





<p>Tai Amy Grauman</p>	<p>Keynote speaker, 'Finding Marie Callihoo: Métis Women's Stories Inside of Métis History'</p>	<p>Secretary for the Advancement of Women and Girls, Otipemisiwak Métis Government within Alberta</p>	<p>Tai Amy Grauman (MFA) is Métis Cree from Ardrossan Alberta. She Women and Girls, is a Callihoo and Beaugard from St. Paul des Metis from her paternal lineage and a Turner from Winter Saskatchewan from her maternal lineage. Tai is the first elected Provincial Women's Representative as part of the first Otipemisiwak Government Métis Government within Alberta. Tai is a writer, actor, director and producer. She has been involved in over 20 theatre productions across the country and is currently an artistic producer at 'Savage Productions Society' an Indigenous Production company that focuses on bringing Indigenous stories to rural communities. Her work is all about Métis women's love stories. This past year her play 'You used to call me Marie...' premiered at the York Theatre and then toured to the National Arts Centre. 'You used to call me Marie...' has also toured Métis communities across Alberta and Saskatchewan. Her kids show 'Where have all the buffalo gone' will also be touring across Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba this</p>	
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			upcoming year. Tai has two more plays in development, 'Wiwimaw' as well as 'Romeo and Juliet: A Métis love story'.	
Alexa Lizotte	Speaker, Painted Beadwork Workshop	Artist & educator, Métis Desert Creations	Alexa Lizotte is an urban and mixed Métis artist who proudly shares her Métis culture through her art and educational opportunities. She hopes to share her story of overcoming shame, displacement, and intergenerational trauma to inspire people to be proud of who they are. Alexa comes from North Vermilion Settlement (Buttertown), Fort Vermilion, AB, a small Métis community in Northern Alberta on her father's side. She also has mixed German and anglo-settler ancestry on her mother's side. Her father attended Boyer River Indian Day School located in Rocky Lane, Alberta and she stands tall in reclaiming her family's intergenerational Métis practices.	






<p>Dr. Catherine Kineweskwê w Richardson</p>	<p>Speaker, CYFS Panel</p>	<p>Professor, Concordia University</p>	<p>Catherine Richardson/Kinewesquao is a Métis scholar with Cree, Gwichin and English and Viking ancestry (Swedish/Orkney). Dr. Richardson has been an Associate Professor with the School of Social Work at the University of Victoria since 2007. She is the Director of First Peoples Studies at Concordia University and is the co-founder of the Centre for Response-Based Practice, an organization dedicated to helping people recover from violence in a spirit of dignity and social justice. Dr. Richardson has a background in practice and research in counselling and social work, holding degrees in child and youth psychology, counselling psychology, French, and Political Science. A member of the Indigenous Child Well-being Research Network's steering committee, her work centers around Indigenous resistance, decolonizing approaches to social work, response-based practice, safety-oriented and dignity-based child protection work, recovery</p>	
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			from violence, and Indigenous approaches to research and scholarship centered around cultural, ecological and spiritual integrity. Dr. Richardson has travelled extensively and is enlivened by story-sharing, cultural exchange and stories of resistance to oppression.	
Dr. Jessica Sanigaq Ullrich	Speaker, CYFS Panel	Professor, Washington State University	Dr. Jessica Sanigaq Ullrich is an Assistant Professor at Washington State University's Institute for Research and Education to Advance Community Health (IREACH). She is originally from Kinjigin – Native Village of Wales, and a Tribal Citizen of Nome Eskimo Community. Dr. Ullrich earned her BA in Psychology and Philosophy from Gonzaga University, MSW from University of Alaska Anchorage, and PhD in Social Welfare from University of Washington. Her projects include connectedness curriculum development with her Tribe to provide prevention and wellbeing services, digital storytelling with Alaska Native Youth to learn about community protective factors, and photovoice with rural communities	






