



# Leading Change™ **SUMMIT 2023**

May 2 – 4, 2023 • Edmonton

## **Circles of Change**

Inspiring Ethical Spaces in  
Gender-based Violence Prevention

River Cree Resort and Casino  
300 East Lapotac Boulevard  
Enoch, AB



# Welcome

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***On behalf of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters,***  
I would like to welcome you to the second Leading Change™ Summit. We are thrilled to have you join us as we continue our important conversations about creating more ethical spaces in gender-based violence prevention. This year's summit builds on the bold discussions and innovative ideas from our previous event in 2019. We will be exploring the latest research, emerging practices, and strategies for fostering and sustaining ethical spaces in gender-based violence prevention.

We are honoured to have an exceptional lineup of speakers and experts who will share their insights and expertise on this critical issue. Their knowledge and experience, and the knowledge and stories we all share, will provide valuable insights into how we can work together to create a world where everyone can live free from fear and harm. It is our hope that, through our collective efforts, we can make a significant impact in preventing gender-based violence and creating a better future for all.

Thank you for your participation, and I look forward to the conversations and ideas that will emerge from this year's summit.

Best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Jan Reimer'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large 'J' and 'R'.

Jan Reimer  
Executive Director, Alberta Council of Women's Shelters



April 21, 2023

I extend my warmest welcome to everyone participating in this year's *Leading Change Summit*, and congratulations to the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters for hosting the second edition of this important event.

Conferences like yours are an important meeting place for academics, advocates, and experts from a variety of different fields to share best practices on how best to combat gender-based violence. During the pandemic we saw a spike in the rates intimate partner violence, and we saw what most people have now recognized as the "shadow pandemic".

Our job now is to reverse this heinous trend and bring this issue out of the shadows. This means finding solutions to support survivors, but also finding ways to ensure that gender-based violence does not happen in the first place. This is why our government invested \$300 million in front-line organizations during the pandemic, and we are working with provinces and territories to deliver funding through National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. We have also invested in educational campaigns that work with Canada's young people, and more specifically on programs that work with young men.

I am extremely proud of the work that the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters does to end gender-based violence, and it is excellent to see the care and attention you put into serving women in Alberta - while also acting as a unifier between so many different sectors of society.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's summit possible. Because of your hard work, we are able to move the needle forward in the fight to end gender-based violence.

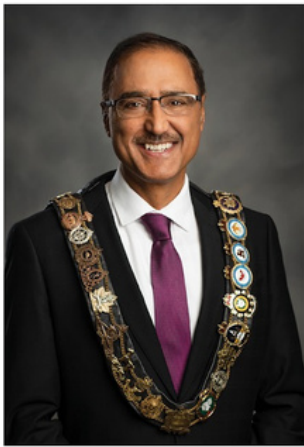
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Ien'.

The Honourable Marci Ien, P.C., M.P.  
Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth



# *Message from His Worship Mayor Amarjeet Sohi*

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On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, welcome to the Leading Change Summit!

As vibrant and forward-thinking as Edmontonians are, many women in our city currently do not feel safe from violence or harassment, both in public spaces and at home. This is unacceptable. All who identify as women, girls and gender non-conforming people should be able to participate freely and fully in Edmonton without fear. Yet these hurtful actions continue to affect individuals, families, friends and communities.

Everyone who calls Edmonton home deserves to feel safe. The City of Edmonton is committed to doing our part to end gender-based and sexual violence in our city. One way we are taking action is by running an awareness campaign in transit spaces to empower bystanders to safely intervene when someone is being targeted.

I'm so pleased to see this summit taking place here because we all have a part to play in creating a welcoming and inclusive city. I thank the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters for once again bringing leaders from across sectors together for these critical conversations on preventing gender-based violence. And thank you to all attending for your work to lead the change here in Edmonton.

A. Sohi

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**Amarjeet Sohi**

**MAYOR, CITY OF EDMONTON**





# Welcome

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## About Leading Change

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Leading Change™ is the call to action of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS), and offers tailored gender-based violence prevention training to workplaces, schools, government, sports groups, and communities. Gender norms and stereotypes permeate our culture. Leading Change asks each and every one of us to look at the ways in which we participate in this culture and how we can change it.

For more information, visit [acws.ca/leadingchange/](https://acws.ca/leadingchange/).

## About ACWS

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**Together, ACWS and its members work to end domestic violence—in our homes and throughout our communities.** A registered charity, ACWS is the provincial network organization of domestic violence shelters in Alberta. We bring four decades of experience and knowledge to serve our 39 members operating over 50 shelters across the province for women, their children, and seniors facing domestic abuse. We advocate for ACWS members and work with them to end domestic violence through culture-shifting violence prevention programs, collective data and research, and front-line training. With support from ACWS, Alberta shelters are helping to provide safety, support families, and improve communities.

For more information, visit [acws.ca](https://acws.ca).



# Land Acknowledgement

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The Leading Change™ Summit 2023 and ACWS acknowledge the traditional lands upon which we live, work, and play. We recognize that all Albertans are Treaty people and have a responsibility to understand our history so that we can learn from the past, be aware of the present, and create a just and caring future. ACWS celebrates and values the resiliency, successes, and teachings that Indigenous people have shown us, as well as the unique contributions of every Albertan.

The ACWS office is located on Treaty 6 land in Amiskwacîwâskahikan, which is the traditional territory of the Plains Cree and an ancient gathering place of many Indigenous peoples for thousands of years. These lands have also been home to, and a central trading place of, the Blackfoot, Nakota, Assiniboine, Dene, and the Métis people of western Canada.

We honour the courage and strength of Indigenous women. We honour them as life givers and care givers as we honour and learn from their continuing achievements, their consistent strength, and their remarkable endurance.

Our members serve all nations and all peoples. They are located on Treaty 4, 6, 7, and 8 lands across this province which include the six Métis regions of Alberta.



# Thank You

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ACWS and Leading Change™ are grateful for the generous support of our partners and sponsors.



