



Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Women's Gathering

2018



Opening Address



On behalf of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Executive, I wish to extend my greetings to the elders, chiefs, councillors, conference delegates and most importantly, our women, to the "Honouring Our Legacy" conference.

I was recently assigned this portfolio, and it is one that I am passionate about in that I have daughters, granddaughters, nieces, sisters and cousins. This conference is critical, for the women have always been our life-givers, protectors, and they make our homes feel safe for our children, as well as for the family and whole communities. Now, we need to protect them.

For the next three days, you will hear from Keynote Speakers who will address the issue of colonization

and how such has negatively impacted our Indigenous girls and women, particularly as it relates to sexual exploitation and trafficking. The dismal statistics in Canada are alarming whereby Indigenous girls and women account for a large percentage of victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking, particularly when Indigenous girls and women only account for 4% of the population in Canada. The overrepresentation of Indigenous girls and women who are exploited or trafficked stems from their economic and social marginalization, which puts them at risk.

The NAN Executive and staff recognize that much work needs to be done in this regard. We need to ensure that efforts are made to address Indigenous girls and women's vulnerability, and that is what we hope to do over the next three days: strategize on how to ensure that our Indigenous girls and women can live in a society where they feel safe and do not need to worry about sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

The NAN staff responsible for planning and organizing the "Honouring Our Legacy" conference have done an incredible job, and I would like to extend my appreciation for the significant work that they do in relation to this issue. It is also my sincere hope that you learn from this conference and perhaps implement some of the suggestions/recommendations within your communities to make this country safer for our Indigenous girls and women.

Migwetch!

NISHNAWBE ASKI NATION

Deputy Grand Chief Walter Naveau

Welcome from the NAN Women's Council

Wacheay / Booshoo!

A warm welcome to all who have gathered today to 'Honour Our Legacy'.

During our gathering over the next few days we will begin a valuable conversation. Our objective will be one of sharing while encouraging one another as ONE Nation! ONE People! ONE Country! The ultimate goal is to keep all Women and Girls Safe within Our lands.

We are life givers and caretakers of life. We are teachers, leaders and healers. We have been gifted by the Creator with wisdom, vision and leadership. We are abundant in spiritual and mental strength and balance.

Our time together is about restoring our rightful place of honour and respect.

We will "Honour Our legacy"

Together as ONE!

We look forward to spending some time with you all and thank you in advance for your participation and contributions to this gathering.

Meegwetch!



Nishnawbe Aski Nation's Women's Council

- Chief Ellen Vontane Keno
- Chief Lorraine Crane
- Deputy Grand Chief Rebecca Friday
- Shirley Sutherland
- Theresa Spence
- Bertha Sutherland
- Brenda Fox
- Theresa Sutherland
- Miranda Chookomolin Youth
- Teri Fiddler – Elder

NAN Women's Council Background & Overview

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation Women's Council (NANWC) represents women and families in the governance of Nishnawbe Aski Nation. The primary purpose of this leadership role is to ensure that women's issues, family issues, concerns, priorities and needs are identified and addressed within Nishnawbe Aski Nation.



The NAN Women's Council honours its leadership role by:

- Participating in the decision making process of Nishnawbe Aski Nation by representatives and active participants with Nishnawbe Aski Nation's chief meetings
- Providing support and direction to the Deputy Grand Chief who is responsible for the portfolio on Women's Issues
- Working to support the collective needs of women's issues, concerns, and priorities
- Promoting and facilitating community based and governmental action required to address women's issues by leading forums, advocating for resources and embracing their leadership and advisory role
- Ensuring that women have meaningful participation in the strategies and initiatives led by Nishnawbe Aski Nation

Workshop Information

Holistic Lifestyles: Mindfulness

In this session, participants will be introduced to a few mindful meditation practices that promote positive, healthy coping skills to reduce stress and anxiety while creating more peace, balance and harmony into your daily lives. Together, we will practice and explore a variety of methods that stimulate many senses, such as aromatherapy, Qi Gong, sound therapy, hand reflexology and visualization.