			to understand energy efficiency and environmental wellbeing. Dr. Ullrich loves storytelling, knowledge sharing, relational healing and supporting collective wellbeing. She is doing everything she can to share what she is learning about the interrelated wellbeing of a person, family, community, Earth, and Spirit to assist with multiple levels of positive change.	
Angie Tucker	Speaker/Mod erator, CYFS Panel	Researcher, University of Alberta	Angie Tucker is a Métis scholar whose family originates from the historic communities of St. Andrews and Poplar Point in modern-day Manitoba. She is pursuing a PhD in Native Studies at the University of Alberta. As a BA and MA in social anthropology, her work continues to critique the role of power found in discourse and the effects that this has on the social fabric of Canadian society. Her current research centers on Métis relationships to land and the need for more equitable and inclusive land consultation agreements and processes. Angie also conducted and published a review of Indigenous child-	






			<p>intervention services in Canada with best practices for Métis children, youth, and their families. As a Métis Studies expert, her areas of specialization include presenting and publishing on topics such as land, identity, representation, gender and sexuality, traditional adoption practices, community-based research practices, and the importance of visiting, memory and storytelling.</p>	
<p>Kristina Kopp</p>	<p>Speaker, CYFS Panel</p>	<p>Professor, University of Fraser Valley</p>	<p>Kristina Kopp is a citizen of the Métis Nation of Alberta and an Assistant Professor with the School of Social Work and Human Services at the University of the Fraser Valley. Kristina is also a PhD Candidate with the University of Calgary, Faculty of Social Work.</p> <p>In Northeastern Alberta, Kristina's Métis Ancestors descend from the historic communities of Fort Victoria and Pakan (now Métis Crossing) along with the villages of Andrew and Whitford, which are named after one of her root Métis Ancestors, Andrew Whitford. Kristina's auntie (her late</p>	






			<p>grandfather's sister) is Muriel Stanley Venne who co-founded the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Woman and the Esquao Awards.</p> <p>Kristina has experience working as a research, policy, and program evaluation consultant within the area of Indigenous child intervention policies and practices. Kristina strongly advocates for the inclusion of Indigenous language and culture within all aspects of Indigenous research, policy development, and program evaluation.</p>	
Dr. Yvonne Poitras-Pratt	Speaker, Education Panel	Professor, University of Calgary	<p>Dr. Yvonne Poitras Pratt (she/her) is a card-holding citizen of Otipemisiwak Métis Government (formerly Métis Nation of Alberta). Dr. Poitras Pratt is a Professor and Director of Indigenous Education at the Werklund School of Education at the University of Calgary. As her primary focus, Yvonne teaches at the graduate and undergraduate level, and has earned multiple awards for her teaching, research, and community engagement activities. She is also dedicated to reconciliation through education,</p>	






			<p>publishing extensively in areas of reconciliatory pedagogy, critical service-learning, Indigenous education, anti-racism and social justice studies, with a special interest in the integration of arts in a variety of learning environments. Dr. Poitras Pratt also sits on the Calgary Catholic School District's Indigenous Elders Advisory Council as a Métis knowledge-keeper. Additionally, she offers her expertise within Indigenous education to a variety of stakeholders, including teachers, educational leaders and community organizations; importantly, a large component of her efforts is dedicated to supporting fellow Métis in achieving their educational aspirations.</p>	
<p>Dr. Angela Baeza Peña</p>	<p>Speaker, Education Panel</p>	<p>Lecturer, Queensland University of Technology</p>	<p>Dr. Angela Baeza is Diaguita First Nation from Chile and a lecturer at Carumba Institute at Queensland University of Technology. Her PhD focused on understanding the experiences of teachers and Indigenous community members in providing Indigenous education in rural and remote areas. As a</p>	





			<p>lecturer at Carumba Institute, she has actively contributed to significant research initiatives that seek to understand the social determinants that influence the completion of university by Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Also, she is the chief investigator in a project that aims to create partnerships for integrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge in classrooms. Angela's publication included several books and journal articles in English and Spanish. Angela's research area includes Indigenous education, teacher professional development, and Indigenous student success.</p>	
Donna Richey	Speaker, Education Panel	Program Director, National Indian Education Association	<p>Donna Richey, a citizen of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, serves as the Director for Tribal Communities Programs , overseeing the Tribal Communities In Schools (TCIS) Licensed Partnership for NIEA. These programs and partnerships support the whole child approach to Native education that includes culturally relevant, community-based education practices that surround students with supports to</p>	






