

COMING TOGETHER

BREAKING DOWN SILOS TO
SERVE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

OCTOBER 16–17, 2019



THE FEDERATION
of COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES of BC



Ministry of
Children and Family
Development

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16th

7:30–8:30	<i>Registration and Breakfast</i>
8:30–8:50	Ceremonial Opening (Red Cedar Ballroom & Foyer)
8:50–9:00	Opening Remarks and Welcome from MCFD and The Federation (Red Cedar Ballroom)
9:00–9:15	Setting Up Day One (Red Cedar Ballroom) Amanda Fenton
9:15–10:15	Opening Keynote (Red Cedar Ballroom) Alex Nelson
10:15–10:30	<i>Refreshment Break</i>
10:30–11:30	Opening, Connecting, Learning (Red Cedar Ballroom) Jeska Slater
	BREAKOUT SESSIONS
11:30–12:30	1. A Métis Cultural Understanding (Douglas Fir Ballroom) Suzanne Thomaidis & Léo Nolin
	2. The Role of Culture in the Health & Wellbeing of Indigenous Youth (Red Cedar Ballroom) Christopher Lalonde
12:30–1:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
	BREAKOUT SESSIONS
1:30–3:00	3: Quality of Life Kitchen Table Discussion (Douglas Fir Ballroom) Hosted by Rebecca Ataya Lang
	4: Mental Health Services for Children and Youth (Red Cedar Ballroom) Patricia Peterson & Bill Morrison
3:00–3:30	<i>Refreshment Break</i>
3:30–4:15	Anxiety Disorders in Children with Autism (Red Cedar Ballroom) Connor Kerns
4:15–4:45	Day One Wrap-Up (Red Cedar Ballroom) Amanda Fenton
7:30–9:30	<i>Hospitality Suite in Room 211 Hosted by Nucleus Labs</i>

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17th

7:30–8:30	<i>Registration and Breakfast</i>
8:30–8:45	Setting Up Day Two (Red Cedar Ballroom) Amanda Fenton
8:45–10:15	Possibilities Not Probabilities (Red Cedar Ballroom) Joe Roberts
10:15–10:30	<i>Refreshment Break</i>
	BREAKOUT SESSIONS
10:30–12:00	5: Top 10 Strategies for Residential Settings (Red Cedar Ballroom) Paul Malette
	6: The Relationship between Trauma & Addiction (Douglas Fir Ballroom) Sarah McDonald, Gerardo Espinosa, Mickey Cook, Chelsea Kelly, and Kendra Gage
12:00–1:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
1:00–2:00	First-Person Panel Discussion (Douglas Fir Ballroom) Facilitated by Amanda Fenton
2:00–2:45	Hosted Reflection and Planning Time (Douglas Fir Ballroom) Facilitated by Amanda Fenton
2:45–3:00	Closing Ceremony (Douglas Fir Ballroom)
3:00	<i>Conference Ends</i>

Thank you to the following people for their support and guidance in planning this event:

Barb Ward-Burkitt, Bradley Dick, Candice Henriques, Gwen Budskin, Jennifer Chuckry, Jennifer Dryer, Kendra Gage, Lisa Kushen, Linda Sands, Melanie Hudson.

Conference Committee Members:

Andrea Baker, Bess Williams, Janet Westcott, Karen Bopp, Kathy Powelson, Kevena Hall, Lisa Woudzia, Melanie Finley, Michelle Wywrot, Rebecca Ataya Lang, Tamara Kulusic.

Alex & Nella Nelson

Alex Nelson is a proud member of the Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw First Nations in Kincome Inlet. Although the family has resided in Victoria for the past 47 years, the family connection to Alert Bay and Kingcome Inlet has always remained strong. Alex is a seven-year product of the infamous Alert Bay Residential School system. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Leisure Studies from the University of Victoria and recently received the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award.

He is currently an Elder and Senior Advisor to the Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council (British Columbia's recognized Aboriginal sport body). Alex is past Executive Director of the Victoria Native Friendship Centre and one of the founders of the Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Association of B.C. Alex is also a founder of the National Aboriginal Sports Circle and was the first Chairperson and three-time President of the North American Indigenous Games Council. He was recently inducted into Victoria Sport Hall of Fame, then into the BC's Sport Hall of Fame! He also was a Resident Elder for Surrounded By Cedar Children and Family Services; as well as a Prison Liaison Worker for the Native Court Worker and Counselling Association of BC.

