

Dear Participating Guests,

We look forward to welcoming you to the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) First Nation Representative Services Conference on January 30 - February 1 at the Delta Winnipeg.

This gathering presents an opportunity for Band Representatives across NAN territory to come together and learn from one another about leading a successful program for the wellbeing of children, youth, and families.

The agenda includes presentations on the overview of the roles and responsibilities of a Band Representative, success stories from programs in NAN territory, and other best practices. This is a chance to learn from the skilled presenters and gather information to take away in furthering the development of your First Nation Representative Services Programs.

This is a space that is committed to strengthening the relationship and collaboration between Band Reps, and the agencies that serve First Nations in NAN territory, through respectful and open dialogue. This includes a panel of agency representatives who will answer questions gathered from yourselves, as well as breakout sessions with all three agencies.

The wellbeing of children, youth, and families across NAN territory is the priority for all attendees. We have created a gathering to ultimately advance this priority through connection and partnership.

I look forward to seeing and connecting with you all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bobby Narcisse". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light orange background with a repeating pattern of stylized animal and plant motifs.

Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse

Day 1: Tuesday, January 30, 2024

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
<i>All Plenary Sessions will take place in Delta B/C Room.</i>		
8:00 am – 8:50 am	Breakfast & Registration	
8:50 am – 9:10 am	Opening Prayer & Song	Elder Stella Schimmens Elder Teri Fiddler Elder Wally Mckay Whitehorse Drum Group
9:10 am – 9:30 a.m	Welcome Remarks	MC Brent Edwards Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse
9:30 am – 10:30 am	Overview of Band Rep Roles and Responsibilities	Jessie Stirling, Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP (OKT)
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Break	
10:45 am – 11:45 am	Creating the Band Rep Program in Sandy Lake First Nation	Sandy Lake First Nation
11:45 am – 12:45 pm Lunch		
12:45 pm – 1:45 pm	Breakout Sessions	
	<i>Participants will be assigned to Group A, B or C. Participants will rotate through all breakout sessions throughout the Conference, completing one breakout session per day.</i>	
	Breakout Session #1 - Group A Child and Family Prevention Programs	Robin Haliuk, Matawa Council <i>Room: Charleswood B</i>
	Breakout Session #2 - Group B Writing it Down: Why, What and How of Documenting our Work	Nicole Richmond <i>Room: Delta A</i>
	Breakout Session #3 - Group C Strength Based Collaborative Practice	Kristin Murray & Roberta Echum, Kunuwanimano <i>Room: Delta B/C</i>
1:50 pm – 2:45 pm	Executives from Child and Family Service Agencies Answer Band Rep Questions	Kunuwanimano: Kristin Murray & Charlene Moore Payukotayno: Irene Tomatuk & Geraldine Cheechoo Tikinagan: Robin Bunting, Rosemary McKay and Thelma Morris Moderator: Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Break	
3:00 pm – 4:50 pm	A Vision for Band Rep: A United National Path Forward	Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse, NARC Co-Chair Julian Falconer, Falconers LLP
4:50 pm – 5:00 pm	Day 1 Wrap-up	MC Brent Edwards Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse

Day 2: Wednesday, January 31, 2024

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
<i>All Plenary Sessions will take place in Delta B/C Room.</i>		
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast & Registration	
9:00 am – 9:15 am	Welcome & Day 1 Recap	MC Brent Edwards
9:15 am – 10:45 a.m	Supporting First Nations in Delivering Child and Family Services	Lisa Legault Indigenous Services Canada
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Break	
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Developing a Band Rep Program in Thunder Bay: A Successful Model	Robin Haliuk Matawa Council
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Lunch		
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Breakout Sessions	
	<i>Participants will be assigned to Group A, B or C. Participants will rotate through all breakout sessions throughout the Conference, completing one breakout session per day.</i>	
	Breakout Session #1 - Group C Child and Family Prevention Programs	Robin Haliuk, Matawa Council <i>Room: Charleswood B</i>
	Breakout Session #2 - Group A Writing it Down: Why, What and How of Documenting our Work	Nicole Richmond <i>Room: Delta A</i>
	Breakout Session #3 - Group B Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin - Everyone working together to raise our children	Robin Bunting & Rosemary McKay, Tikinagan <i>Room: Delta B/C</i>
2:00 pm – 2:15 pm	Break	
2:15 pm – 4:15 pm	Child and Family Services Long Term Reform Dialogue Session	MC Brent Edwards Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse Falconers LLP
4:15 pm – 4:30pm	Day 2 Wrap-up	MC Brent Edwards Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Optional: Dinner & Entertainment	Room: Delta B/C