			<p>positively impact their success in school and life. This is the heart work that Donna passionately brings to serve Native students and their communities to change education and systems to support wellness and meet the students social, cognitive, physical, and emotional needs and skills. Donna holds a Master of Education degree from Oklahoma City University and brings over 29 years of education experience to her role at NIEA. She previously worked as a Site Coordinator and Tribal Services Director for Communities In Schools of Mid-America supporting NIEA's Native Youth Community Project (NYCP) pilot program in Anadarko and taught in the public school in her predominately native community in Oklahoma. Donna has continued to provide professional development of best educational practices to teachers across the nation for over twenty years. Donna is passionate about holistic, whole child community-based education for Native students, meeting physical, spiritual, mental, and emotional</p>	
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			<p>needs and skills To maintain her own good medicine, she enjoys running, gardening, and yoga in our Earth gym, and spending time with her family hiking, fishing or snowboarding in the mountains or recovering from scuba diving with her toes in the sand on the beach. Donna is married to Scott and they have three grown independent Kiowa daughters, Lauren, Abbie, & Dori.</p>	
Lauren Petersen	Moderator, Education Panel	Senior Policy Advisor Education, Métis National Council	<p>Lauren Petersen (She/Her/They) is a Two-Spirit Métis woman with maternal roots run deep in the Red River, descending from the Gagne, Ducharme, Gladue, Laframboise, Richot, Blondeau, Bedard, Hughes, Berriault, Trottier, and Ross families. Her mother, Margaret Petersen was raised in Winnipeg. Her grandmother Rose Gagne was born in the historic Métis community of Ste. Rita, Manitoba. Her ancestors lived in St. Anne de Chenes, Fort Carlton, St. Boniface, St. Vital, Cross Lake, Fort Augustus and St. Francis Xavier prior to taking scrip. Lauren is the first in her family to ever earn a University degree. She is a citizen of Métis</p>	






			<p>Nation BC, proudly serving as treasurer of Surrey Delta Métis Association. Additionally, she is a director at large for Fraser Valley Aboriginal Society and has been recently re-appointed to the Ministers Advisory Council of Indigenous Women, where she provides advice to the Government of British Columbia on how to improve the quality of life of Indigenous women across BC. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities, a Graduate Diploma in Cultural Resource Management, and a Masters of Education in Educational Leadership from the University of Victoria. Her research focuses on Indigenous leadership, anti-racism, power, privilege, and Métis pedagogy and governance. Lauren has held various roles within the K-12 and post-secondary education systems in British Columbia for the past decade. An avid traveller, she studied abroad in France, Germany, Austria, and Poland, and has taught English in both South Korea and Vietnam. She is an enthusiastic member of MNC's</p>	
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			<p>Education and Social Development team, serving as Senior Policy Advisor, Education.</p>	
<p>Grandmother Kathy Boston</p>	<p>Speaker, Intergenerational Fireside Chat</p>	<p>Métis Elder, MNC Strawberry Moon Table</p>	<p>Kathy Boston, a proud Métis woman born in Fort McMurray, Alberta, has called Winnipeg home for 29 years. Married for over three decades, she is a devoted mother to five daughters and grandmother to nine cherished grandchildren. Kathy's journey is rooted in her ancestral lineage, including the Desjarlais, Cardinal, Savard, Logan and LaPoudre families, with whom she shares a deep connection. Surviving the '60s scoop, Kathy draws inspiration from her experiences to advocate for the well-being of the Métis Nation and raise awareness about the struggles faced by missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, 2spirit and gender diverse individuals (MMIWG2S+). She is actively involved in various Indigenous organizations, including the Knowledge Circle for Indigenous Inclusion and Parks Canada Indigenous Stewardship Circle. Kathy's commitment extends to national initiatives such</p>	