Sport has always been a vehicle for freedom and healing for Alex: "My responsibility is to give to the next generation what sport has given to me."



Nella Nelson (Klaapalasukwela/Maxwagila) originates from the Da'nax da'xw, N'amgis, Tsakis and K'omoks First Nations. She has been married into the Musgamaqwx-Dzawada'enuxw Nation for 47 years, and is a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Nella and Alex have also nurtured and cared for 30 young people and spirits from their home communities over these years. Nella recently retired after 39 years from the Greater Victoria School District where she worked as a teacher, counselor and District Administrator of Aboriginal Nations Education.

Nella is currently a chair of the University of Victoria and Camosun College Indigenous Advisory Councils, a board member of the M'akola Housing and M'is kow'a ao Development Corporation and facilitator with ARRIVE consulting. Nella also recently completed terms on advisory councils with Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services, Hulitan Child and Family Services, RCY Special Needs Advisory Council, Min. of Education Elders and Knowledge Keepers Advisory. She has additional experience with the BC Children's Commission, Greater Victoria Police Diversity Committee, Victoria Sexually Exploited Youth Committee.

Nella has been acknowledged with the Queen's 125 Commemorative Medal for Community Service, YM/YWCA Women of Distinction Award for Education, Training, and Development, Camosun College Distinguished Alumni Award, the Excellence in Cultural Heritage and Diversity Award from the Representative for Children and Youth and the 2019 UVIC Faculty of Education Distinguished Alumni Award.



Jeska Slater

Jeska is a Nehiyah Iskwew from Fisher River Cree Nation in Manitoba. She has been facilitating in and for Indigenous communities for 10 years. She has held many roles in the urban Indigenous community including chairing the Surrey Indigenous Youth Housing Coalition, and Founder of Transform(N)ations a social enterprise that hires Indigenous youth in and from foster care to facilitate Cultural Safety workshops in the community. Jeska is currently the Indigenous Social Innovation Coordinator for Skookum Lab in Surrey which is one of the first Indigenous-led Social Innovation Labs on Turtle Island. Jeska has developed a facilitation practice based on creativity, honouring diverse Indigenous world-views and community building to solve complex issues.

She holds her Bachelor in Leadership Studies and is pursuing a Masters of Business Administration. Jeska has training in Culture as Treatment, Trauma-Informed Practice, Indigenous Child and Youth Care Counselling, Indigenous Art of Hosting and Creative Facilitation. Jeska is a trained graphic facilitator who has trained with Sam Bradd of Drawing Change. She is happy to combine her passion for culture, artistic practice, and facilitation skills to make culturally relevant visual tools for organizations and local Nations. Jeska is a mother to a 5-year old boy named Johann Waseskwan. Her work aims to revitalize traditional accountability systems for the next seven generations.



Suzanne Thomaidis

Suzanne Thomaidis is Métis of Algonquin French and Acadian ancestry. She received her education in Family and Community Counselling at the Native Education Centre in Vancouver. She has worked as a Family Outreach Worker and Counsellor for over 30 years, both on and off reserve. Suzanne has also presented women's empowerment programs for Corrections Canada and facilitated cultural workshops and programs for over 20 years. Suzanne and Elder Dianne Monds developed the Personal Healing and Parenting program in 2005, while working for a Métis Delegated Aboriginal Agency in the social services field. Due to the success of the program, Suzanne and Elder Dianne Monds created a modality of training for professionals in 2007 to aid communities in developing their own cultural personal healing and parenting program.

Suzanne is a loving mother to three daughters (two biological and one adopted), a grandmother to three granddaughters and a supportive "auntie" to hundreds. Suzanne thanks the Creator, the Elders and the many participants for her teachings.



Léo Nolin

Léo Nolin has been employed in Aboriginal Child Welfare since 1992. Mr. Nolin worked as a Family Support Worker in the Downtown East Side of Vancouver for five years before being promoted to program supervisor. He then developed a successful Aboriginal-specific parenting program. The Executive Director asked Nolin to organize the Vancouver Aboriginal community which led to the formation of the Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Service Agency.

