



The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is pleased to present:

## **THE NATIONAL FIRST NATIONS HOMELESSNESS SYMPOSIUM**

**June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 2021**

**11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)**

### **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

#### **Jarred Baker, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs**

Jarred Baker is a First Nation citizen of Sandy Bay First Nation. He is a Sundancer in the final year of his four year cycle who participates in cultural ceremonies. Being the father of nine year old and eleven year old boys brings immense joy to his life every day. He enjoys camping, gardening and spending time with his children. He is the Director of Urban Relations at the Assembly of Chiefs and was formerly the Program Manager of the Eagle Urban Transition Centre. He has extensive experience with program development, implementation and evaluation. The Eagle Urban Transition Centre supports the needs of First Nation citizens living off-reserve. These supports would include education, housing, medical system navigation and cultural programming.

#### **Nelson Barbosa, Indigenous Services Canada**

Nelson Barbosa is currently the Senior Director of Housing and Infrastructure Service Reform Directorate at Indigenous Services Canada. Previously, Nelson held roles within Indigenous Services Canada in the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch and in the Lands and Economic Development sector; supporting the delivery of health infrastructure and promoting community economic development. From 2006-2013, Nelson worked in a variety of northern Indigenous health policy/program roles within Health Canada and for the Government of Nunavut, as a resident of the high arctic community Cambridge Bay. Nelson is a graduate from the University of Waterloo and holds a Masters of Arts in Political Science and a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science and History.

#### **National Chief Perry Bellegarde, Assembly of First Nations**

Perry Bellegarde, re-elected National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations in 2018, holds a wealth of leadership experience. He's spent the past thirty years putting into practice his strong beliefs on the laws and traditions instilled in him by the many Chiefs and Elders he has known over the years. Passionate and unrelenting in creating real, measurable progress on the priorities that matter most to First Nations, National Chief Bellegarde is a strong advocate for honouring and implementing Inherent and Treaty rights, title and jurisdiction. Originally from Little Black Bear First Nation in Treaty 4 Territory, he has served as Tribal Council Representative for the Touchwood-File Hills-Qu'Appelle Tribal Council, Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and Saskatchewan Regional Chief for the Assembly of First Nations, as well as Chief and Councillor for the Little Black Bear First Nation. He has experience and expertise in leadership at all levels of First Nations governance. In 2014, the Chiefs-in-Assembly first elected Perry as National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations. He was re-elected to the position in July 2018.

#### **Shadelle Chambers, Council of Yukon First Nations**

Shadelle Chambers is a member of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations in Yukon. With an MBA in Aboriginal Business and Leadership from Simon Fraser University, Shadelle has dedicated her career to advancing the interests of self-governing First Nations in Yukon. A passionate and dedicated advocate, Shadelle forged her path in governance by working for various self-governing Yukon First Nations, including her home First Nation where she has



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also served as a Councillor. Shadelle is the Executive Director for the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN), a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives and outcomes of Yukon First Nations people through advocacy and advancement of Yukon First Nations' Final and Self-Government agreements. Shadelle regularly contributes her expertise in the community as a sitting Board Member for many charitable and non-profit organizations. Boards she has served on have included the Yukon First Nations Culture & Tourism Association, the Yukon Hospital Corporation Board of Trustees, and Foundation Board Member for Yukon University.