Day 3: Thursday, February 1, 2024

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTER
<i>All Plenary Sessions will take place in Delta B/C Room.</i>		
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast & Registration	
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Welcome & Day 2 Recap	MC Brent Edwards
9:30 am – 10:45 a.m	Asubpeeschoseewagong Aankaanotamage'win and Animikii Ozoson Child and Family Services First Nation Agency Relationship Agreement: How an Agency and a First Nations Band Rep Program Work Together Across Provincial Boundaries	Maria Swain, Grassy Narrows First Nation Trudy Lavallee & Ryan Woychuk, Animikii Ozoson Child and Family Services Jessie Stirling, Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP (OKT)
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Break	
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Breakout Sessions	
	<i>Participants will be assigned to Group A, B or C. Participants will rotate through all breakout sessions throughout the Conference, completing one breakout session per day.</i>	
	Breakout Session #1 - Group B Child and Family Prevention Programs	Robin Haliuk, Matawa Council <i>Room: Charleswood B</i>
	Breakout Session #2 - Group C Writing it Down: Why, What and How of Documenting our Work	Nicole Richmond <i>Room: Delta A</i>
	Breakout Session #3 - Group A Working Together	Irene Tomatuk & Geradline Cheechoo, Payukotayno <i>Room: Delta B/C</i>
12:00 am – 1:00 pm Lunch		
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	First Nations Child and Family Services Compensation Final Settlement Agreement Dialogue Session	MC Brent Edwards Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse Falconers LLP
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Break	
3:15 pm – 3:45 pm	Open Mic Forum	MC Brent Edwards Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse
3:45 pm – 4:15pm	Closing Remarks Closing Prayer & Drum Song	Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse Elder Stella Schimmens Elder Teri Fiddler Elder Wally McKay Whitehorse Drum Group



Presenters & Session Summaries

Elder Stella Schimmens



Stella was born on the land on Hurricanaw River in the Hannah Bay Area. Stella has seven siblings, four who have passed. Stella is an Auntie to many, a mother of four and a very proud Kookom (grandmother) of eleven and two jabans (great grandsons), with her husband Bruce.

Stella attended the Bishop Horden Hall, also known as Bishop Horden Memorial School, Moose Factory Residential school at the early age of six, then at ten years she was shipped to Shingwauk Hall, Sault Ste Marie. She then went on to attend secondary school and post secondary in the Social Services field.

Over many years Stella gained experience working various jobs from store clerk, secretary/admin assistant and teacher's aide. Her longest employment was with Weeneebayko Area Health Authority/Health Canada for approximately 30+ years in Medical Transportation/NHIB.

Stella also served as a councillor for Moose Cree First Nation for ten terms, for a total of ten years, and through this time held various portfolios including Health, Education, Children/Youth advocacy and Employment.

Lastly Stella worked with Health Canada/WAHA, the Indian Residential Health Support Services, providing cultural and traditional mental health support to residential school survivors and their families. This work included supporting the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. One highlight from this time was travelling with CAMH, Centre for Addictions and Mental Health to Peru, where she had the opportunity to meet with a group of international Elders and traditional practitioners, that use ceremonies and local herbs to aid in detoxing the addict.

Elder Theresa Fiddler



Booshoo Wichiya and Hello everyone, my name is Theresa Fiddler and also known as Elder Teri Fiddler. I am from Sandy Lake First Nation but originally from the Treaty Three area, Big Grassy FN and Shoal lake 40 FN. I am 72 years old, I have four adult children but I lost one son on November 2022. I'm a grandmother of 19, great grandmother of 21. I've been working in the health field as an independent consultant as a traditional cultural mental health counsellor. I'm also an Elder/ Knowledge Keeper for AFN, COO, NAN, and other organizations.

Elder Wally McKay



A member of Sachigo Lake First Nation, Wally McKay served as NAN Grand Chief from 1981-1983 and Ontario Regional Chief and Vice-Chief of the Assembly of First Nations from 1982-1984. Throughout his 55-year career he has served the people of Nishnawbe Aski in many roles including:

- Assisted in the drafting of the Declaration of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation, serving official notice to Canada and Ontario of the rights and principles under Treaty No. 9 of people and their lands, while serving as Vice-President to then-President Andrew Rickard of Grand Council Treaty No. 9, which became Nishnawbe Aski Nation.
- Launched the legal case to ensure the protection of Treaty rights and relationship with the Crown, which resulted in a ruling upholding the Crown-Treaty relationship by the London High Court in England.
- Assisted with the restructuring of the National Indian Brotherhood into the Assembly of First Nations.
- Advocated and supported the development of Nishnawbe Aski Nation Police Service as one of the first Indigenous police services under First Nation control.