			<p>as contributing to the development of the National Action Plan for MMIWG. Her dedication to community service is evident through her participation in Métis-specific forums on topics ranging from mental health to justice. Kathy also represents her community on the international stage, having attended the United Nations Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues in New York. She is frequently invited to open and close meetings for initiatives addressing Indigenous issues, including the red dress alert information session with the MMIWG Secretariat. Kathy is also the table Notokew for the Strawberry Moon Table on Nature. Beyond her advocacy work, Kathy is a passionate mentor, offering guidance and support to women and girls facing adversity. Through her unwavering belief in unity, compassion, and education, she empowers others to find healing and strength in their journeys. Kathy's commitment to her community reflects her belief that love, understanding, and</p>	
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			resilience are the keys to a brighter future for all.	
Veda Weselake	Speaker, Intergenerational Fireside Chat	Métis Elder, MNC Goose Moon Table	Elder Veda Weselake has a Métis fur trade heritage tied to northern Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Trained as a sociologist, researcher, and policy specialist, Veda has taught university courses, owned and operated a social research company, and worked for several levels of government in Manitoba and Ottawa. Veda has worked in the areas of: culture production, crime prevention, homelessness, substance abuse, health promotion, income security, change management, dispute resolution, and many issues of particular concern to Indigenous peoples (Indigenous rights, treaty interpretation, resolution of historical grievances, Indigenous governance). Veda shares Métis values, cultural knowledge, and history, supports the work of community members, and is in her third term as a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Councilor on the Ottawa Region Métis Council. She	






			is also an adjunct faculty member at the University of Victoria.	
Britney Supernault	Speaker, Intergenerational Fireside Chat	Métis Youth, Author/activist	The Cree Nomad is an Author, Activist, and Bannock-Shaker (a.k.a social media personality) based in Edmonton, AB, who recently released their Amazon Best-selling debut novel <i>Hey, June</i> . When not writing stellar novels, Cree Nomad is working in Climate Change Activism with various organizations, listening to early 2000s bangers, and sharing their life on social media platforms. Hailing from East Prairie Métis Settlement, the Cree Nomad proudly shares their culture in both their writing and their work as a content creator (the Metis Cree Nomad sounded a bit too long, though). The Cree Nomad is a self-taught everything and can be found perfecting her writing craft in her home office or reading from one of the many stacks of books strewn about her home.	