Mr. Nolin was also instrumental in assisting in the development of a provincial body of Aboriginal Foster Parents. He worked as a Liaison Worker and traveled extensively in BC isolated and urban communities recruiting current Aboriginal foster parents to join the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents. After an unsuccessful search for an FAFP Executive Director, and at the request of the Board, Mr. Nolin accepted the role and stayed in that position for two years.

He currently sits on the Fraser Valley Métis Association holding a board position as Director of the Child & Families portfolio. He is also currently employed by the Fraser Valley Aboriginal Children and Family Services Society as a Family Enhancement Worker.



Christopher Lalonde

Christopher Lalonde, Ph.D., is a developmental psychologist and Professor of Psychology at the University of Victoria. His research focuses on cultural influences on identity formation and wellbeing. He is currently collaborating with First Nations in British Columbia and with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs in a research program that aims to better understand how the promotion of First Nations cultures and the pursuit of self-determination foster youth health and wellbeing. He is keenly interested in the relations between policy and youth health.



Patricia Peterson

Dr. Peterson holds a doctoral degree in Educational Psychology from Boston University. As Co-Executive Director of the University of New Brunswick's Health and Education Research Group, she leads several initiatives related to educational program evaluation, student wellness, mental fitness and comprehensive school health. Dr. Peterson has served as president of the Learning Disabilities Association of New Brunswick, and on the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Persons. She has also been a member of various Ministerial Steering Committees, including those responsible for inclusive education, learning disabilities, and educational methods and resources.



Bill Morrison

As an academic and clinical psychologist, Dr. Bill Morrison has been actively involved in projects focusing on positive psychology research, program evaluation, and the implementation of community-based mental health services for high-risk children and their families. In addition to his licenses as a professional educator and psychologist and his 25 years of clinical practice, Dr. Morrison has had extensive experience in the development and implementation of health and educational services for children and adults across Canada. He has been instrumental in the design and implementation of New Brunswick's Integrated Service Delivery framework for children and youth with mental health concerns.



Connor Kerns

Dr. Connor Kerns is an Assistant Professor in Clinical Psychology and Director of the Anxiety Stress and Autism Program (ASAP) at the University of British Columbia. Her research interests include assessment and treatment of ASD, childhood anxiety, and stress-related disorders (including trauma-related disorders) in children with and without ASD. Her work explores sources and manifestations of anxiety and stress in people on the autism spectrum with the aim of developing and testing new clinical assessment tools and psychotherapies.

Dr. Kerns has received over a dozen federally or privately funded grants to support her research and has published and presented internationally on her findings. She earned her BA from Cornell University, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Psychology from Temple University. Additionally, she completed specialized clinical training in ASD, anxiety disorders, OCD and pediatric psychology at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City, Al Dupont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, DE, the Department of Psychiatry at University of Pennsylvania and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, in Philadelphia PA.



Amanda Fenton

Amanda Fenton designs and facilitates participatory gatherings using methodologies such as The Circle Way, Open Space Technology, World Café, Collective Story Harvest and others to host conversations for thoughtful change, working with non-profits, networks, and other organizations. She is a host and teacher of The Circle Way and the Art of Hosting, and enjoys integrating different modes such as dialogue, improv, and visual facilitation to host space with life and energy. She lives on the unceded territory of the QayQayt in New Westminster, BC. You can find her online at: amandafenton.com



Joe Roberts

Joe Roberts aka The Skidrow CEO is an expert on resiliency and change. Having experienced both catastrophic failure and extraordinary success Joe teaches how to overcome the roadblocks that get in the way of high performance. He helps companies and individuals redefine what's truly possible by confronting limiting mindsets. What is most amazing about Joe is that in 1989 he was living on the streets of Vancouver as a homeless skid row addict. Through perseverance, determination, and his resilient human spirit, Joe pulled himself out of the darkness and despair to become a highly respected business and community leader.

Since 1989, Joe has acquired two college diplomas, became the CEO of one of Vancouver's leading multimedia companies, walked across Canada and achieved more success than he could ever have imagined. Joe has been recognized by MacLean's Magazine as one of "10 Canadians who make a difference," won the BC Courage to Come Back Award, received The Ontario Premier's Award for Business, was given an Honorary Doctorate from Laurentian University and was recognized by the Senate of Canada with their Canada 150 Medal. Recently Joe was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal from The Governor General of Canada.