Wally is a strong advocate for the implementation of Treaty rights for NAN First Nations. He has worked with many communities to develop systems of self government based on First Nations jurisdiction. Most recently, he worked as a consultant on First Nations governance and policing issues, as well as Health Transformation. As a respected NAN Elder, he continues to advise the NAN Executive Council and First Nation leadership on many issues and priorities facing our communities.

Whitehorse Drum Group



Whitehorse Drum Group is a family drum group consisting of nephews brother in laws and cousins. We've been together since 1997 travelling to powwows in Canada and United States. We also sing in ceremonies, teach singing, drug and alcohol free, live traditional life style, and encourage youth to live that mino pamatisiwin, teach cultural and language Aho bit of what we do as a family Aho meegwetch.

MC Brent Edwards



Mooselegs aka Brent Edwards is dedicated to the growth and encouragement of your event and all participants, and he does this by involving everyone in a positive, interactive, and informative approach.

Even though his approach may seem simple, it is pure, and it instills your event and participants with inspiration, joy, and laughter.

And just as Moose's legs are the strongest part of the majestic creature's frame, Brent Edwards will carry your event and participants in the same respectful way, by supporting all to hold their heads high.

Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse

Nishnawbe Aski Nation



Bobby Narcisse is an Ojibway from the Aroland First Nation located in Treaty 9 territory. He studied political studies/Law at Lakehead University and had an internship at the Native Law Centre at the University of Saskatchewan. He has served a term as band councillor for the Aroland First Nation. He has served as Director of Social Services at Nishnawbe Aski Nation going into nine years. As Director, Bobby oversaw social services reform, child and family services and family well being. During that time, he was the lead on NAN's intervener status at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, where the federal government was found guilty of racially discriminating against First Nation children by not providing adequate funding for child and family services on-reserve, and the failure to implement Jordan's Principle.

Bobby has extensively worked in community social service and the education field for the past 20 years. He has led youth leadership teams to many First Nation communities conducting youth and family-oriented programs. Bobby has led international community development teams to Venezuela, Bolivia and worked with the Māori people in New Zealand. Bobby continues to volunteer as a mentor with the Regional Multicultural Youth Council.

Bobby has worked as an Education Counsellor for First Nation youth at Thunder Bay High schools. He later headed the athletic and recreation department at Dennis Franklin Cromarty High Schools coaching various sports teams and leading land-based wilderness education excursions for the students.

Bobby has a certificate in arts administration through the centre of indigenous theatre where he has acted in plays, theatre, and has taught students in the performing arts. He has worked in schools with students using Forum Theatre to look at and deal with social issues affecting youth. He is a professional singer and frequently performs at various community and social events.

Bobby enjoys spending time with his two daughters, friends and loved ones. He believes the best way to predict the future is to create it yourself.

Day 1

Overview of Band Rep Roles and Responsibilities

Tuesday, January 30 - 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

This session will provide an introduction to the role, rights, and responsibilities of First Nation (Band) Representatives. The presentation will focus on how Band Reps and their role are defined under Ontario's Child, Youth, and Family Services Act and the Federal Act (formerly known as Bill C-92). Specifically, the session will cover topics, including statutory obligations, right to notification and consultation by Societies, acting as a party to a court proceeding, and adoption and openness.

Jessie Stirling

Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP (OKT)



Jessie Stirling (Wa'ya T'so-la) is Kwakwaka'wakw and a member of the Wei Wai Kum First Nation located in Campbell River, British Columbia. She relocated from BC to Toronto for law school in 2017.

She graduated from the University of Toronto Faculty of Law in 2020 with a Juris Doctor (JD) and Certificate in Aboriginal Legal Studies and became a member of the Ontario bar in 2021.

Jessie is an associate at Olthuis Kleer Townshend LLP in Toronto, Ontario. Her practice primarily consists of negotiation and litigation in the area of child welfare. In the child welfare space, Jessie is honoured to work with First Nations to support their exercise of inherent jurisdiction over the well-being of their children, youth, and families and to defend and assert their rights in court.

Creating the Band Rep Program in Sandy Lake First Nation

Tuesday, January 30 - 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

The Sandy Lake Mamow Weechiwayin Program has been supporting Sandy Lake community members on and off reserve with Band Rep and Prevention services since 2021. In our session we will share information about the program, how we developed services in consultation with community members, elders and leadership, key success stories & activities from our three offices and some information about capital initiatives.