Johannah	Speaker, Intergenerational Fireside Chat	Maori Youth	<p>I runga i te reo karanga o te kōtahitanga, tēnei ka mihi. Descending from the Ngāti Toa and Ngāti Tama tribal groups of the Māori Indigenous peoples of Aotearoa (New Zealand), Johannah is a product of her community. She has been taught in tribal governance and continues to serve her wider communities; contributing to legacy which advance Māori interest in economic prosperity via Asia-Pacific-Indo Indigenous kinship, youth advocacy for indigenous intergenerational wellbeing, and revitalisation of language by sustaining Indigenous identity from the past into the future. Johannah holds a post graduate honors degree in Management, as a scholar of The Ngarimu VC and 28th Māori Battalion Memorial Trust, The Centre of Asia-Pacific Excellence amongst other renowned bodies, of which Johannah is accountable to enhance the mana (integrity), wellbeing and prosperity of her respective societies, into a just future for Indigenous Peoples.</p>	
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Flynn Rosie	Speaker, Intergenerational Fireside Chat	Maori Youth	<p>Mai te ihi, mai te wehi, mai te mahi a te taura whakapapa e honohono ana i ā tātou katoa, tēnā rā tātou katoa. Flynn Rosie, of Ngāpuhi descent, is dedicated to fostering pathways that strengthen Indigenous identity and intergenerational decision-making. His passions centre on the challenges Māori youth face in navigating tertiary education and the complexities of dual-identity. A graduate of the University of Otago with a Bachelor of Arts in Māori Studies and a Bachelor of Commerce in International Business, Flynn’s expertise is shaped by his experience in Māori student pastoral support, leadership roles and cross-cultural exchanges. He has witnessed first-hand the difficulties Indigenous taura encounter within institutions. Flynn’s journey in understanding his own dual-identity informs his advocacy. Creating space for Indigenous success, past, present and future is and always will be the goal.</p>	
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<p>Dr. Mariam Wallet-Aboubakrine</p>	<p>Speaker, Health Panel</p>	<p>Professor, University of Ottawa</p>	<p>Dr. Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine is a Tuareg from Timbuktu in Mali. She received traditional Tuareg education and has a multidisciplinary background in medical, humanitarian, and education sciences. For more than 20 years, as a member of Tin Hinan, a nomadic women association in Sahel, she has advocated for Indigenous Peoples' rights. Understanding health and well-being through the Tuareg concept of "Arramât", for which animal, human and environment are not independent from one another, Mariam has participated in international fora to advance the health of Indigenous Peoples and the environment alike. As Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, she advocated strongly for the right to health to be part of the continuous work of the forum, and for Indigenous health to be brought into the agendas of international health organizations, like WHO-TB Program and UNAIDS. She has also collaborated with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in efforts</p>	
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			<p>advancing Indigenous food security and climate action. Mariam is one of the six co-principal investigators of the Arramat Project, a Co-chair of the UNESCO Collaboration for Indigenous-Led Biodiversity Conservation, Health and Well-being, President of the Association Tinhinan, Chair of the Board of Directors at Land is Life, and an Adjunct Professor at the Faculty of Civil Law at the University of Ottawa.</p>	
<p>Dr. Robert (Bobby) Henry</p>	<p>Speaker, Health Panel</p>	<p>Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Justice and Wellbeing & Associate Professor, Department of Indigenous Studies, University of Saskatchewan</p>	<p>Robert Henry is Métis and a citizen of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, who is from Prince Albert, SK, and holds a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Justice and Wellbeing. His research focuses primarily on the experiences of Indigenous peoples engaged in street lifestyles, where he uses a survivance lens to challenge pathologized understandings of their experiences. Much of his research consists of using an Indigenous research framework focused on relational accountability through arts-based research methods. Working with Indigenous ex-gang members and</p>	

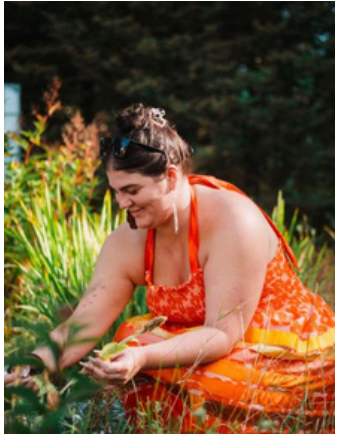




			<p>collecting life narratives using visual research methods, he examines how their notions of identity are impacted with their involvement within and across multiple social systems. Through this work he has published two manuscripts with Indigenous gang and ex-gang members – <i>Brighter Days Ahead</i> (2013) and <i>Indigenous Women and Street Gangs: Survivance Narratives</i> (2021), and co-edited four other books on Indigenous health, settler colonialism, and Indigenous sociology. He has published in the areas of Indigenous methodologies, arts-based research, Indigenous criminology, prison cultures, and Métis data sovereignty. Along with Drs. Caroline Tait and Chelsea Gabel, he has developed Métis data principles in relation to the ethical engagement across Métis communities. He is also leading an evaluation with John Howard on houselessness and street involved Indigenous youth and is a part of the <i>Nga Tūmanakotanga – Turning the Tide on Prison Violence</i></p>	
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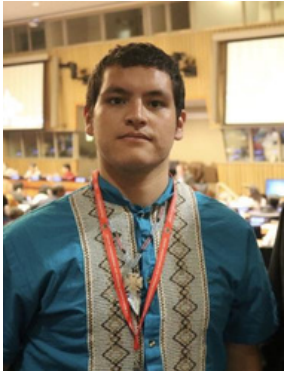




			research project in Aotearoa/New Zealand.	
Céline Wick	Speaker, Health Panel	PhD Candidate, Lakehead University	<p>Céline Wick is a Michif woman with family histories all across the prairies and is a descendant of Bellerose, Lafontaine, Gladu and Villebrun family lines. She is a citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario and the Region 2 representative on the Two-Spirit+ Council. She is a PhD candidate in the department of Health Sciences at Lakehead University. Her current area of research is focused on the importance of cultural knowledge and kinship to overall well-being and futurity. Céline is an auntie, a granddaughter, a community member, and a friend and is focused on finding ways to be helpful to her people.</p>	