Speaker Bio's



Jana-Rae Yerxa

Jana-Rae Yerxa is an Anishinaabe scholar and artist. Her home community is Couchiching, First Nation located in Treaty #3 territory. Jana-Rae holds a Master of Social Work degree from Lakehead University and a Master of Arts degree, in Indigenous Governance, from the University of Victoria. Currently, Jana-Rae resides in Thunder Bay, Ontario and is the Coordinator for the Aboriginal Community Advocacy Program at Confederation College where she also teaches.



Trisha Baptie

Trisha Baptie is reframing the questions, assumptions, and analysis surrounding the world's oldest oppression, the commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) of women and girls. She believes we must shift the focus, conversation, and responsibility off of the women who are being sexually exploited, and instead look at who and what put them there in the first place. Having a 15-year history in CSE, she uses her lived experience and gender-based analysis to implement real change.

Trisha has affected change through

various platforms including, but not limited to, her writing. In 2007, she attended and covered the Robert Pickton trial as an experiential woman and friend to many of Pickton's victims as a citizen journalist for an online news outlet. She has written numerous op-ed and opinion pieces for news outlets such as The Vancouver Sun and The Georgia Straight, and has been featured in pieces internationally for CBC, CTV, Feminist Current, AP, Al Jazeera, and Huffington Post.

In 2008, Trisha was awarded the Courage To Come Back Award for overcoming adversity to become a leader and champion for change.

Travelling both nationally and internationally to present to various groups and at conferences, she has met many survivors of CSE who she has had the pleasure of mentoring, with the hope that they too will work to affect change in their communities.

Trisha is a well-known public figure and respected expert on sexual exploitation. In 2011, Trisha gave a TEDx talk. In 2013, Trisha was featured in the National Film Board of Canada documentary entitled Buying Sex. She has given numerous national and international interviews, made numerous television appearances, and appeared in short documentary films.

She has helped engage communities in real systemic change by participating in many community engagement projects like the 2010 pre-Olympic campaign called Buying Sex is NOT a Sport that looked at the connections between human trafficking and major sporting events. In 2014, Trisha was invited to provide input on the creation of new laws regarding sexual exploitation by providing written submissions to and testifying at both the Senate and Justice Senate subcommittees regarding

Canada's laws on sexual exploitation. In 2015, Trisha helped to create John Free Communities with other groups that held community consultations for several months and that culminated in a peaceful engagement outside of Vancouver City Hall.

With her group EVE (formerly Exploited Voices now Educating), a non-governmental organization she founded in 2009, she is now working with and sitting on coalitions of like-minded individuals and organizations focused working to assist women and girls successfully leave CSE and asking important questions about who CSE benefits.

Trisha recognizes the strong need to address the often-overlooked issues that drive women into sexual exploitation including, poverty, sexism, racism, colonization, mental health issues, and addiction, among many others, and has devoted her life to making a difference so that all individuals are treated with the dignity and respect we all deserve.

Faye Naveau

Faye Naveau is a Mattagami First Nation member who lives in Timmins, works for Wabun Tribal Council as the Regional Crisis Coordinator/Crisis Intervention Worker and identifies as an Ojibwe-kwe, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, niece, cuzzin, auntie, friend, neighbor, hand drummer, prayer warrior, jingle dress dancer and helper. All my relations.

"Watching my aunt search for over 4 years for her niece, then attending a human trafficking workshop propelled me to gather relevant information and share it with our communities through workshops and ongoing conversations.

Like any social issue that is shamed-based, it is a difficult conversation to have, yet it is relevant to the safety of our people who are in vulnerable situations in their life. Human trafficking has been in existence for thousands of years and educating ourselves on this topic is essential for the survival of our nation. MMIW is another attempt towards the genocide of First Nations people. If you want to eliminate a nation, eliminate the life carriers."



Stephanie Moses Feletto

Stephanie was born and raised in the James Bay coastal community of Moose Factory, Ontario. Stephanie is a proud mother to her daughter and a Gookum to her almost 2 year-old grandson. She is a member of the Moose Cree First Nation and is deeply influenced by the resilience and perseverance exhibited by her family and Indigenous community.

Stephanie's distinguished career includes a Bachelor Administration degree from Lakehead University, working with First Nation's, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) and provincial Ministries (MNR, IAO), most recently as Director Indigenous Youth and Community Wellness Secretariat. Stephanie is currently working as a private consultant.