## A special thank you to our Visioning Committee Members:

Roisin McCabe (Government of Alberta, Culture)

Debra Tomlinson (Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services)

Julie Peacock (Government of Alberta, Seniors, Community and Social Services)

Tracey Makokis (Government of Alberta, Justice)

Liza Lorenzetti (University of Calgary, Faculty of Social Work)

Carla Bertsch (University of Calgary, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Support, Faculty of Social Work)

Melissa Kraft (Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta)

Reave MacLeod (YWCA Banff)

Nicole Orji (Alberta Council of Women's Shelters)

Jan Reimer (Alberta Council of Women's Shelters)

Jill Shillabeer (Alberta Council of Women's Shelters)



# Thank You

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## **Irene Morin, Elder**

Irene is a resilient Indigenous woman who, after overcoming hardship and adversity at a young age, rose to become a celebrated community leader. Irene's extensive career included working in the 1960's for what was then the Department of Indian Affairs, and later for the Edmonton Separate School Board, Native Counselling Services of Alberta, the Senate of Canada in Ottawa, and for the Enoch Cree Nation for nearly 30 years. As reflected by the many accolades she has received throughout her life, Irene has led vital initiatives and enriched the lives of those in her community. She was the founder and driving force behind the Annual Aboriginal Role Models of Alberta Awards for more than 25 years. Though officially retired, Irene still volunteers for causes close to her heart, including the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters and the World Indigenous Games.



# Summit Agenda

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Day 1

Tuesday, May 2

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**1:00 - 3:00PM**

**Pre-Conference Workshops:**

Podcasting 101 Workshop with Sarah Hoyles  
**River Cree 1**

Leading Change Expansion Pack 2.0  
**River Cree 2**

**3:30 - 5:00PM**

**Shelter Showcase**  
**River Cree 1**

**5:30PM**

**Welcome Reception and Opening Ceremonies**  
**Enoch Grand Ballroom**

Doors at 5:30PM, Program begins at 6:00PM

Program includes a performance by Stephanie Harpe and the presentation of the Lynda Steele Media Awards.

Cash bar will be available.



# Summit Agenda

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Day 2

Wednesday, May 3

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**8:00 - 9:00AM**

**Continental Breakfast**  
Enoch Grand Ballroom

**9:00 - 9:15AM**

**Welcoming Remarks**  
Enoch Grand Ballroom

**9:15 - 10:15AM**

**Keynote Address – Willie Ermine**  
Enoch Grand Ballroom

**10:15 - 10:25AM**

**Break**

**10:25 - 11:10AM**

**Breakout Sessions 1**

**Enoch Grand Ballroom** – Trauma Informed Care and Culturally Responsive Services  
**Presenter:** Leen Yaghi

**River Cree 1** – Swimming Upstream: Prevention Approaches and Engagement Strategies to Help Stop Sexual Harassment  
**Presenter:** Corinne Ofstie

**River Cree 2** – Queering Sexual and Gender Based Violence: An Intersectional Approach to Mainstream Media Coverage  
**Presenters:** V Bragagnolo, Lauren McLean, Ash Shalmoni

**River Cree 3** – Connecting Feminized Workplaces and Workplace Sexual Harassment: A Public Library Case Study  
**Presenter:** Tami Oliphant



# Summit Agenda

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Day 2 (cont)

Wednesday, May 3

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**10:25 - 11:10AM**      **Breakout Sessions 1 (cont)**

**River Cree 4** – Nurturing Daughter and Father Relationships and Family Well-Being: A Community-Based Transformative Initiative  
**Presenters:** Aamir Jamal, Liza Lorenzetti

**11:10 - 11:20AM**      **Break**

**11:20 - 12:05PM**      **Plenary Session – Centring Relationships to End Violence: Our Journey, Our Lessons, Our Vision**  
**Enoch Grand Ballroom**  
**Presenters:** Jan Reimer, Debra Tomlinson, Jeanette MacInnis, Nicole Orji

**12:05 - 1:15PM**      **Lunch**  
**Enoch Grand Ballroom**

**1:15 - 2:15PM**      **Breakout Sessions 2**

**Enoch Grand Ballroom** – The Impacts of the Grassroots Movement and Historical Works  
**Presenter:** Stephanie Harpe

**River Cree 1** – Ethical Storytelling in Gender-based Violence Prevention  
**Presenter:** Michelle Okere

**River Cree 2** – 2SLGBTQ+ Perspectives in the Violence Prevention Sector: Insights from the Community of Practice  
**Presenter:** Members of the Community of Practice



# Summit Agenda

Day 2 (cont)

Wednesday, May 3

1:15 - 2:15PM

## Breakout Sessions 2 (cont)

**River Cree 3** – Domestic Violence and Your Workplace Program

**Presenters:** Joe Campbell, Astrid Mitchell

**River Cree 4** – The Shelter Pulse Project: Leading Policy Change

**Presenters:** Mary McGuire, Dee Ann Benard

2:15 - 2:30PM

## Break

2:30 - 3:30PM

## Plenary Session – The Power of Platform: Using Media to Prevent Gender-based Violence

**Enoch Grand Ballroom**

**Presenters:** Jana Pruden, Jonathan Van Ness, Tamarra Lessard, cinematographer, Professor Chesko ("The Speech Prof"), Mel Willerth

3:30- 4:00PM

## Day 2 Wrap-up

**Enoch Grand Ballroom**



LEADING CHANGE  
WITH **JONATHAN  
VAN NESS**

Presented by ACWS 

May 3, 2023

Edmonton Convention Centre



Join us for the headline event with JVN!

Edmonton Convention Centre  
9797 Jasper Avenue  
Hall C

Doors at 6:00PM  
Event at 7:00PM

Tickets available [here](#).