Sandy Lake First Nation

MAMOW WEECHIWAYIN



Jackie Rae

Social Services Director



Michelle Goodman

Councillor Liaison



Roderick Fiddler

Program Development Advisor



Rachel Anishinabie

Thunder Bay Manager



Christine Meekis

Assistant Social Services Director



Rosalyn Kemble

Winnipeg Team Lead



Natalie Daniels

Winnipeg Manager



Paula Gilverson

Program Dev, IT, Capital

Breakout Sessions - Day 1

Breakout Session - Group A Child and Family Prevention Programs

Tuesday, January 30 - 12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

In this breakout session, participants will learn about prevention services and supports currently being offered through the Matawa Awashishewiigihiwaywiin Program. These will include formal supports and informal supports and cover a variety of needs of families to achieve improved success for our children.

Presented by Robin Haliuk.

Robin Haliuk Matawa First Nations Management



My name is Robin Haliuk and I am the Awashishewiigihiwaywiin Program Manager with Matawa First Nations Management. And have been in this role since 2019. I am a mother of 2 daughters and 1 dog and am a proud Metis woman with connections to Lac Seul First Nation and Metis Settlements in the Ottawa River area. I was born and raised in Thunder Bay and am proud to call it my home.

I have over 25 years of experience in the Social Services field having worked both on and off reserve in Ontario and Manitoba supporting Indigenous families with direct services and I have over 15 years Management experience with First Nations service providers in Thunder Bay. I have worked extensively in the areas of children's and Adolescent mental health and the Violence against women sector.

I am a certified Life coach and have been a presenter and panellist for the Ontario Women's Directorate, Canadian Domestic Violence Conference, Steve Palkin (TVO), numerous key note addresses and have received provincial volunteer awards for community volunteer work. I am excited to share the work we have done with the Awashishewiigihiwaywiin Program and some of the learning we have experienced through this process.

Breakout Session - Group B

Writing It Down: Why, What and How of Documenting Our Work

Tuesday, January 30 - 12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

This session will highlight the best practices in case note taking for band representatives.

Case notes document anything that is important respecting your client's care and informs planning and decision making. You have a duty to create detailed, accurate records of your interactions with the client, including services you provide as well as interactions between your client and the social services agency. Protect yourself, your First Nation and your client by taking accurate, objective and relevant case notes. Join us for an interactive session about the role of the band rep and how to take high quality case notes.

Presented by **Nicole Richmond**.

Nicole Richmond

Biigitong Nishnaabeg (Pic River First Nation)



Nicole Richmond is a member of Biigitong Nishnaabeg (Pic River First Nation). She is a lawyer and a wellness consultant that regularly works with Anishinabe communities and governments to develop policies, practices and wellness initiatives that contribute to nation building and community healing. Nicole is also a meditation teacher, energy healer, jingle dress dancer and athlete.



Breakout Session - Group C

Strength Based Collaborative Practice

Tuesday, January 30 - 12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Attendees can learn about Kuuwanimano's approach to collaborative partnerships by using a creative and strategic approach that results in community connections.

Presented by Kristin Murray and Roberta Echum.

Kristin Murray

Executive Director, Kuuwanimano Child & Family Services



On July 24, 2023, I joined Kuuwanimano Child & Family Services as the new Executive Director. I am certainly no stranger to the agency, as Kuuwanimano is where I obtained my first job after graduating college in 2003. It is with great honour that I carry out this very important work and for my career to have come full circle and now returning to the agency in this capacity is truly a gift that I hold dear.

I am a proud registered member of Chapleau Cree First Nation and grew up in Chapleau before moving to Timmins for college in 2001. When I left Chapleau I set out to make change in society, vowing to make the lives of others better in some way. I enrolled in a dual diploma program, graduating with a Social Service Worker and Drug and Alcohol Counsellor Diploma. Kuuwanimano provided me with opportunities to work alongside many thought provokers, knowledge keepers, traditional people, scholars, caring communities, residential school survivors, and distinguished members of many First Nation communities across Turtle Island.

I utilize a wholistic approach to the work that I engage in that integrates every individual's personal responsibility to reconciliation and decolonization. With over 20 years of professional experience coupled with lived experience, in addition to the college diplomas I previously mentioned, I hold a BA in Equity, Diversity, and Human Rights.

As a mixed race Black and Indigenous woman, my intersectional identity helps me empathize with diverse communities and bring compassion and kindness to my work. My ability to relate to others that have experienced discrimination, racism and exclusion provides me with the ability to influence much-needed policy change.

When not immersed in policy review, I enjoy spending time on the Land with my daughters.

Roberta Echum

Community Relations Specialist, Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services



Born and raised in Moose Factory, Ontario, and proud member of Moose Cree First Nation. Roberta Echum is the Community Relations Specialist for Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services. Her most honored role is being a mother to two daughters Lena (23) and Ashley (21) and grandmother to Alivia (3).