<p>Dr. Victor Lopez-Carmen</p>	<p>Speaker, Health Panel</p>	<p>Resident Physician, Seattle Children's Hospital, University of Washington</p>	<p>Victor A. Lopez-Carmen, MPH, is a Dakota and Yaqui writer and Indigenous climate health advocate who graduates with an MD from Harvard Medical School this Spring. He is Co-Founder of the Ohiyesa Premedical Program at the Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) and Translations for our Nations, which translated accurate COVID-19 information into over 40 Indigenous languages from over 20 different countries. Over the past decade, he has advocated for Indigenous youth health and climate action across the UN system as the former Co-Chair of the UN Global Indigenous Youth Caucus. His writing and commentary have been featured across major media networks like ABC News, the UN News Centre, and the BBC, and in 2022 he became the first documented Native American to make the Forbes 30 under 30 list in the Healthcare category. Currently, he is a climate justice, representation, and healthcare Contributor at Forbes Magazine.</p>	
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Victor Odele	Moderator, Health Panel	Director of Health, Métis National Council	<p>Victor Odele is the Director of Health at the Métis National Council. He brings over a decade of experience in public health, Indigenous health advocacy, government relations, environmental health, and research. He has been deeply engaged in advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Before joining MNC, Victor led environmental health advocacy at the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), specializing in policy and program development, legislative reviews, negotiation, and research partnerships. He also brings extensive community-level experience, having advanced environmental public health program and policy initiatives at the Prince Albert Grand Council in Saskatchewan. Victor is also a PhD Candidate at Queen's University, Ontario, where his research focuses on inclusive and participatory governance approaches to sustainable food systems transition in Canada, specifically the assertion of Indigenous rights, knowledge</p>	
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			<p>systems, and governance in state-led food policy processes. In his spare time, Victor enjoys spending time with his family, gardening, going on road trips, and watching soccer.</p>	
<p>Angelique Belcourt</p>	<p>Speaker, EM Panel</p>	<p>Senior Manager, Indigenous Engagement and Support Programs, Emergency Management Ontario</p>	<p>Angelique Belcourt is a Métis Anishnaabe Youth from Georgian Bay Métis Community and a citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Holding a master's degree in adult education and community development from the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Angelique has conducted research on Métis youth in her community and how they form their identity as Indigenous people. Angelique is the Senior Manager of Indigenous Engagement and Support Programs at Emergency Management Ontario. She is focused on involving herself in work that is decolonial at a systems level yet committed to Indigenous-led relational ways of leading change. In gratitude to the variety of experiences she has had working with community, from front-line support work to</p>	






			increasing Indigenous education, research and governance, she is a dedicated advocate for Indigenous self-determination and community-focused approaches.	
Shelley Cardinal	Speaker, EM Panel	Senior Director, Office of Indigenous Relations, Canadian Red Cross	Shelley Cardinal, a member of the Bigstone Cree Nation in Northern Alberta, and now based on Lekwungan Peoples territory on southern Vancouver Island, has worked closely with Indigenous peoples and communities for over 35 years. With a deep understanding of the harms, disparities and challenges communities face during moments of crisis, Cardinal brings a holistic perspective on the pathways back to wellness. Shelley joined the Canadian Red Cross 28 years ago. Having served many functions over the years, today Shelley is the Senior Director of the Office of Indigenous Relations, ensuring culturally safe services are understood and practised and systems are accountable to the Indigenous Peoples we serve. She has expertise in culturally aligned process and practice, risk reduction and resilience,	





			protection frameworks, and Indigenous research. Shelley has an education background in Psychology and Social Work with post graduate education in Leadership.	
Thomas Joseph Tsewenaldin	Speaker, EM Panel	Carbon Pricing Educator, Indigenous Environmental Network	Thomas Joseph is a member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe and a descendant of the Lone Pine Shoshone Paiute Tribe from the occupied and unceded lands of California. He has spent the last decade defending his peoples' lands from carbon brokers, hydro dams and other false solutions. As California's largest land-based tribe on their ancestral lands of Hoopa Valley, they are targeted by carbon brokers with shady tactics. Thomas likens today's carbon brokers to the gold miners of the 19th century, saying both histories led to land grabs and the continuation of environmental destruction. As a former social justice organizer, he rallied his community to pass ballot measures securing the nation's strongest sanctuary laws for Dreamers and helped to pass racial profiling laws that California	