# Summit Agenda

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Day 3

Thursday, May 4

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8:00 - 9:00AM	<b>Continental Breakfast</b> Enoch Grand Ballroom
9:00 - 9:10AM	<b>Final Day Kick-off</b> Enoch Grand Ballroom
9:10 - 9:20AM	<b>Break</b>
9:20 - 11:05AM	<b>Breakout Sessions 3</b>  <b>Enoch Grand Ballroom</b> – Centring Relationships to End Violence: Member Engagement Session *ANFCA/AASAS/ASWS members only <b>Presenters:</b> Jan Reimer, Debra Tomlinson, Jeanette MacInnis, Nicole Orji <i>*Session runs from 9:20AM - 12:15PM</i>  <b>River Cree 1</b> – Ethical Data Practices <b>Presenters:</b> Raj Rajakumar, Omar Yaqub, Miranda Pilipchuk  <b>River Cree 2</b> – Open Networking  <b>River Cree 3</b> – Curating Spaces for Belonging <b>Presenters:</b> Carrie McManus, Brielle Batty-Smith  <b>River Cree 4</b> – Systems Navigation: An Institutional and Student- Advocacy Approach to Preventing Gender-Based Violence in the Post- Secondary Environment <b>Presenters:</b> Courtney Smith, Holly Kletke
11:05 - 11:15AM	<b>Break</b>



# Summit Agenda

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Day 3 (cont)

Thursday, May 4

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**11:15 - 12:15PM**

## **Breakout Sessions 4**

**Enoch Grand Ballroom** – Centring Relationships to End Violence: Member Engagement Session (cont)

**Presenters:**

Jan Reimer, Debra Tomlinson, Jeanette MacInnis, Nicole Orji

*\*Session runs from 9:20AM - 12:15PM*

**River Cree 1** – Lessons from the Locker Room: A Year with the Alberta Junior Hockey League

**Presenter:** Joe Campbell

**River Cree 2** – Expanding Awareness of Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse: Theory and Implications for Practice

**Presenters:** Leslie Tutty, Cindy Ogden

**River Cree 3** – Criminalizing Victimization: Black Women's Experiences of Gender-based Violence

**Presenter:** Patrina Duhaney

**River Cree 4** – Experiences of IPV and Barriers to Help-seeking in 2SLGBTQ+ Communities

**Presenters:** Ashley Haller, Bright Thorsteinson

**12:15 - 1:15PM**

## **Lunch**

**Enoch Grand Ballroom**

**1:15 - 2:15PM**

## **Breakout Sessions 5**

**Enoch Grand Ballroom** – The Moose Hide Campaign: An Indigenous Innovation for all Canadians

**Presenters:** Raven Lacerte, David Stevenson



# Summit Agenda

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Day 3 (cont)

Thursday, May 4

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**1:15 - 2:15PM**

## **Breakout Sessions 5 (cont)**

**River Cree 1** – Panel: Ethical Allyship Across Communities

**Presenters:** Joe Campbell (moderator), Lisa Lunn, Basel Abou Hamrah, Professor Chesko, Leigh Sheldon

**River Cree 2** – Open Networking

**River Cree 3** – Gender-Based Violence: Strategies and Guidelines Supporting Clients Through a Safety Lens in a Multicultural Context  
**Presenter:** Shamaila Akram

**River Cree 4** – Coercive Control: Understanding the Impact on Survivors as Parents and Their Children  
**Presenter:** Peter Jaffe

**2:15 - 2:30PM**

## **Break**

**2:30 - 3:30PM**

**Closing Keynote – Marilyn Poitras**  
Enoch Grand Ballroom

**3:30 - 4:00PM**

**Closing Remarks**  
Enoch Grand Ballroom



# Tuesday, May 2

*Pre-Conference Sessions: 1:00 - 5:00PM*

Day 1

## Leading Change Expansion Pack 2.0

Join us for this session to share your feedback on the Leading Change Expansion Pack (LCEP). Facilitated by Tamreen Arif, one of the designers who helped create this unique resource, you'll have a chance to share your thoughts on how we can improve future iterations of the LCEP and ACWS non-programmatic prevention initiatives. This session promises to be an interactive deep dive. Note: Completion of all LCEP activities is not required in order to participate in this session.

**Time:**

1:00 - 3:00PM

**Presenter:**

Tamreen Arif (You Need this Box)

**Location:**

River Cree 2

## Podcasting 101 Workshop

The basics of how to create a podcast and how to get it in front of your desired audience. This interactive session will feature samples of current podcasts, highlighting what's working and what needs work, so you can use podcasting to build awareness, community, and brand.

**Time:**

1:00 - 3:00PM

**Presenter:**

Sarah Hoyles

**Location:**

River Cree 1

## Shelter Showcase

Join member organizations of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters to learn about their innovative approaches to respond to and prevent gender-based violence. This panel will highlight exciting initiatives that are leading change across Alberta.

**Time:**

3:30 - 5:00PM

**Presenters:**

ACWS members

**Location:**

River Cree 1



# Wednesday, May 3

## Plenary Sessions

Day 2

### Centring Relationships to End Violence: Our Journey, Our Lessons, Our Vision

The Centring Relationships to End Violence (CREV) Project is a collaborative project uniting the Alberta Native Friendship Centre Association, the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services, and the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters. Together, the provincial associations are working to develop authentic relationships across sectors at the provincial and community level; creating communities of practice in regions across the province; and further developing the partnership framework through identifying and implementing cross-sectoral initiatives to strengthen GBV services at the local level. Join the Provincial Association Leaders to learn more about their journey, their lessons and their vision for improved access and outcomes for Indigenous women who have experienced domestic or sexual violence.

**Time:**

11:20AM - 12:05PM

**Presenters:**

Debra Tomlinson  
(Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services),  
Jeanette MacInnis (Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association), Jan Reimer and Nicole Orji (ACWS)

**Location:**

Enoch Grand Ballroom

### The Power of Platform: Using Media to Prevent Gender-based Violence

Join a panel of powerful speakers to talk about different ways to leverage various media platforms to share messages that can help prevent gender-based violence, in all its forms.