### **Coreen Child, Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness**

Coreen Child carries the ancestral Kwak'wala name Yakawilas, 'a place where property is given'. She is from the Kwakiutl (Kwagiulth) First Nation on northern Vancouver Island and is a descendant of many high-ranking Kwakiutl chiefs and families tracing her lineage back generations to the origin places of her ancestors. She currently lives with her partner Musgam'dzi and their three daughters in WSÁNEĆ territory near Victoria, BC. She carries a diploma in Indigenous child and youth care, a diploma in language revitalization, as well as a Bachelor of Education degree with a specialization in Kwak'wala language learning. She has served multiple and consecutive terms in service to her Nation as an elected counsellor and chief. Coreen continues to advocate for Indigenous communities and families serving on many boards and committees that include the Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women as Co-Chair. She has been a member of the BCAFN women's council, First Nations Technology Council of BC, Union of BC Indian Chiefs' All Chiefs Task Force on Children and Families, First Nations Education Council for School District 85, and the U'mista Cultural Society. Coreen is committed to all aspects of advancing Indigenous rights and community advocacy; working in professional roles for Camosun College, University of Victoria, Sacred Wolf Friendship Centre, Kwakiutl Nation, Tsawout Nation and School District 85, Vancouver Island North. Yakawilas currently serves as the Associate Director to the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness in Victoria BC, and is the sole proprietor of her own business, Coreen Child Consulting. Coreen is renowned for her many gifts of traditional knowledge, dancing, singing and teaching, and continues to play an active role as a cultural leader and educator amongst the Kwakwaka'wakw communities.

### **Vee Cee Duncan**

Vee Cee Duncan is a 33-year-old, half-Secwépemc, half-Squamish Nation. He was born in Williams Lake, BC. His Mom is a survivor of St. Joseph's Residential School, and his Dad was murdered when Vee was 9 years old. He was raised in East Hastings and all over the Lower Mainland. He lived on Sugar Cane Reserve with his Grandma, who taught him Secwépemc values about taking care of the community. His grandparents were very traditional, involved with Sundances, and other traditional ceremonies. Addiction hit him at a young age. He was 16 when he started drinking, and he left home at 17. His struggles with addiction led to many years of homelessness and couch surfing. During these periods, he was constantly in and out of the hospital, and in and out of jail. He completed recovery programs in 2007 and 2013, but relapsed. In 2018 he was released from jail for the last time, and went to an Indigenous treatment centre. He has spent the last three years doing extensive therapy to heal from trauma and



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abuse. A year ago he started handing out water to people in need, practicing altruism through teachings of recovery and teachings of his people at Alkali Lake. Last summer, he volunteered at Peace Camp YEG. In March 2021 he walked from Calgary to Edmonton dragging a shopping cart to raise awareness about homelessness and Indigenous mental health, and founded the non-profit company Nék'em: To Change Something to continue his community outreach and awareness-raising work.

### **Emilie Grantham, First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission**

Emilie Grantham has been a Research Agent with the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission since 2009. She holds a master's degree in Community Health from Université Laval. In addition to collaborating on various research and evaluation projects, she currently works with the team responsible for coordinating the Quebec First Nations health and social services governance process and coordinates various projects focusing on community and regional capacity building in the area of information governance.

### **Chief Lance Haymond, Kebaowek First Nation**

Chief Lance Haymond has been active in the development of his community for the past 29 years, the first 12 years as a health educator and a member of the Band Council. He was first elected Chief in 1999 and was elected to 5 successive mandates. In 2009 he accepted a position with Canada Mortgage and Housing (CMHC) in Ottawa, where he was National Manager of the On Reserve Housing Programs delivered by CMHC. He returned home in 2015 and was re-elected as Chief of the Community. He was re-elected in 2017 and 2019 and is currently serving his 8th, two year mandate as Chief of Kebaowek. In addition to his responsibilities as Community Chief, Chief Haymond has been a strong advocate in the area of First Nation Housing for many years. He proudly holds the housing portfolio for the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador and is the Co-Chair of The Chiefs Committee on Housing and Infrastructure at the Assembly of First Nation. He has always and continues to advocate that if we are to address the social ills of our people, communities and Nations then it begins with having adequate housing and shelter first.

### **Fran Hunt-Jinnouchi, Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness**

Fran Hunt-Jinnouchi has over 25 years experience in senior management and direct engagement working with Indigenous people and organizations with a focus on community and program development. She has a BSW, a Master in Adult Education, and has completed the coursework for a Doctorate in Philosophy - Educational Psychology and Leadership. Fran was the inaugural Director of the Office of Indigenous Affairs at the University of Victoria and was an elected Chief for her community. Her ancestry is Kwakiutl and Quatsino. Currently Fran is the Executive Director at the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness in Victoria. She is committed to influencing policy change and addressing the structural barriers that impede the health and well-being of Indigenous people experiencing homelessness and creating housing models and housing systems that are rooted in indigenous approaches and decolonized harm reduction practice.