			<p>police officers are required to follow. Joining IEN fulltime in May, 2022, as the Carbon Price Educator, he follows current trends and policies regarding carbon markets and travels the country to educate communities about false solutions. Thomas embraces his work out of his great love for Mother Earth. When he is not fighting to protect Mother Earth, he enjoys the endless gifts she provides like mountain biking, snowboarding, hiking, swimming, camping – in other words, spending as much time in the natural world as possible. Having witnessed the destruction of the natural world, as an Indigenous human, he understands his responsibility to protect it.</p>	
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<p>Joshua Mitchell</p>	<p>Moderator, EM Panel</p>	<p>Senior Manager Indigenous Fire Stewardship, Natural Resources Canada</p>	<p>As a proud citizen of the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Manitoba Métis Federation, I have felt deeply connected to wilderness areas since childhood, with my father and grandfather taking me out at an early age to hunt, fish, and explore Alberta's mountains, foothills, and prairies. Connecting career ambitions with my passion for the outdoors, I spent six seasons working as a wildland firefighter for the government of Alberta. I witnessed first-hand the devastating impacts of wildfire on people and communities. My wildfire experiences and overarching love of Canada's forests led me to pursue a master's degree in Sustainable Energy and Resource Development, finishing with a capstone project on Western Canadian Forest Management Practices and Forest Carbon accounting issues. After graduation, I began my career with CCI Inc. as an environmental technician, splitting my time 50/50 between office and fieldwork, completing forest health surveys, growth inventories and calculating</p>	
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			<p>carbon storage potential for offset projects. After leaving CCI, I worked for ATCO Frontec's Partnering 4 Resilience division as a technical advisor and operations lead for Disaster and Emergency Management. This work brought me into close contact with our Indigenous community partners, allowing us to work together to increase self-directed EM capacity within the communities we served. During my time at ATCO Frontec, we were able to deliver 9-1-1 connectivity to the Blood Tribe and Stoney Nakoda Nations and establish a "first of its kind" regional EM program for the 5 member Nations of the Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council. I have also undertaken various consulting projects in my spare time on various passion projects, including completing a report for the Métis National Council on the innate connection between Métis citizens, wildfires, and cultural burning, and as a cultural consultant for Avalanche gaming studios in Sweden. I enjoy spending time in the mountains and forests as much</p>	
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			<p>as possible. I camp and hike in the warmer months and take my dog Obi for long walks around the city of Calgary with a good podcast in the darker winter months when those options are less accessible. I've been an avid hunter since I was young and enjoy annual hunting trips with my Dad and brother. When staying home, I enjoy watching good movies, making good food with my girlfriend, and, sadly but passionately, supporting the Edmonton Oilers.</p>	
Juanita Marois	Speaker, Ec Dev Panel	CEO, Métis Crossing	<p>Juanita Marois is a proud citizen of Alberta's Métis Nation, and considers herself privileged to lead Métis Crossing as Chief Executive Officer. Juanita earned her Master's degree in sustainable tourism development from the University of Alberta, where she continued as a lecturer for 2 years in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation. Juanita has worked in the tourism industry for over 20 years with diverse organizations such as Northlands Park and Princess Tours. Her experience has expanded from a front-line practitioner, to a planner,</p>	