**Time:**

2:30 - 3:30PM

**Location:**

Enoch Grand Ballroom

**Panelists:**

- Jana Pruden, journalist at *The Globe and Mail* and recipient of one of this year's Lynda Steele Media Awards
- Jonathan Van Ness (JVN) from *Queer Eye*
- Tamarra Lessard, Cinematographer
- Professor Chesko ("the Speech Prof")

**Moderated by:** Mel Willerth, ACWS



# Wednesday, May 3

Day 2

**Breakout Sessions 1: 10:25 - 11:10AM**

## Trauma Informed Care and Culturally Responsive Services

We will talk gender-based violence prevention using ethno-cultural and trauma-informed lens. Based on our research findings, we will talk about gaps in the service delivery for the clients from racialized communities and some recommendation as proposed by the community itself. We will touch upon mental health, social exclusion, racism, and other factors that prevent clients from seeking help, and also highlight some systemic issues that contribute to violence. The emergence of various grassroots shelters and ways the DV sector could help build their capacity to better address the needs of their clients and prevent violence from happening in those communities. While we are seeing immigration to Canada increase, we are also unfortunately seeing a rise in hate crimes and far right movements. In this session we will also share our experiences working with newcomer, refugee, and non-status women and children who are not only working on overcoming the challenges of resettlement but also Intimate Partner Violence. This session will help explore this unique intersection of challenges along with the structural and systemic barriers that hinder their ability to escape cycles of poverty and abuse. The session will also provide strategies and tools to ensure our trauma-informed approaches are also culturally responsive. Finally, the session will also give real-world examples of how cultural and/or community-based social supports can be a source of strength and support for clients.

**Presenter:**

Leen Yaghi (Nisa Homes)

**Location:**

Enoch Grand Ballroom

## Swimming Upstream: Prevention Approaches and Engagement Strategies to Help Stop Sexual Harassment

This presentation from the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services (AASAS) will offer participants insight into pre-/post-workplace sexual harassment prevention campaign research and evaluation, as well as how to use social science to affectively engage people in the issue of workplace sexual harassment. They'll discuss challenges with typical training and awareness approaches to sexual harassment and the new approach that AASAS taking with the #momentsmatter campaign and Engagement Strategies Toward Ending Workplace Sexual Harassment training. Participants will learn about behavioural sciences and social norms marketing strategies as well as gain insight into best practices in teaching and learning that can be utilized in their own anti-violence social change, prevention, and response initiatives.

**Presenter:**

Corinne Ofstie (Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services)

**Location:**

River Cree 1



# Wednesday, May 3

Day 2

**Breakout Sessions 1: 10:25 - 11:10AM**

## **Queering Sexual and Gender-based Violence: An Intersectional Approach to Mainstream Media Coverage**

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) continues to be a prominent issue within and outside of university campuses; yet, it lacks the acknowledgement and intersectional understanding it so desperately needs for institutions to create safe and informed spaces. Their paper and presentation aim to curate this conversation by asking the following questions: how can an intersectional framework be incorporated into policies and procedures to move away from a privileged white, hetero, cis female narrative of SGBV? What social and cultural stereotypes must change when talking about survivors? Why do we only focus on and believe specific voices in discussions about SGBV? How does transformative justice further support prevention work within a media framework?

### **Presenters:**

V Bragagnolo (York University),  
Lauren McLean (University of Guelph), and Ash Shalmoni (York University)

### **Location:**

River Cree 2

## **Connecting Feminized Workplaces and Workplace Sexual Harassment: A Public Library Case Study**

In the course of doing their jobs, and at their workplaces, library workers often experience third-party or patron-perpetrated sexual harassment (PPSH) that runs the continuum of “everyday” harassment such as explicit and sexual comments to escalating violence. “I was told ‘You would look good with breast implants’”; “While shelving materials a man said ‘that’s how I like to see a woman -- on her knees.’”; “The patron kept telling me they wanted an experience with a black woman and asking about my body parts.” These are examples of some of the responses we received to our national survey of library workers when we asked about their experiences of PPSH in their workplaces. Taking an intersectional anti-violence feminist approach, we acknowledge PPSH as a form of gender-based violence and define it as the sexual harassment of library staff by the very patrons they endeavour to support. Considering the continuum of violence that library staff experience in the execution of their job duties, the gendered job performance expectations of library workers, and the broader social structures that perpetuate gender-based violence, we offer PPSH of library workers and library workplaces as an instructive site and case study to understand gender-based violence in the workplace. We will do this by examining how broader social structures, identity factors, and workplace factors perpetuate gender-based violence in the workplace and how organizational responses can provide helpful interventions in preventing or mediating the pernicious effects of PPSH.

### **Presenter:**

Tami Oliphant (University of Alberta)

### **Location:**

River Cree 3



# Wednesday, May 3

Day 2

**Breakout Sessions 1: 10:25 - 11:10AM**

## **Nurturing Daughter and Father Relationships and Family Well-Being: A Community-based Transformative Initiative**

Despite societal progress towards gender equity over the last few decades, girl children are still less preferred and given less importance compared to boy children across the globe. Further, in families who adhere to traditional and restrictive gender norms, fathers often have limited involvement in parenting and limited expressions of emotional intimacy or vulnerability. These cultural norms and traditions perpetuate negative notions of masculinity and contribute to unhealthy relationships between daughters and fathers and within families, having negative impacts on gender equity. However, in Canada there are limited programs that support the development of nurturing fathers from diverse backgrounds. A community event model was developed to provide support and build capacities of fathers and families in nurturing their daughters. Data was collected during the program through surveys facilitated by trained community-based researchers. Fathers, men in fatherly roles, and mothers from primarily South-Asian backgrounds attended and provided their feedback and reflections on the program. Responses from participants highlighted that this community event was culturally relevant and therefore enhanced their capacity to engage and learn. Participants indicated that learning gained in this meaningful initiative fostered gender equity and family wellbeing. In a context of ongoing global interaction between the diaspora with families and friends in countries of their origin, the social impact of these community events often extends from local to global. In this presentation, we will share the underpinnings of our program framework, the evaluation of the program and engage participants in a discussion as to how this work connects with broader violence prevention initiatives.