In her career, Roberta's passion has always been working with our indigenous children and families, Roberta has years of experience working in Social Work Field. Roberta has previously worked for Payukotayno: James and Hudson Bay Family Services, Barrie Native Friendship Centre and Enaahtig Healing Lodge. One of the beautiful gifts she appreciates the most is the connection to the land, culture, and yearly traditional harvest with her family.

Working with our First Nations is only a piece of the pie. If we can guide our families to prosper and take care of their own, then our mission is accomplished. The Community Relations Department was created in 2022 to help build healthy working relationship with First Nations and Communities.

Executives from Child and Family Service Agencies Answer Band Rep Questions - Panelists

Tuesday, January 30 - 1:50 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

We look forward to welcoming a panel of executives from Tikinagan, Kunuwanimano, and Payukotayno to answer questions you have shared. Each agency will have a chance to respond to questions, allowing participants to see what each agency is doing and to gather ideas and best practices on what is working in NAN territory. This is an opportunity to strengthen collaboration and relationships between service providers in NAN territory through respectful dialogue.

Panelists include:

Kunuwanimano Child & Family Services

Kristin Murray (page 13)

Charlene Moore (page 15)

Payukotayno

Irene Tomatuk (page 27)

Geraldine Cheechoo (page 28)

Tikinagan Child & Family Services

Robin Bunting (page 21)

Rosemary McKay (page 21)

Thelma Morris (page 15)

Moderator:

Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse (page 8)

Charlene Moore

**Manager of First Nation Relations and
Community Engagement , Kuuwanimano**



Charlene is a dedicated child welfare professional with a deep commitment to supporting and empowering First Nation families and communities. A proud member of Constance Lake First Nation, she has a profound connection to her traditional roots and values the importance of family life. Charlene and her husband are proud parents to four children, and they have been blessed with four grandchildren.

Her personal and professional life intertwine as she has dedicated over 13 years to working in child welfare and prevention programs, specifically to First Nation families. Witnessing the impacts of children and families involved in the child welfare system has only fueled her passion to make a meaningful difference through her work.

As an Indigenous woman, Charlene believes in being a strong voice for First Nations children, advocating for their well-being and the preservation of their cultural heritage. She firmly believes that a solid healthy foundation for children begins in the home and is dedicated to helping families achieve this.

Through her work, she strives to make positive changes that will allow children to have the opportunity to grow up in nurturing, supportive environments that honor their cultural identity.

Charlene currently resides in Timmins, ON and enjoys her recreational time by spending time with family, hunting, fishing and beading.

Thelma Morris

Executive Director, Tikinagan Child & Family Services



A member of Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Thelma is Tikinagan's Executive Director. She reports directly to the Tikinagan Board of Directors and is responsible for the overall organization, direction, and operation of Tikinagan services as well as providing leadership to the agency. Building on the development of the Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin service model, Thelma is guiding Tikinagan's role from a position of child welfare leadership to a more supportive role in developing First Nation child welfare laws that align with each community's culture and history.

A Vision for Band Rep: A United National Path Forward

Tuesday, January 30 - 3:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m.

We welcome you to a dialogue session with Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse, as a Co-Chair of NARC, to discuss an emerging vision of First Nation access to the education and resources required to develop national Band Rep standards and strengthen Band Rep programs across the country. We know that strong Band Rep programs are essential to the future of First Nations child and family services in Canada, and to the wellbeing of First Nations children, youth, and families. However, the patchwork of existing programs across the country currently receives different levels of funding and provides different levels of service. The unfairness of this inconsistency is particularly concerning for remote communities.

Presented by Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse and Julian Falconer.



Julian Falconer

Falconers LLP



Julian Falconer is the founding partner of Falconers LLP – a full-service law firm with offices in Toronto and Thunder Bay. Julian has been practicing law in the areas of policing, human rights, and state accountability for over 30 years. He holds degrees from the University of Alberta, McGill University, and the University of Toronto, in addition to an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Guelph-Humber. He served as a Bencher of the Law Society of Ontario from 2010 to 2023, spanning the maximum of three terms. He is also an author, writing extensively on issues of race and civil liberties, and co-authoring the book, the Annotated Coroners Act. In the true tradition of a Barrister, Julian Falconer’s practice takes him to civil, administrative, and criminal courts at both trial and appellate levels, including the Supreme Court. He is bilingual and has argued cases in both English and French.

Julian has acted as counsel on matters related to prisoner rights, police accountability, and human rights, including representing Mahar Arar, the family of Ashley Smith, and Adam Nobody and the “Free Press Four.” He also acted as counsel in the Ipperwash Inquiry, the Goudge Inquiry, the Seven Youth Inquest, and for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

More recently, Julian has served as legal counsel and lead negotiator for the Indigenous Police Chiefs of Ontario (“IPCO”) in the fight against discriminatory funding for Indigenous police services, and as counsel for Kimberly Murray, the Independent Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites associated with Indian Residential Schools.

