



## WORKING TOWARD RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

### - SPEAKERS -



**Jerilyn DeCoteau** is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians in North Dakota. She received her law degree from the University of Oregon. As a lawyer, she has pressed for the rights of Indian tribes to govern themselves, control their resources and insure human rights for their members. She practiced Indian law at the Native American Rights Fund, U.S. Department of Justice, and for her Tribe. She was Director of the Indian Law Clinic at the University of Colorado and has taught Indian law courses at Yale Law School, the University of Denver law school, and at the Turtle Mountain Community College.

Jerilyn co-directs Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples, a program of Friends Peace Teams. She is co-founder of Right Relationship Boulder, and she was instrumental in establishing Boulder's Indigenous Peoples Day. She currently serves as Chief Justice for the Pueblo of San Ildefonso Supreme Court. She consults on issues of tribal governance, capacity building, and the legacy of the Indian boarding schools.

Jerilyn is the past-president of the board of directors of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. She also served on the board of the YWCA of Boulder County and volunteered with its Reading to End Racism project. In 2002 she received the Multicultural Award for Government, awarded by Boulder County Community Action Programs.

**William David** is currently Director of Lands, Territories and Resources with the Assembly of First Nations. He holds a degree in environmental engineering science from MIT and a law degree from the University of Ottawa. Mr. David has over 20 years of experience working to advance the rights of indigenous peoples at the community, national and international levels. He has served as a Director for MiningWatch Canada and is currently a Director with Nature Canada.





**Jennifer Preston** is the General Secretary and coordinates the Indigenous Rights program for Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC), the justice arm of Quakers in Canada.

Jennifer received her master's degree from the University of Guelph and was a lecturer in Canadian Studies at the University of Waterloo. Jennifer represented Friends globally in the UN Working Groups that developed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and was involved in the intensive lobbying efforts to ensure the adoption of the Declaration in both Geneva and New York. Her work now focuses on implementation. She works closely with Indigenous Peoples' representatives and state representatives as well as human rights organizations in various regions of the world including at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. She is a co-editor of and contributor to *Realizing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Triumph, Hope and Action*. For the past ten years she has written the annual review of Canada for *The Indigenous World*, published by the International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs. Jennifer represented CFSC at the Supreme Court of Canada in the landmark Tsilhqot'in Nation case.

Jennifer represents CFSC in the Canadian Coalition for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**Sheryl Lightfoot, PhD** is Anishinaabe, a citizen of the Lake Superior Band of Ojibwe, enrolled at the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community in Baraga, Michigan.

Sheryl is an associate professor in Political Science, the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs, and Indigenous Studies. She also serves the President of the University of British Columbia as the Senior Advisor on Indigenous Affairs.

Sheryl is Canada Research Chair in Global Indigenous Rights and Politics. As one of the world's experts in global Indigenous politics, Sheryl's research specializes in complex questions of Indigenous peoples' rights and how those rights are being claimed and negotiated in various political spaces. Her work explores both practical and theoretical aspects of implementation of Indigenous rights globally as well as in comparative domestic and regional contexts.

She holds a master's degree from the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, with specialties in Foreign Policy and International Affairs as well as Economic and Community Development. She also has fifteen years' volunteer and contract experience with several American Indian tribes and community-based



organizations in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, including nine years as Chair of the Board of the American Indian Policy Center, a research and advocacy group.

Her book, *Global Indigenous Politics: A Subtle Revolution*, was published in May 2016 by Routledge Press in their "Worlding Beyond the West" critical international relations book series.

Sheryl is currently involved in two major research projects. The first, "The Politics of Indigenous Apologies" examines state apologies to Indigenous peoples in multi-national comparative perspective. The second, "Complex Sovereignities: Theory and Practice of Indigenous Self-Determination in Settler States and the International System," together with Professor David MacDonald of Guelph University, examines assertive, creative and innovative practices of Indigenous self-determination in multi-national, cross-border, and global contexts.



**Dan and Mary Lou Smoke** have fostered and advanced racial harmony and the elimination of discrimination in the City of London (Ontario) community. Individually and together, they have enhanced cross-cultural understanding and improved the climate of race relations in London by sharing their knowledge of Indigenous faith, history and culture.

Dan and Mary Lou often work together conducting opening and closing ceremonies at events such as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, UN Human Rights Day, Indigenous Solidarity Day, International Women's Day, Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre (Dec. 6th), V-

Day for Anti Violence Against Indigenous Women.