### **Presenter:**

Aamir Jamal and Liza Lorenzetti (University of Calgary)

### **Location:**

River Cree 4





# Wednesday, May 3

Day 2

**Breakout Sessions 2: 1:15 - 2:15PM**

## The Impacts of the Grassroots Movement and Historical Works

The world now knows the truth after finding our children in the ground over 10,000 and counting, as a Residential School survivor and living through every horrific statistic as an Indigenous person and sharing the truth of why we have to navigate through Systematic Racism, Strategic Genocide, and Planned Oppression. Once public have ground level truth it changes them, then upon their own moral compass do they become part of a solution or remain in ignorance. The Indigenous people feel targeted, forgotten, and unheard. We still fight for the same rights as everyone else and never see justice and cannot receive healing, which the government and the church owes to everyone they traumatized. This trauma bleeds into the everyday survival and suffering of how to heal ourselves. I am a powerful, healed and lead in love kind of person who found a place of peace then shared my story, and now I reach the world and help save, change, and impact lives everyday. I also bring unity for all as we need each other more than ever but it took a lot of work in myself to achieve this, being with the people who do not feel like they matter and sharing how I took back my spirit and power is very urgent as the trigger can be pulled on us at anytime because we are Indigenous.

**Presenter:**  
Stephanie Harpe

**Location:**  
Enoch Grand Ballroom

## Ethical Storytelling in Gender-based Violence Prevention

For many organizations working in gender-based violence prevention, story is currency. We tell stories to influence policy. We tell stories to create awareness. We tell stories to raise money. And when we've had a positive impact on victims of gender-based violence, we tell stories about it to donors, volunteers, and supporters. We tell stories to invite others in. But what is the impact of our stories? Are we re-traumatizing victims? Are we "othering" the people we serve and reinforcing the savior complex? Or are we empowering survivors as the protagonists in their own stories. We can tell better stories. Join this session to learn how to implement ethical storytelling grounded in justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

**Presenter:**  
Michelle Okere (Okere & Associates)

**Location:**  
River Cree 1



# Wednesday, May 3

Day 2

**Breakout Sessions 2: 1:15 - 2:15PM**

## 2SLGBTQ+ Perspectives in the Violence Prevention Sector: Insights from the Community of Practice

Are you a 2SLGBTQ+ or allied person working in the anti-violence sector looking to network or a service provider looking to improve your inclusion and access to members of the community? This session will highlight the work of Alberta's provincewide 2SLGBTQ+ Community of Practice (CoP) and its work to build an inter-agency community, to adapt sector tools, and to build inclusion in organizations. Hear perspectives from members and gain insights on how both to attract staff and to show solidarity with fellow service providers and those accessing services. The CoP will share concrete take-aways on how to start conversations in your organization to engage in this vital work and ensure organizations are truly a safe place for 2SLGBTQ+ clients and staff. Walk away feeling empowered, uplifted, and a part of the community.

**Presenter:** Members of the Community of Practice

**Location:**  
River Cree 2

## Domestic Violence and Your Workplace Program

Learn about the ACWS Domestic Violence and Your Workplace curriculum, new developments in the program, and be among the first to see the new online course being launched at the Summit!

**Presenter:** Joe Campbell and Astrid Mitchell (ACWS)

**Location:**  
River Cree 3



# Wednesday, May 3

Day 2

**Breakout Sessions 2: 1:15 - 2:15PM**

## The Shelter Pulse Project: Leading Policy Change

The Shelter Pulse Project: Leading Policy Change session will touch on different aspects of this grassroots project. First, the need for the project will be outlined and how this project came to be. Next, a high level overview of the project will be discussed including: project phases, engagement; findings from our “What We Heard Report”; website development; policy development; what our partners are getting out of the project; and a live demonstration of the Shelter Pulse policy database which will be available to all rural violence against women/domestic violence shelters in the near future. Third, the panel discussion will take place including insights from shelter partners. Finally, a question and answer period will conclude the session.

### Presenters:

Mary McGuire and Dee Ann Benard (Rural Development Network)

### Location:

River Cree 4



# Thursday, May 4

Day 3

**Breakout Sessions 3: 9:20 - 11:05AM**

## Open Networking

This is an opportunity for participants to connect with other attendees at the Summit, for self-directed networking and meetings.

### Location:

River Cree 2



# Thursday, May 4

## Breakout Sessions 3: 9:20 - 11:05AM

Day 3

### Centring Relationships to End Violence: Member Engagement Session

**\*Session runs from 9:20AM - 12:15PM**

**NOTE:** This session is for members of ACWS, ANFCA, and AASAS only.

Join the Centring Relationships to End Violence Provincial Association Leaders (PALs) for a member engagement session, uniting members from all 3 associations from across the province. Members will gather and walk through opening activities intended to help participants get to know each other, while also working through a facilitated conversation using the Appreciative Inquiry approach. Connect with fellow association members and regional service providers to begin or continue building supportive working relationships that enhance coordination between Native Friendship Centres, Sexual Assault Centres and Services, and Domestic Violence Shelters. Along with facilitated conversations and networking opportunities, members will also help vision quadrant-based Communities of Practice.

#### **Presenters:**

Debra Tomlinson  
(Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services),  
Jeanette MacInnis (Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association), Jan Reimer and Nicole Orji (ACWS)

#### **Location:**

Enoch Grand Ballroom

### Ethical Data Practices

Mainstream approaches to data often set non-profits up to fail. These approaches frequently do not centralize the wellbeing, goals, and successes of gender-based violence survivors, or fully respect and safeguard their data. Data practices that fail to prioritize survivor safety and wellbeing can directly undermine our work to address and end gender-based violence. This session will address a number of big questions concerning the collection and use of data about gender-based violence survivors, including:

1. What is data sovereignty and data mobility, and why is it essential to improving our work and building better relationships with funders and clients?
2. How can we design beautiful systems that motivate and support (rather than just frustrate) our frontline staff?
3. How do we connect with people in their preferred language and desired platforms (SMS, WhatsApp, Voice) at scale, and why is this essential post-covid?
4. In a world where data has become a substantial source of power and wealth, how can we ensure that survivor data is used in ways that empower survivors and does not monetize or profit off of the violence and abuse they have lived through.