Julian has acted as counsel for Nishnawbe Aski Nation (“NAN”) in various matters since 2008, including child welfare reform since 2016 through NAN’s ongoing intervention in the Caring Society case before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. He has also acted as legal counsel for the National Assembly of Remote Communities (“NARC”) since its inception in 2021.

Outside of the courtroom, Julian is also a pilot, and has logged over 3,000 hours in his Cessna 182, flying to and from the North to meet with First Nations clients and communities.

Day 2

Supporting First Nations in Delivering Child and Family Services

Wednesday, January 31 - 9:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Throughout this presentation, participants will learn about Indigenous Services Canada's funding stream- First Nation Representative Services. The objective of this funding stream is to support First Nations when children, youth, young adults and families from their community are involved or at risk of involvement with the child and family services system.

The presentation will also provide a brief overview of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program with an emphasis on how First Nation Representative Services interacts with other funding streams. The presenter (Lisa Legault) will also highlight 'best practices' within Ontario that speak to the well-established Band Representative Services within Ontario that ISC would like to see replicated in the rest of the country.

Presented by Lisa Legault.

Lisa Legault
Indigenous Services Canada



Lisa Legault is currently the Acting Director General for the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Partnerships Branch at Indigenous Services Canada. She lives in Ottawa on un-surrendered un-ceded Anishinabe Algonquin territory. Lisa began her public service career 20 years ago working on programs in the area of economic development, tourism, student loans, labour market and homelessness. Lisa joined what was then Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada in 2017, in the capacity of Director of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program. Since that time, Lisa has held leadership roles directing teams that worked on the implementation of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's orders, and the recently court approved First Nations Child and Family Services, Jordan's Principle and Trout Class Settlement Agreement.

Developing a Band Rep Program in Thunder Bay: A Successful Model

Wednesday, January 31 - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

In this presentation, we will learn about Matawa and the successes they experienced in the development of their Band Rep program and how it has evolved to be a comprehensive wrap around service provider to include not only FNRS (Band Rep), but also; Post Majority Care, Family Resource Centre, Jordan's Principle and Transitional Housing under one roof. I will also discuss some of the many challenges we have experienced and grown from over the years.

Presented by Robin Haliuk (page 11).



Breakout Sessions - Day 2

Breakout Session - Group C Child and Family Prevention Programs

Wednesday, January 31 - 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Presented by Robin Haliuk (session summary and bio available on page 11).

Breakout Session - Group A Writing It Down: Why, What and How of Documenting Our Work

Wednesday, January 31 - 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Presented by Nicole Richmond (session summary and bio available on page 12).

Breakout Session - Group B Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin Everyone Working Together to Raise Our Children

Wednesday, January 31 - 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

This session looks at how Tikinagan Child and Family Services and your First Nation representative program can collaborate with everyone who has an interest in the child. Led by our Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin Service Model, which translates to “everyone working together to raise our children,” we work together to ensure the safety, rights, and wellbeing of the child while providing the supports to the family. This session will provide examples of how Tikinagan’s working relationship with its 30 First Nation and their First Nation Representative programs have resulted in positive outcomes. Participants will also learn about the dual mandate of Tikinagan, including the power and authority of First Nations, and the tools Tikinagan has developed to help your community’s leadership, including working protocols and more.

Presented by Robin Bunting and Rosemary McKay.

Robin Bunting

**Niigaanshkaawin Project Manager,
Tikinagan Child & Family Services**



Robin's personal experiences of being in care as a child have led her on a path to improve for children and youth. After more than a dozen years of frontline child and family services and two terms as band councillor in her home community of Constance Lake First Nation, Robin joined Tikinagan Child and Family Services as the Niigaanshkaawin Project Manager. Passionate about revitalizing our ways as First Nations people, Robin is focused on community engagement and collaboration towards the development and implementation of First Nation representation programs and First Nation child welfare laws.

Rosemary McKay

Special Projects, Tikinagan Child & Family Services



Rosemary has been a fundamental leader in the development, training, practise of Tikinagan Child & Family Services' service model, Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin. Returning to our traditional ways of caring for children and supporting families, she believes the answers lie within the community. Most recently, Rosemary played a key role in helping Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug establish its own family law known as "Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug Dibenjikewin Onaakonikewin" (KIDO). Rosemary was also Chief in her home community of Bearskin Lake First Nation. Altogether, Rosemary has worked for Tikinagan for almost 25 years, and moving forward will help Niigaanshkaawin in working with other First Nations develop their child welfare laws.