She was a founding board member for the Aboriginal Sport & Wellness Council

of Ontario, both a team member and later Assistant Chef-de-mission for Team Ontario at the 2014 North American Indigenous Games, and believes in the healing power of sport and active living.

Stephanie is the recipient of numerous awards while working at Canada Revenue Agency and Indigenous Northern Affairs Canada, recognizing her professional contributions to the development of policy, frameworks and relationship building.

In 2009, she received the Northwestern Ontario Aboriginal Achievement Award for community involvement. Nominators stated, "Stephanie has given up her own time to provide opportunities for our youth to be engaged in healthy activities - She is well-spoken, outgoing and willing to help others attain their educational and personal goals - Her passion for helping the Indigenous community is evident in her dedication locally and nationally in providing guidance to Indigenous peoples."

Motivated by the traditional teachings of her grandparents and mother, and immersed in traditional Cree values; she has committed her life journey to supporting and strengthening the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of Indigenous Peoples.



Tracie Louttit

Anishinaabe-Eeyou Filmmaker, Artist & Practicer of Naturopathy

Tracie is a freelance documentary filmmaker, photographer and artist who has been involved in the Indigenous

Media and Arts community since 1998. Her mother is Ojibway from Garden River First Nation and her father is from the Cree Nation of Eastmain in Eeyou Istchee. She began her journey after graduating from both a Business Administration Program and a Photography Program in Ottawa in 1998. As a freelance artist, she photographed and filmed many cultural events and community gatherings in Treaty 6, 7 and 8 territories when she moved to Edmonton in 2000. It was during this time that she became addicted to alcohol and entered a lifestyle that was very harmful and unhealthy. Eventually, it was traditional ceremony that saved her life. With the encouragement of her ceremony family, she continued to attend ceremony and seek the help she needed. By 2015, she moved back to her homelands and continued to work as a freelance artist. She is passionate about spreading awareness and sharing her story in hopes that it will help others. During her recovery, she began researching the various self-healing methods to assist in her healing, and continues to use these in her daily life.

Over the years, Tracie has travelled throughout Canada and the US training and mentoring Indigenous youth in digital video production. She is very passionate about community building, youth initiatives, traditional ceremonies, and volunteerism. Giving back to the community through volunteerism is something that she holds very close to her heart. She loves and supports all things that promote health and wellness for families and communities.

Other Speakers:

- Tom Chisel
- Sam Achneepineskum
- Laura Calmwind
- Carmen Edwards (Community Presentation)
- Diane Wesley-Andrews (CP)
- Eva Dabutch (CP)
- Lindsay Poulter (CP)

Workshop Agenda Dec 10th - 13th - Honouring Our Legacy

Monday, Dec 10th

6:00 - 7:00 pm	Registration
7:00 - 9:00 pm	Meet & Greet (Kaministiquia)

Tuesday, Dec 11th

7:45 am	Sunrise Ceremony
8:00 - 9:00 am	Breakfast (McGillivray)
9:00 - 9:45 am	Opening Ceremonies (Kaministiquia)
9:45 - 10:15 am	Keynote w/ Jana-Rae Yerxa (Kaministiquia)
10:15 - 10:30 am	Break
10:30 - 12:00 pm	Keynote w/ Trisha Baptie (Kaministiquia)
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch (McGillivray)
1:00 - 2:15 pm	Discussion on Morning Sessions (Kaministiquia)
2:15 - 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 - 4:00 pm	Community Presentation (Kaministiquia) • Diane Wesley-Andrews • Carmen Edwards • Eva Dabutch • Fay Naveau • Lindsay Poulter

4:00 - 5:00 pm	Networking Break
5:00 - 9:00 pm	Dinner & Free Time (McGillivray)