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### **Kris Johnson, Employment and Social Development Canada**

Kris Johnson began his career as a management consultant working for large multi-national corporations, before realizing he wanted to dedicate himself to making social change. So in 2004 he joined the public service, starting at Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. Kris performed several different roles during his time there, but most of his focus was on developing and implementing legislation and regulations related to land management and economic development. He joined Employment and Social Development Canada in 2015 as the Director General of Canada Pension Plan Disability and now serves as the DG of Homelessness Policy.

### **Nakuset, Native Women's Shelter of Montréal**

Nakuset, the Executive Director of the Native Women's Shelter of Montréal, is Cree from Lac la Ronge, Saskatchewan. She has three beautiful boys, Kistin, Mahkisis and Mahihkan. She was adopted by a Jewish family in Montreal and draws on her adoptee experience in her advocacy work for Indigenous children in care. Nakuset created, produced and hosted the television series *Indigenous Power*, she was voted "Woman of the Year 2014" by the Montreal Council of Women, and she is the Indigenous columnist for MaTV's *CityLife*. Nakuset was featured in *Real Talk on Race*, the award winning CBC series. In 2017, she was selected by the CKX City Series as a speaker/shift disturber due to the work she does to shift the status quo for urban Aboriginal women. In November 2017, she was a speaker for TEDxMontrealWomen. In 2018, she testified for 3 days at the Viens Commission, a public inquiry into the discrimination of Indigenous people of Quebec. She testified in June, 2018 at the MMIW Inquiry in Calgary. In February 2019, she presented at WE Day. She was recently featured in the "End of 2010's interview for Global" to discuss the past decade work with the urban Indigenous community. She is honoured to spearhead and run the Cabot Square project since its inception and to co-found Resilience Montreal. She is dedicated to improving the lives of urban Indigenous people.

### **Lindsay Neeley, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation**

As Director of Indigenous and Northern Housing, Lindsay and her team co-create and implement innovative funding and financing solutions for Indigenous-led housing projects across Canada. She is part of a broader CMHC team that engages stakeholders across the housing continuum to deliver transformative investments that benefit all Canadians. At CMHC, Lindsay was instrumental to the design and implementation of Canada's first National Housing Strategy (NHS), subsequently leading the corporation's communications and marketing strategies to drive awareness of new programs launched under the NHS since 2017. Lindsay joined CMHC in 2015 after serving in various leadership roles at Indigenous Services Canada. For more than 9 years, she partnered with Indigenous governments and organizations on various economic, social and governance priorities including natural resource development and legislative initiatives. Previously, Lindsay worked at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to advocate and advance key municipal priorities including Indigenous relations, infrastructure, economic development and community health and safety. Lindsay has a Masters degree in Public Administration (Local Government) from the University of Western Ontario and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Guelph. She holds certificates in Indigenous reconciliation, business finance, marketing and group facilitation.



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### **Sylvia Olsen, British Columbia First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council**

Sylvia Olsen (PhD) has extensive knowledge of First Nations communities, history, political and administration systems, and housing program development and management. Dr. Olsen garnered first-hand experience regarding First Nations housing issues, having lived in on-reserve housing for 35 years. Sylvia has worked in all fields – construction, management, research, communications, policy and governance over the past two decades. She is an experienced project and construction manager with many years of business management experience. Dr. Olsen is an adult educator and trainer, specializing in First Nations capacity development and has extensive knowledge of curriculum and training material development. She co-created and taught the First Nations Housing Managers' Program at Vancouver Island University. Sylvia is also an experienced researcher: she completed her PhD in History in 2016. Her work focuses on government housing programs on-reserves and their impacts on First Nations in Canada from 1930 to the present. Dr. Olsen is currently a member of the newly formed National First Nations Housing Professional Alliance.

### **George Stephen**

George Stephen is Cree and originally from Kashechewan First Nation. His personal story and previous 20-year experience with homelessness is documented in *A Will To Live*, a film that chronicles his journey in and out of homelessness in northern Ontario.