#### **Presenters:**

Raj Rajakumar and Omar Yaqub (Islamic Family & Social Services Association), Miranda Pilipchuk (ACWS)

#### **Location:**

River Cree 1



# Thursday, May 4

Day 3

**Breakout Sessions 3: 9:20 - 11:05AM**

## Curating Spaces for Belonging

Social workers and trauma specialists often hold themselves to a high standard of being able to rise above personal values, beliefs and biases when engaging in our work, but how valid is this standard we hold ourselves to? This workshop will delve into the impact of understanding our personal privilege and morals in engaging in trauma informed care from the perspective that we can't, in fact, check our privilege and morals at the door when we enter our work. Sagesse, as an agency at the edge of innovation and reflection in our trauma informed practice has seen a movement away from trauma professionals understanding and acknowledging the impact their personal privilege and morals have on the work they do, the people they serve, and the funding and community support they receive to engage in their work. Through exploring case studies of our agencies experiences across Alberta, as well as pulling from our work and connections internationally, this workshop will attempt to shine a light on the blind spots that we have as service providers when designing, delivering, and evaluating trauma-informed programs and care. Through experiential activities and discussion as well as personal reflection, this workshop will create a safe place for people to understand the privilege and morals they bring into spaces with them, what the benefits and downfalls of these both are, and how to move forward from a place of awareness and recognition of impact.

### **Presenters:**

Carrie McManus and  
Brielle Batty-Smith  
(Sagesse)

### **Location:**

River Cree 3

## Systems Navigation: An Institutional and Student-advocacy Approach to Preventing Gender-based Violence in the Post-secondary Environment

The University of Lethbridge pioneered new changes aimed at prevention and intervention of gender-based violence through a cross-collaborative approach between institutional leaders and student advocates. Working within the systems of a large institution is challenging, but a collaborative approach between students and institutional players proved most effective in pushing forward long-awaited change. The Students' Union made a landmark decision to de-ratify all Greek Life Organizations along with a number of other initiatives has made them a leader in SV

prevention. In this session, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Prevention Coordinator Courtney Smith, and past ULSU President Holly Kletke will outline the challenges and successes in navigating complex institutional, governmental, and socio-cultural systems in order to push forward change. Courtney and Holly realized that combining student advocacy and institutional knowledge was the key to achieving necessary and long-awaited steps-forward in gender-based violence at the University of Lethbridge, proving that collaborative approaches and knowledge sharing is useful in advancing the cause.

### **Presenters:**

Courtney Smith and Holly  
Kletke (University of  
Lethbridge)

### **Location:**

River Cree 4



# Thursday, May 4

Day 3

**Breakout Sessions 4: 11:15AM - 12:15PM**

## **Centring Relationships to End Violence: Member Engagement Session (cont)**

**\*Session runs from 9:20AM - 12:15PM**

**NOTE:** This session is for members of ACWS, ANFCA, and AASAS only.

Join the Centring Relationships to End Violence Provincial Association Leaders (PALs) for a member engagement session, uniting members from all 3 associations from across the province. Members will gather and walk through opening activities intended to help participants get to know each other, while also working through a facilitated conversation using the Appreciative Inquiry approach. Connect with fellow association members and regional service providers to begin or continue building supportive working relationships that enhance coordination between Native Friendship Centres, Sexual Assault Centres and Services, and Domestic Violence Shelters. Along with facilitated conversations and networking opportunities, members will also help vision quadrant-based Communities of Practice.

### **Presenters:**

Debra Tomlinson  
(Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services),  
Jeanette MacInnis (Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association), Jan Reimer  
and Nicole Orji (ACWS)

### **Location:**

Enoch Grand Ballroom

## **Lessons from the Locker Room: A Year with the Alberta Junior Hockey League**

ACWS has been working with sports organizations for over a decade and last year entered into a league-wide partnership with the Alberta Junior Hockey League. Community Developer Joe Campbell will share lessons learned from the first year of working with the league, evaluation results, and how the program is moving forward into the next season.

### **Presenter:**

Joe Campbell (ACWS)

### **Location:**

River Cree 1



# Thursday, May 4

Day 3

**Breakout Sessions 4: 11:15AM - 12:15PM**

## **Expanding Awareness of Intimate Partner Sexual Abuse: Theory and Implications for Practice**

This presentation features results from the "Healing Journey," a tri-provincial Canadian prairie research project on intimate partner violence, in which the Alberta Council of Women's shelters was a community research partner. To further assess IPSA, Bagwell-Gray et al. (2015) developed a taxonomy of intimate partner sexual violence (IPSV) focusing on type of force (physical or non-physical) and type of sexual activity (penetration or no penetration). This showed the importance of expanding our understanding of IPSA is highlighted. Their practice implications draw on the experiences of these women/survivors from the prairies; the very populations that the ACWS and other sexual assault/violence agencies serve (including Indigenous women and women living in rural areas). The implications include what to say when asking women about intimate partner sexual violence (including several available standardized measures) and how to respond if IPSA is disclosed. Audience members will be invited to provide their experiences and recommendations with respect to this often-ignored issue.

**Presenters:**

Leslie Tutty, Cindy Ogden

**Location:**

River Cree 2

## **Criminalizing Victimization: Black Women's Experiences of Gender-based Violence**

Despite ongoing concerns for the substantial number of women impacted globally by gender-based violence (GBV), little attention has been paid to Black women's experiences of GBV in the Canadian context. Black women's multiple and intersecting identities of race, class, and gender and various forms of oppression increase their risk of GBV. Their experiences of GBV and use of force often overlap with other forms of violence. This workshop calls into question the victim and offender binary for Black women charged with perpetrating violence against their male partners. Through the lens of critical race feminism, this workshop interrogates the socio-political and historical contexts that inform the events that unfold in Black women's lives and how they negotiate these dual roles. This workshop brings a complex understanding of the needs of Black women and calls for initiatives that shape and rethink interventions and policy initiatives including mandatory charging practices so that they are more appropriate and relevant for Black women.