For the past 30 years, they have co-hosted a nationally acclaimed Indigenous radio program, "Smoke Signals" (CHRW 94.9 FM Radio Western, Western University), the longest-running Indigenous radio program in Canada. This award-winning radio newsmagazine bridges the gap of understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous world views and is heard by about 8 million listeners.

Dan is a member of the Seneca Nation of the Iroquois Confederacy and an adjunct professor at Western University. He works with traditional knowledge carriers from many Nations, including the Cree, Lakota, Ojibway, Cayuga, Seneca, Oneida, and Mohawk Nation of the Haudenosaunee. He has been working with an Ojibway Medicine Man, Isaac Day, from Serpent River, Ontario, to learn "the pipe and the fasting ceremonies." Both he and Mary Lou help to conduct purification ceremonies for the people when requested and have been holding New Year's Eve sweat lodge ceremonies in the London area.

Mary Lou, a member of the Ojibway Nation, is a gifted writer, singer, guitarist and traditional drummer. She is the founding member of a local women's drumming group called the "Ogitchidaw Kwe Wag Singers" ("Warrior Women Singers"). In 2019, she was inducted into the Forest City London Music Awards Hall of Fame for Lifetime Achievement, and a special congratulatory message from her mentor, Buffy Sainte-Marie, was read in her honor.

The Smokes are Cultural Counsellors and Visiting Elders for a number of colleges, universities, agencies and organizational service providers, including the University of Guelph, University of Waterloo, University of Toronto (OISE and the Law School), and at Fanshawe College, London, Ontario.

For the past 12 years Dan and Mary Lou have been the SW Ontario Elders for the "Call To The Bar" Convocation ceremony for graduating Lawyers for the Law Society of Ontario. For the past 14 years, they have been Elders for the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) and the Grand River Board of Education in Guelph, Ontario (UGDSB). They work closely with the TVDSB Aboriginal Liaison and the UGDSB Diversity Officer to help provide Cultural Competency and Ceremonial protocols. They also visit the schools to provide cultural presentations such as drumming and singing

Dan is currently the Co-Chairperson of the "Indigenous Artist or Group of The Year" committee for the JUNO awards made annually by the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS). Both he and Mary Lou have served as Committee Members, or as Judges for CARAS since 1994



**Freida J. Jacques**, whose native name is Whatwehni:neh, is a Clanmother of the Turtle Clan of the Onondaga Nation, where she resides and which she has served for more than 40 years. For 21 years, Freida served as the home/school liaison for the Onondaga Nation School. She has served as a bridge between her culture and many educational institutions in New York City.

Starting before her retirement, Freida offered Traditional Life lessons as a New York Humanities Scholar to organizations, libraries, and historical centers throughout New York State. In her retirement she has helped develop the script for the Skanonh Great Law of Peace Center in Liverpool, NY. The Center teaches others about Onondaga culture, including the importance of all of humanity understanding that they depend on the natural world and that Peace was established without war in Haudenosaunee Country, finalized on the shores of Onondaga Lake.

In the last couple of years, Freida has worked with Neighbors of Onondaga Nation (NOON- a subgroup of Syracuse Peace Council). NOON was granted permission from

the organization KAIROS in Canada to use a basic blanket exercise that was used to teach Canadians what First Nations people experienced over the past 500 years in North America. NOON and myself and others realized that it did not cover our Haudenosaunee and Central NY well, so research was done, and the script was written for our area. The script was accepted by KAIROS, and we went through facilitator training with KAIROS. Our facilitators are taking groups from NYC, Rochester, and Buffalo through the exercise, which they call "Witness to Injustice." This past fall, we were very excited to share this exercise with the 11th grade students in the Syracuse City School District. Now with the pandemic, our group is working on how to present this historical exercise via ZOOM.

**The Rev. Dr. J.R. Norwood** is the Principal Justice of the Tribal Supreme Court of the Naticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation, which he also served as a Councilman for over fifteen years. He is the Co-Chair of the Task Force on Federal Acknowledgment of the National Congress of American Indians and the General Secretary of the Alliance of Colonial Era Tribes. Dr. Norwood founded "First Light Mission," an indigenous Christian ministry. He has served for over twenty-eight years as the pastor of the Ujima Village Christian Church of Ewing, NJ, a non-tribal independent Reformed congregation. He has represented his tribe at the national and international level and has been an advisor to government commissions, testified before the United States Congress, published works and lectured in Theology, History, Culture, and indigenous issues and has been featured in numerous documentaries. He is a board member of the Penn Treaty Museum and a scholar advisor for the Faith and Liberty Discovery Center. He holds a Doctor of Ministry degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Missiology (Theology of Missions).