Child and Family Services Long Term Reform Dialogue Session

Wednesday, January 31 - 2:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

We welcome you for an overview and discussion on the implementations of the reforms of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program. NAN will provide a brief overview of the current measures being taken to mitigate discrimination, such as post-majority support services and capital funding. NAN would like to take this opportunity to hear from you about the successes and challenges you have experienced thus far with these reforms, so we can work to ensure these measures are working to end discrimination for First Nations and services providers in NAN territory.

Presented by Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse and Falconers LLP.



Day 3

Asubpeeschoseewagong Aankaanotamage'win and Animikii Ozoson Child and Family Services First Nation Agency Relationship Agreement: How an Agency and a First Nations Band Rep Program Work Together Across Provincial Boundaries

Thursday, February 1 - 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

The Relationship Agreement between Asubpeeschoseewagong Aankaanotamage'win and Animikii Ozoson Child and Family Services Agency represents an interprovincial/territorial relationship between a First Nation in Northwestern Ontario and a mandated First Nation child welfare agency based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. "Wiisookotaatiwin" Working Together Relationship Agreement represents a framework tool that will be utilized between the First Nation band rep program and the Agency to promote a collaborative case consultative process to ensure a seamless service delivery approach for families and children living in Winnipeg that belong to Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nation.

Presented by Maria Swain, Trudy Lavallee, Ryan Woychuk and Jessie Stirling (page 9).

Maria Swain

**Program Manager, Child and Family Advocate Team
Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nation (Grassy Narrows FN)**



Maria Swain (Anishnaabe name meaning "Lightening Thunder Woman") is the Program Manager of Asubpeeschoseewagong Aankaanotamage'win (Grassy Narrows Child and Family Advocates).

Maria is a band member of Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (Grassy Narrows First Nation) located near Kenora. She is from the Lynx clan.

Maria is a survivor of residential school and domestic violence. She uses her experience in social services and counselling for creating healthy and flourishing Indigenous communities to provide action-oriented advocacy for Anishnabe-kweg and their families. Recognizing the histories of collection grief, Maria supports families in crisis through pro-active healing and counselling to create healthy self-directed initiatives. She strives to protect Anishnabe children and families.

Maria approaches her work through personal and professional experience as well as specialized training and Certificates in Restorative Justice, First Nations Counselling, Child Protection, Grief Counselling and Domestic Violence Prevention.

Trudy Lavallee

**Executive Director,
Animikii Ozoson Child and Family Services**



Trudy began her involvement with Animikii Ozoson Child and Family Services as a founding Board Member since its inception 18 years ago and has been the agency's Executive Director for the past 4 years. Trudy is a First Nations member of Kiashe Zaaging Anishinaabek First Nation (AKA Gull Bay) in Northwestern Ontario, Robinson Superior Treaty. She grew up in Thunder Bay and on her reserve. Trudy graduated from Lakehead University in 1987. Ms. Lavallee brings a wealth of knowledge and work experience to this role. She has worked in a multitude of FN social program and policy areas associated with FNCFS in Manitoba, both levels of government including FN, the non-profit sector and urban Winnipeg with Indigenous peoples and stakeholders for 37 years in Manitoba.

Ms. Lavallee is well respected for achieving credibility in the community, Province of Manitoba, and across Canada, particularly for her advocacy and mediation work with FN children, families and leaders involved in child welfare and jurisdictional reform. Her work has been the impetus that has resulted in success and great strides in Canadian policy for FN children, youth, families, and communities. In November 2005, Trudy brought Jordan's story to the attention of the public with her article entitled "Honouring Jordan: Putting First Nations children first and funding fights second" published in Pediatrics and Child Health. Her article called for the federal and provincial governments to immediately adopt a "child first policy" and call it "Jordan's Principle" in honour of Jordan Anderson.

She holds strong conviction for the integrity of Animikii and is committed to protecting the inherent rights of Indigenous children and their families that have connections with Ontario First Nations of which she is from one. Trudy is committed to forming and enhancing strong partnerships with Ontario First Nations in doing this work. She is a proud mother and Nokomis.

Ryan Woychuk

Animikii Ozoson Child and Family Services

Ryan has worked in the field of child welfare for the past 23 years, spending the last 18 years working at Indigenous child welfare agencies. He joined Animikii Ozoson Child and Family Services in 2013 as the Quality Assurance Specialist and has been the Director of Services since February of 2020. During his career in child welfare, he has worked in numerous positions, including case manager, supervisor, manager, and agency/FN community resource development. Mr. Woychuk brings a depth of knowledge in child welfare services and supports, including the experience in co-developing an Indigenous resource to provide a continuity of services to families and children moving between on and off reserve. Services focused on providing culturally specific specialized and emergency urban and community placement resources, preventative services, wrap around support services, reunification homes, post age of majority supports and culturally relevant programs and services supporting FN communities.