**Presenters:**

Patrina Duhaney  
(University of Calgary)

**Location:**

River Cree 3





# Thursday, May 4

Day 3

*Breakout Sessions 4: 11:15AM - 12:15PM*

## Experiences of IPV and Barriers to Help-seeking in 2SLGBTQ+ Communities

Most research studies on the topic of intimate partner violence (IPV) focus on the experiences of heterosexual women, and fail to represent the unique realities of violence and abuse within 2SLGBTQ+ communities. This session will focus on the results from our community-based research study examining IPV in 2SLGBTQ+ communities in the Prairie provinces (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta). This study utilized a mixed methods approach, including an online survey and in-depth interviews with survivors and service providers. Results revealed that 2SLGBTQ+ communities experienced unique forms and tactics of abuse in comparison to their heterosexual counterparts (deemed “gender/sexuality-specific abuse”), as well as unique barriers to help-seeking that limited access to gender-based violence services and supports. Intersectional analyses also revealed disparities in experiences of abuse, injury, and help-seeking amongst different gender identities, sexual orientations, ethno-cultural backgrounds, and abilities—particularly for TGNC (transgender and gender nonconforming) survivors. These findings ultimately underscore the urgent need for more education, awareness, and action on the issue of IPV in 2SLGBTQ+ communities in the gender-based violence sector.

### **Presenters:**

Ashley Haller and Bright Thorsteinson (RESOLVE Manitoba)

### **Location:**

River Cree 4





# Thursday, May 4

**Breakout Sessions 5: 1:15 - 2:15PM**

Day 3

## The Moose Hide Campaign: An Indigenous Innovation for all Canadians

This session will share the journey of the Moose Hide Campaign from its foundation to present day with a special focus on the traditional Indigenous medicine the moose hide carries. We will talk about our culturally grounded theory of change to end gender-based violence. As an implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the Reclaiming Power and Place Report Calls for Justice, the Moose Hide Campaign will invite participants to explore this grassroots, Indigenous innovation as a tangible action for personal and society change. The Moose Hide Campaign was founded with a special focus to engage men and boys in the conversations and the work of bringing light to the pandemic of gender-based violence that thrives in the shadows. As a national strategy, this approach is now taught in schools across Canada, ensuring that education of future generations is a fundamental aspect of our strategy for lasting change.

### **Presenters:**

Raven Lacerte and David Stevenson (Moose Hide Campaign)

### **Location:**

Enoch Grand Ballroom

## Panel: Ethical Allyship Across Communities

This moderated panel conversation will explore the ethics of allyship among diverse communities including why allyship matters, what ethical allyship looks like, and how to face tough conversations with allies in social movements.

**Moderated by:** Joe Campbell (ACWS)

### **Presenters:**

Lisa Lunn (Women Building Futures), Basel Abou Hamrah (Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers), Professor Chesko, Leigh Sheldon

### **Location:**

River Cree 1

## Open Networking

This is an opportunity for participants to connect with other attendees at the Summit, for self-directed networking and meetings.

### **Location:**

River Cree 2



# Thursday, May 4

## Breakout Sessions 5: 1:15 - 2:15PM

Day 3

### Gender-based Violence: Strategies and Guidelines for Supporting Clients Through a Safety Lens in a Multicultural Context

In this session, we will explore how the Settlement and Anti-violence sectors can work collaboratively on the development of strategies and guidelines to address GBV for newcomers, immigrants, and refugees. The content of this session will reflect on recommendations related to policies and procedures for settlement services that are identified as part of our initial needs assessment, as well as ongoing conversations and consultations about the importance of approaching clients through a safety lens to support clients. The session will comprehensively explore micro-level interactions with GBV survivors and systematic policies for GBV to ensure support.

#### Presenters:

Shamaila Akram (Centre for Newcomers)

#### Location:

River Cree 3

### Coercive Control: Understanding the Impact on Survivors as Parents and Their Children

Coercive control is now recognized in the *Divorce Act* as a factor to consider in determining children's best interests in making parenting arrangements after separation. Although the law has changed, there has been a lag in our understanding of coercive control both in terms of what it is and what impact it has on parents and children. This presentation will focus on these issues together with key challenges in assessment and intervention planning for children and parents in family law disputes. The implications for helping the court to make appropriate parenting plans will be discussed.

#### Presenter:

Peter Jaffe (Western University)

#### Location:

River Cree 4



May 3

## Opening Keynote: Willie Ermine

**Willie Ermine** is from the Sturgeon Lake First Nation in Saskatchewan. He is a retired professor from the First Nations University of Canada and now works for his own community in the field of traditional health. He has an extensive history working with Elders and has also published numerous academic articles. He has presented in various conferences nationally and internationally. His continuing work centers on the promotion and creation of the ethical space with the primary interest in the nature of indigenous thought.



May 4

## Closing Keynote: Marilyn Poitras L.L.B. (USASK), L.L.M. (Harvard Law)

**Marilyn Poitras** is an ethical space designer, public speaker and positive deviant. She is a lawyer and a student of Indigenous traditional law with Knowledge Keepers and communities from all over the world. Through her expertise in law, her love of family and gifts as a teacher, Marilyn is building an Indigenous language of Design Thinking to bring a strategy to create and reinvent design solutions through traditional teachings on natural law, spiritual law and human law.

As a lawyer, negotiator, professor, writer, film producer, an editor, and as a community builder, Marilyn sees doorways at every step in a design process to practice inclusion. Her gift is to notice who is here and to ask who is missing and asking why. Michif Cree and Irish/Scottish, born and raised in Southern Saskatchewan, Marilyn comes to her work with passion and conviction, and focuses her lens on relationship development, for everything.

