with children with special needs, and Coordinator for the Supported Child Development Program at PDCRS.

Wendy's private practice as a Community Development Consultant combined with her passion for leadership and engagement, led her to complete her Masters of Arts in Leadership in 2015. Currently, she is a Team Leader of Community Development Programs with PDCRS. PDCRS is the host agency for the Nqsilt Early Years Centre and Wendy's role as a Team Leader is to support community initiatives such as Nqsilt as they emerge and develop. Wendy is also the Regional Advisor for the Supported Child Development and Infant Child Development Programs in the Interior Region of BC.



Daniel Pitman

Taanishi kiya'wow, Daniel Pitman dishinikashoon. I am the sixth generation of the Hodgson Family from the Red River Settlement in Manitoba. My great-great-great Mooshoom was a York Boat builder of English decent and my great-great-great Noohkoom was an Ojibway Pipe Women of Saulteaux decent.

I am the current Region Director for the Thompson-Okanagan Region for Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) and its eight Chartered Communities, known as Region 3, as well as the Minister for Métis Children and Family, Executive Treasurer and Senate Liaison. There are currently 16,000 registered Metis in MNBC with over 70,000 self-identified in the Province of BC. MNBC has seven regions and thirty-seven Chartered Communities. In addition, I am a full time Youth and Family Counselor for ARC Programs and I work and reside in Penticton BC.