**Trinity Norwood** is an advocate for Indigenous Peoples, working to promote and educate about indigenous issues through multiple mediums, including art, film, and literature. She is on the board and a founding member for Philadelphia Indigenous People's Day, has been featured on Comcast newsmakers, and interviewed by Kathy O'Connell for WXPB Kids Corner. As a writer, Trinity creates poetry and short stories that focus on her experience of being a Lenape woman. Some of her pieces have been published in the *Voices* poetry anthology collection and used for local art projects like the Ghost Ship exhibit at Race Street Pier. She has also appeared in local historical documentaries like the *Philadelphia Experiment* and the *Kings Highway*.

As a sophomore in college, Trinity got a request from her high school English teacher to speak to her classroom for American Indian History Month. That experience inspired her to found Native New Jersey. A nonprofit organization dedicated to spreading awareness, dispelling stereotypes and misconceptions about Native people, and educating both students and teachers alike about Native history, culture, and current events. Native New Jersey works to assist tribal efforts to build a museum and educational center on the Tribal grounds. She hopes to grow local awareness about Indigenous history and the current issues being faced by indigenous peoples from all over the country.



**Kenneth Deer** is a member of the Bear Clan from the Mohawk community of Kahnawake and Secretary of the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake.

He is the former editor of *The Eastern Door*, an award-winning and independent newspaper serving his community. Mr. Deer has been active at the community level for many years in the areas of education, recreation, and indigenous rights. He has been involved for 16 years in education as an education counselor, high school principal, co-founder of the First Nations Education Council and co-founder and co-chairman of the National Indian Education Council in Canada.

For the last 32 years he has worked as a political activist and has been heavily involved in the Indigenous International Movement at the United Nations in Geneva and New York. He attended most of the meetings on the development of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and organizes the Indigenous Caucus in both Geneva and New York.

Mr. Deer was also the Chairman/Rapporteur of the UN Workshop on Indigenous Media in New York in December of 2000. His report can be found at E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2001/3.

He was a member of the Board of Directors for the Quebec Community Newspapers Association from 1999-2001.

Mr. Deer also represented the Indigenous Media Network during the preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society which took place in Tunis in November 2005.

He is a member of the Indigenous ICT Task Force which operates [www.indigenouportal.com](http://www.indigenouportal.com).

He also attended the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001 as an invited journalist and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 to handle media for the Indigenous Caucus.

Mr. Deer has been appointed by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Board of Trustees of the UN Voluntary Fund on Indigenous Peoples from 2008 to 2014.

He was at one time a North American rep on the Indigenous Global Coordinating Group for the UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

He recently received a National Aboriginal Achievement Award in 2010 for Media and Communications.

He received an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, in 2015.

He founded *The Eastern Door* community newspaper in 1992, which won many awards for journalism and editorial writing.

He currently is the Chief Administrative Officer for the Indigenous World Association and continues to advocate for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the UN in New York and Geneva. He is also a member of the Haudenosaunee External Relations Committee.



**Dennis J. Coker**, a lifelong resident of Kent County, Delaware, has been honored to be elected Principal Chief of the Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware since 1996. During his term, successful collaborations with the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office and the Federal Census Bureau, his Tribe was awarded a Census Designation Area allowing Tribal members to include their ethnicity as Lenape on the 2010 Census for the first time in history. On August 3, 2016 Delaware's Governor, Jack Markell, signed legislation officially recognizing the long and continued history of the Lenape Community in the state of Delaware.

Chief Coker's service as a past Chairman of the Confederation of Sovereign Nanticoke-Lenape Tribes of the Delaware Bay has allowed him to effect progress towards recognition of the Indigenous human rights of all member Tribes. His membership in the National Congress of the American Indian (NCAI) and founding membership in the Alliance of Colonial Era Tribes (ACET) has brought recognition, furthered understandings, and developed collaborations for the betterment of Delaware's Indigenous population.

As a well-respected public speaker and story teller, Chief Coker has helped educate diverse leadership as well as the public leading to Delaware's General Assembly proclamation that all residents celebrate November as Native American Heritage Month and learn to honor "The First People of the First State." In his well-received keynote address at Delaware's First Annual Environmental Justice Conference, Chief Coker challenged educators to learn and pass on the Lenape view of the interconnectedness of all living things, the sanctity of place, and the concept that man is but one small part of the web of life, not the center of it.