Wednesday, Dec 12th Service Providers

7:45 am	Sunrise Ceremony
8:00 - 9:00 am	Breakfast (McGillivray)
9:00 - 10:15 am	Short Term Planning (Kaministiquia)
10:15 - 10:30 am	Break
10:30 - 12:00 pm	Short Term Planning (Kaministiquia)
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch (McGillivray)
1:00 - 1:30 pm	FILU Presentation (Kaministiquia)
1:30 - 2:15 pm	Long Term Planning (Kaministiquia)
2:15 - 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 - 4:00 pm	Long Term Planning (Kaministiquia)
4:00 - 5:00 pm	Break
5:00 - 9:00 pm	Dinner & Free Time (McGillivray)
5 pm	Dinner and Free Time (all)

NAN Women's Gathering 2018

Wednesday, Dec 12th Women's Gathering Delegates

7:45 am	Sunrise Ceremony
8:00 - 9:00 am	Breakfast (McGillivray)
9:00 - 9:45 am	Overview of the Day (Kaministiquia)
9:45 - 10:15 am	Yoga & Mindfulness w/ Tracie Louttit (Amethyst)
9:45 - 10:15 am	Traditional Medicine Teachings w/ Tom Chisel & Sam Achneepineskum (Pointe Du Meuron)
10:15 - 10:30 am	Break
10:30 - 12:00 pm	Women's Teachings w/ Laura Calmwind (Amethyst)
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch (McGillivray)
1:00 - 1:30 pm	FILU Presentation (Kaministiquia)
1:30 - 2:15 pm	Women's Teachings w/ Laura Calmwind (Amethyst)
2:15 - 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 - 4:00 pm	Traditional Medicine Workshop w/ Tom Chisel & Sam Achneepineskum (Amethyst)
2:30 - 4:00 pm	Yoga & Mindfulness w/ Tracie Louttit (Pointe Du Meuron)
4:00 - 5:00 pm	Break
5:00 - 9:00 pm	Dinner & Free Time (McGillivray)

Women's Gathering:
Busing into town from hotel to Walmart/Intercity
(Following Wednesday Dinner)

Thursday, Dec 13th Women's Gathering

8:00 - 9:00 am	Breakfast (McGillivray)
All Day	Elections

Notice

There will be one room McKenzie A will be made available for counseling and McKenzie room B will be available as a safe space to unwind and debrief if necessary with Elders.

All spa services will be available in McIntyre Room on the second floor.



Nishnawbe Aski Nation

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Sexual Exploitation & Human Trafficking

Indigenous females make up 3.8% of Canada's population, yet research suggests that Indigenous women and girls make up 70% of visible human trafficking victims. The majority of Indigenous victims of human trafficking are children, with half (50% of victims) forced into the sex trade by the age of 14 years or younger.

Sexual exploitation is when a person abuses or takes advantage of another person's sexuality for sexual enjoyment, to make money, or for any other reason. Sometimes a person might not understand that they are being physically, mentally or spiritually harmed by the act of sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation becomes a way to survive for many women and girls who are seeking the basic provision of shelter, food and other necessities. For others, money or substances are exchanged for the acquisition of their bodies for sexual purposes.

Human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation is when someone is kidnapped, moved around from place to place, traded to another person, and held against their will. People who are victims of human trafficking are threatened with harm if they do not perform sexual acts for the enjoyment of others. Victims of trafficking often do not have control over money or the simplest of things like when or what they can eat, control of their own belongings –like their identification, when they can sleep, and most of the time they are not allowed to go out on their own.

The origins of the sexual exploitation and human trafficking of Indigenous women and girls are shared as are the risk factors and trauma experienced by the victims.

As expressed in a 2009 report by Annette Sikka entitled Trafficking of Aboriginal Girls and Women in Canada:

"...while the goal of highlighting and eliminating violence and exploitation against Aboriginal women is highly necessary, the attempt to squeeze all exploitation, all kidnappings and all sexual abuse into the term "trafficking" has not succeeded in furthering this goal. Rather, this discourse has further alienated the exploitation of Aboriginal women from view by reinforcing the stereotypical 'trafficked victim'. And further, given the almost unquestioned presumption that trafficking is the ultimate, and perhaps only, act of sexual exploitation worthy of prosecution, the vast majority of Aboriginal women and girls' lives are disregarded."

Therefore, it is critical when developing exit strategies and supports for Indigenous women and girls, that victims and survivors of sexual exploitation, human trafficking or both offences are equally considered in the planning and healing process.