			<p>researcher and consultant. Her journey has provided unique opportunities to participate in socio-economic development, Indigenous tourism, and community investment projects that feed her collaborative approach to Métis Crossing. As CEO, Juanita has overseen the development of Métis Crossing's solar energy project, the reintroduction of heritage bison species, and the bridging of environmental sustainability practices with Métis cultural heritage preservation. Juanita also contributes as a board member to Travel Alberta, Smoky Lake Tourism Company and the Alberta Métis Investment Corporation.</p>	
Bruce Hardy	Speaker, Ec Dev Panel	President, Myera Group	<p>Bruce Hardy, a Cree entrepreneur, is the Founder and President of the Myera Group, a health and nutrition technology organization seeking to provide targeted nutrition through sustainable and intelligent food production systems to Indigenous communities. Bruce has leveraged his expertise and success in the field of applied technological research to foster</p>	






			<p>unique partnerships that bring together leading-edge experts in nutrition, human health and food production. Developing a Circular Economy Farm Model, Bruce's work integrates the blue economy (aquaculture), the food economy (field crops), and the cultural health economy (traditional medicine) to foster community-level resilience and address global health and environmental challenges. Bruce has found innovative, inclusive ways to commercialise native rice for the benefit of Indigenous communities across the province of Manitoba, for instance by producing native rice and fish, simultaneously and sustainably, in low-cost, eco-friendly aquaponics facilities.</p>	
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Brandi Ross	Speaker, Ec Dev Panel	Economic Policy Consultant & Political Candidate, Cherokee Nation	Brandi Ross is an Economic Policy Consultant and Political Candidate for the Cherokee Nation At-Large Tribal Council. With over a decade of experience in government relations, trade policy, and economic development, Brandi has worked extensively in foreign trade zones, Indigenous business advocacy, and international trade policy. She has been a champion for Tribal economic sovereignty, Indigenous-to-Indigenous trade, and investment strategies that empower Native communities. Brandi's expertise lies in developing policies that drive sustainable economic growth while respecting Indigenous cultural values and sovereignty. She has advised on economic development strategies for Tribal Nations, led trade initiatives, and worked with both public and private sectors to advance Indigenous economic self-determination. Her work emphasizes strengthening global partnerships, increasing access to capital, and leveraging policy	
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			innovations to support Indigenous entrepreneurs.	
Ben Morgan	Speaker, Ec Dev Panel	Junior Trade Policy Analyst, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development	Ben Morgan (Ngāti Awa, Te Patuwai) is a Junior Trade Policy Analyst at the OECD, where he is currently researching and drafting several papers on Indigenous trade policy that cover areas such as Indigenous representation in trade policymaking and Indigenous-specific provisions in regional trade agreements. Ben holds a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Auckland, as well as a Master of Laws from Harvard Law School. Ben has held several previous positions, including with Ngā Toki Whakarururanga, as a researcher for the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and a teaching and research assistant at the University of Auckland.	





<p>Patrick Watson</p>	<p>Moderator, Ec Dev Panel</p>	<p>Director of Economic Development and Trade, Métis National Council</p>	<p>Patrick welcomes the opportunity to work with colleagues and partners to support Métis Prosperity and Well-being, in a good way. Patrick has over 20 years of Government experience with the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada in the Departments of Foreign Affairs, Natural Resources, Indigenous Services, Tourism, and most recently the Privy Council Office. Amongst his achievements Patrick successfully led a Pan-Canadian team to support the first research project by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) concerning Indigenous economic Development: “Linking Indigenous Communities to Regional Development.” Patrick is grateful to have benefited from the leadership of Canadian Indigenous Elders, Leaders, Nations and Institutions. As Director of Public Policy at the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB), Patrick led a team of dedicated professionals to support good public policy development and</p>	
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			<p>programs designed to benefit Indigenous peoples. At CCAB, Patrick was able to unlock additional funding to support Indigenous businesses through the worst of the COVID-19 Pandemic, develop Canada's first Indigenous-led Trade Policy review and propose substantive changes to Canada's procurement policies to create new opportunities for Indigenous businesses. Patrick holds a Master of Arts Degree in International Relations: Global Finance and International Trade from the Normal Paterson School of International Affairs (Carleton University), <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>. He is a proud husband as well as a father of two young children. In his spare time, Patrick enjoys playing squash, running and barbecuing on his Big Green Eggs.</p>	
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