Collaborating with the Department of Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) Renewable Energy Initiative, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council of the Oceans (MARCO) and his membership on the Chesapeake Bay Advisory Council, Chief Coker's rare sensitivity for the balance of ecology, economy, and ethnicity makes him a valued member of many committees and task forces where he continues to work diligently with

federal, state and local governments to improve the health and wellbeing of the Lenape People remaining in their original homeland, now known as the State of Delaware.

Chief Coker currently sits on the boards of Friends of Delaware Archives, Inc., Preservation Delaware, Inc., and Friends of the First State National Park. In 2020, National Geographic designated Chief Coker a National Geographic Explorer 2020.

**Elicia Goodsoldier** (she/her) is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and is a relative of the Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe. She is the Children and Youth Training Coordinator at Red Wind Consulting and also consults as a TA Specialist with the Tribal Law and Policy Institute. She frequently presents on understanding historical and intergenerational trauma and creating awareness of the importance and efficacy of traditional and spiritual healing within Native communities as well creating. She also seeks to educate non-Native folks, on cultural and spiritual co-optation and the increasing commercialization of Indigenous spirituality in the new age market that displaces, distorts, marginalizes and belittles Indigenous histories and identities.



She has served on the Board of Directors for the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition and the Cultural Competency Advisory Council for the Office of Behavioral Health, Colorado Department of Health and Human Services. Elicia served as Co-Chair of the Denver American Indian Commission. Her most important work is being a mother to three teenagers.



**Cante' Waste Win (Good Hearted Woman)** is an enrolled member of the Yankton Sioux Tribe. She is also a relative to the Navajo Nation and Cheyenne/Arapaho Tribes. Cante' is currently in her second year at Arizona State University, majoring in Secondary Education. After graduation, she wants to return to her home community on the Pine Ridge Indian reservation to teach high school history courses. She has been a peer mentor for six years at a traditional youth healing camp on Pine Ridge, that works with young women who have experienced trauma. For her volunteerism, she received the 2018 Robert Wood Johnson Youth Health Equity award. She enjoys beading and sewing and making tik toks to educate mainstream society on American Indian issues.



**Marie Wilson** a Commissioner of the historic Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2009-2015), has been an award-winning journalist, trainer, federal and territorial executive manager, high school teacher in Africa, university lecturer, and consultant. Fluently bilingual in French and English, she is a prominent public speaker throughout Canada and internationally on the successes and challenges of advancing reconciliation. She has served as 2016 Professor of Practice at McGill University's Institute for the Study of International Development, a Mentor for the Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation, and on several prominent boards in Canada, including the Rideau Hall Foundation, and the national public broadcaster, CBC-Radio-Canada. Dr. Wilson holds several honorary degrees and professional awards and is the recipient of the Order of the Northwest Territories, the Order of Canada, and the Meritorious Service Cross.



**Denise Altvater**, Passamaquoddy from Sipayik, has served as Coordinator of Wabanaki Youth Program for the American Friends Service Committee for over twenty-five years. She was central to the creation, design, and implementation of the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission, being the first to share her experiences in state foster care with the community and public. Denise now serves as Treasurer for the REACH Board of Directors and the Finance Committee.



**Esther Anne**, Passamaquoddy from Sipayik, joined the Muskie School of Public Service in 2003 where she works on projects that engage and benefit tribal communities including facilitating the Maine tribal state Indian Child Welfare Act workgroup and creating child welfare resources with the Capacity Building Center for Tribes. She had a primary role in the creation and establishment of the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Maine-Wabanaki REACH. Esther now serves as secretary for the REACH Board of Directors and the Fundraising Development Committee.

**Pentheia Burns** has worked at the University of Southern Maine Muskie School of Public Service since 1999 and in the field of child welfare since 1981. Her experience includes delivering direct service, advocacy, training and technical assistance, and policy guidance. Pentheia currently serves on the REACH Board of Directors (Board co-chair), Fundraising Development Committee, and initiatives focused on decolonizing higher education and faith communities. She is a co-founder of Maine-Wabanaki REACH, the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Youth Leadership Advisory Team (youth leaders in foster care), and Camp To Belong Maine (a summer camp program that reunites siblings separated by foster care and adoption). Pentheia has an adult son who lives in PA.