Joe is also the Executive Director and Co-Founder of The Push for Change Foundation, a charity advocating for youth homelessness prevention. Joe walked 9041 KM across Canada from May 1, 2016 until September 29, 2017, pushing a shopping cart to raise money and awareness about youth homelessness.



Paul Malette

Since 1990, Dr. Malette has been a director of CBI Consultants, Ltd. He has more than 30 years of experience working with children and adults with complex support needs. Dr. Malette has provided extensive training to schools, families, and support agencies throughout North America on Person and Family Centered Positive Behaviour Support.



Sarah Mcdonald, Gerardo Espinosa, Mickey Cook, Chelsea Kelly, and Kendra Gage

Sarah Mcdonald, Gerardo Espinosa, Mickey Cook, Chelsea Kelly and Kendra Gage work at Hulitan Family and Community Services Society located on the traditional territories of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations in Victoria, BC, serving indigenous families experiencing ministry involvement and the intergenerational impacts of colonization and residential schools. They come with a diverse and generational perspective as both indigenous People and allies with experience in addictions and trauma that extends 72 years combined.

Quality Of Life Kitchen Table Discussion Participants

Cynthia Roling	Executive Director, Milieu Family Services
Tim Stainton	Professor, School of Social Work and Director, Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship (CIC), UBC
Rob Malatest	President and Owner, R.A. Malatest & Associates Ltd.
Dan Collins	Executive Director, Inclusion Langley Society
Emily Gardiner	Postdoctoral Fellow Medicine Pediatrics, UBC, BC Children's Hospital
Tamara Kulusic	Manager, Autism Policy Inclusion Supports and Services Policy Team, MCFD
Andrea Baker	Director, CYSN Provincial Operations Provincial Operations, MCFD

First Person Panel Participants

Kayla Tellier	Kayla is 24 years old and is on the autism spectrum. She currently works for the Canucks Autism Network (CAN) as a support worker and also teaches acting to children with diverse abilities. She is one of two experts hired by City of Surrey as a sensory consultation to make it easier for people with autism to relax in public spaces and events.
Cody Jacques	<p>Cody is a fourth-year Child and Youth Care student at Douglas College who finished his personal experience in care in Surrey. Cody transitioned into the community with a Youth Agreement and accessed the AYA Program with MCFD. Cody experienced throughout his care experience a continuing care order, a voluntary care order, and an away from home placement. Cody is currently a practising child and youth care worker with Options Community Services in Surrey where he works with young people 13 to 19 who are involved in the government care system.</p> <p>Cody also works as an Emotional Support Worker with the Surrey Youth Advisory Committee after starting the project as a member. Cody sits on the Child and Youth Care Association of BC Board of Directors as a Member-at-large and works with the CYC community to improve outcomes for young people in and from care.</p> <p>Cody would like to acknowledge the amazing work that everyone in this room supports and practises on a daily basis in a system that is not built to manage the demands of the work and appreciates allowing people with care experience to be leaders, educators, and mentors.</p>
Alex Nelson	(Please see bio on page four.)
Nella Nelson	(Please see bio on page four.)

Conference Sponsor

Thanks to the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions for sponsoring this event.



Hospitality Sponsor

Thanks to Nucleus Labs for sponsoring the conference's Hospitality Suite.



Federation Champion

Federation Champions are member organizations that have provided financial assistance to help keep our events affordable for the majority of our small and medium-sized members. Thanks to the organizations below for making sure our Federation continues to be *Altogether better*.



HOSPITALITY SUITE

The Federation invites all conference participants to join us any time between 7:30–9:30 for a drop-in social in Suite 211. Grab a glass of wine (or a non-alcoholic beverage), enjoy some desserts, kick back, and relax while you connect with your friends and colleagues from across the province.

Conference Exhibitors

Please take a moment to visit some of the various exhibitors and vendors that are supporting this event.



Ministry of
Children and Family
Development



Ministry of
Mental Health
and Addictions



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SAVE THE DATE

February 20–21, 2020

The Federation's 2020 Social Policy Forum + Members General Meeting

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