Mr. Woychuk also comes with years of experience in working with the University of Manitoba as a co-therapist providing clinical services to couples struggling with a history of domestic violence, and experience serving on the Board of Directors for the Kidney Foundation.

He comes with a strong devotion and advocacy for cross-jurisdictional/territorial child welfare services that respects the inherent rights of Indigenous families and children that are connected to First Nation communities in Ontario. He is committed to the ongoing development and strengthening of partnerships with First Nations in Ontario to provide seamless supportive and preventative services for families moving between Manitoba and Ontario.

Breakout Sessions - Day 3

Breakout Session - Group B Child and Family Prevention Programs

Thursday, February 1 - 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Presented by Robin Haliuk (session summary and bio available on page 11).

Breakout Session - Group C Writing It Down: Why, What and How of Documenting Our Work

Thursday, February 1 - 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Presented by Nicole Richmond (session summary and bio available on page 12).



Breakout Session - Group A Working Together

Thursday, February 1 - 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Irene Tomatuk and Geri Cheechoo will share the Agency's current phase of collaboration with First Nation Representatives in developing a complementary, culturally relevant, and community-based child welfare serve. The Agency is a partner in the journey of the systemic re-structuring of Ontario and Federal child welfare services to be a more supportive, community-based, and prevention-focused model. This journey of transformation is informed by the voices of children, youth, and families, as we identify sustainable solutions for increased collaboration in the region.

Presented by Irene Tomatuk and Geraldine Cheechoo.

Irene Tomatuk Executive Director, Payukotayno



Born and raised in Moose Factory through Kinship with my great aunt and uncle at a very young age. I completed my education locally OSSGD in 1988, I graduated in the first class of the Aboriginal Teacher Education program with Queen's University in 1995 and also attained my Honours Degree in Indigenous Studies from Laurentian in October 2018 and completed the Executive Leadership Program through Queen's University in December 2023.

I have a strong passion for working with and for our people and promoting Community Wellness and Healthy Living which I believe needs to be at the forefront of our work. I have been working with the Mushkegowuk communities for the last fifteen years initially through Education as the Director of Education at Mushkegowuk Council and it will be five years in March that I have been at Payukotayno as a Special Projects Coordinator, Acting Associate Executive Director, Associate Executive Director and now as Executive Director.

Our teams at Payukotayno have really been working hard to establish a strong and positive working relationship with the community members and transforming "Child Welfare" to use a more collaborative approach in supporting families. The organizations and service providers that we work with are also developing their programs and services to enhance services and community wellness at the community level. I believe together with the communities we are striving for "Community Wellness!"

Geraldine Cheechoo

Associate Executive Director, Payukotayno



In 2002, I began my journey with Payukotayno: James and Hudson Bay Family Services as a Section 19 Classroom Counsellor and transitioned to a Child Care Worker the following year. As a Frontline Worker, I had the opportunity to work with many children and families, becoming their advocate and ally in their path towards healing and reunification.

Over the past 10 years, I have filled many capacities in management roles for the agency, leading me to my current role as Associate Executive Director in 2022. Early on in my career, I knew I would remain in this field permanently and I would remain a member of Payukotayno as I am committed to serving First Nations and the others throughout the James Bay Coast.

I am a proud mother of three amazing children who I raise with my loving husband. Family is important to me, whether it's my immediate, extended family or others. At a very young age, I was introduced to fostering, customary and kinship care, as my grandparents, parents and other family members cared for children other than their own. There was no divide, they weren't different, they were and still are my family. I am grateful for these connections and the lessons this love has taught me throughout my life.

I believe strongly in supporting one another and lifting each other up and I am committed to bringing this into my work as a leader, service provider and colleague. As an Indigenous woman, I know our communities can change what Child Welfare looks like for our people, and I believe we can achieve this together.

First Nations Child and Family Services Compensation Final Settlement Agreement Dialogue Session

Thursday, February 1 - 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Please join us for a conversation about the rollout of the \$23.3 billion to compensate people for the discrimination they experience from the First Nations Child and Family Services Program and Jordan's Principle. NAN will provide a brief overview of what we know so far about the compensation rollout. More importantly, NAN wants to hear from you with respect to potential barriers people may encounter in accessing their claims and resources needed to support access to claims and claimant wellbeing.

Presented by Deputy Grand Chief Bobby Narcisse and Falconers LLP.