# Speaker and Presenter Bios



**Basel Abou Hamrah** is a Settlement Practitioner with the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers. He came to Canada in 2015 as a refugee from Syria. As a

member of the LGBTQ+ newcomers' community, he found it hard to connect with others and realized there were no resources available. He led the creation of the Rainbow Refuge Program, the first program of its kind in Alberta to support LGBTQ+ newcomers with immigration and settlement. He is also a co-leader of the LGBTQ+ Newcomer Edmonton Group and Co-chair of the IP working group with the Canadian Council for Refugees. A recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal and the Stonewall 2021 Newcomers and Refugees Award, he is a strong advocate for the needs of the LGBTQ+ newcomer community.



**Shamaila Akram** is the Director of Vulnerable Populations at the Centre for Newcomers. She strongly advocates culturally appropriate interventions and cultural humility practice in counseling. She is the recipient of the Canadian Mental Health Association's 2022 Alberta Mental Health Leaders Award, a Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal, and the Women of Distinction Award 2023 from Alberta Legislative Assembly. Akram has a Master of Counseling Psychology from the Werklund School of Education and is a registered Counselor with Canadian Counselor and Psychotherapist Association and a Provisional Psychologist. Shamaila is a first-generation Pakistani Canadian. She moved to Canada with her young family and has now called Canada home for almost 10 years.



**Tamreen Arif, MPA** (she/her), is passionate about creating a genuine sense of belonging for every member of our community and supporting meaningful inclusion. She is

always interested in finding new ways to turn complex problems into inclusive & equitable policy solutions. Raised in Montreal, she's called Edmonton (Treaty 6) home for the last nine years. Tamreen has worked in strategic policy roles in the non-profit sector and all three levels of government. She has been involved in anti-racist and intersectional feminist community initiatives through InspireHer Society | Non-Profit and You Need This Box. Last year, she was part of the team that designed the Leading Change Expansion Pack for ACWS.



**Brielle Batty Smith** (she/her) is the Collective Impact Lead at Sagesse, a Calgary based not for profit agency that empowers individuals, organizations and

communities to break the cycle of domestic violence. She holds a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Calgary, and a Diploma in Business Administration from Lethbridge College. Prior to this role, Brielle was IMPACT's Member Engagement Coordinator, an initiative that brings together a network of service providers to address shared issues, enhance services and supports across Alberta and identify opportunities for large scale change. She is passionate about supporting the capacity of service providers across the province which enable Albertans affected by domestic violence to have access to high quality supports in their communities.



**V Bragagnolo** (they/she) is a PhD Candidate in the Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies program at York University. V's current work examines queer experiences of sexual violence on

university campuses. Their research interests include the theorizing of violence, social politics, and queer theory.



**Joe Campbell** (he/him) is a Leading Change™ Community Developer with the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters. A graduate of the Social Work program at Mount Royal

University, Joe is passionate about working with men and boys to explore the intersection of masculinity and violence. Over the last 10 years, Joe has initiated multiple meaningful community conversations about the foundational attitudes and beliefs in our culture that can perpetuate violence against women. Through these conversations, he supports men to be catalysts to end violence against women.



**Professor Chesko**, known better online as The Speech Prof, is an award-winning professor and content creator based in Los Angeles, CA. With a knack for blending humor and heart, he has

received online notoriety for his content on parenting, compassionate education, and combating toxic masculinity.





**Dr. Patrina Duhaney** is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary. Her research grapples with issues related to race, racism,

victimization, and criminalization and is informed by critical race theory, critical race feminism and anti-racism. Dr. Duhaney has over 14 years of experience working as a social worker, counsellor and front-line worker with various marginalized populations including women who have been abused, youth in conflict with the law, and adults with various disabilities and mental health concerns. In an effort to centre Black experiences and perspectives and confront anti-Black racism, Dr. Duhaney is actively involved in various initiatives across the university of Calgary and in the community.



**Ashley Haller** is a Research Technician at RESOLVE Manitoba, where she coordinates research projects that seek to understand and address gender-based

violence in Canada. Before joining RESOLVE, Ashley completed her graduate studies at the University of Manitoba and her undergraduate studies at the University of Winnipeg. In her spare time, Ashley volunteers with various gender equality groups, including the Gender Rights Specialized Team at Amnesty International Canada.



**Stephanie Harpe** is an International Advocate for Murdered or Missing and Exploited Indigenous Peoples (MMEIP), Murder Attempt, Exploitation Survivor and

family member who was a part of public testimony for the National Inquiry. Harpe has been a keynote speaker for the United Nations, completed two Alberta action plans for the National Action Plan, and has been invited to youth conferences around the world to speak the truth of how Indigenous people have to survive their own country called Canada. Harpe is the presenter of a Tedx Talk titled "Indigenous Suffering and Survival to Success." Harpe is also an award-nominated singer and songwriter for Stephanie Harpe Experience (S.H.E.), actress, and former casting agent for local to Hollywood productions. She is a Survivor, Daughter of a Murdered Mother and Niece of Historical Chief of Fort McKay First Nations.



**Sarah Hoyles** has been working in broadcast journalism and podcasting for more than a decade. She's spent that time as a producer and host at the Canadian

Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) as well as at the Alberta-wide public radio network, CKUA. Now she develops and produces branded podcasts, content and communications for a variety of clients.



**Dr. Peter Jaffe** is a psychologist, Professor Emeritus, and one of the founding Directors of the Centre for Research and Education on Violence

Against Women & Children in the Faculty of Education at Western University. He has co-authored eleven books, 40 chapters, and over 80 articles related to domestic violence, the impact of domestic violence on children, homicide prevention, and the role of the criminal and family justice systems. He helped in the development of "The Fourth R: Skills for Youth Relationships," a school-based curriculum targeting multiple forms of violence, including bullying, dating violence, and peer violence, which is being used in over 5,000 schools in Canada and the US. In 2009, he was named an Officer in the Order of Canada by the Governor General for his work preventing domestic violence in the community.



**Dr. Aamir Jamal**

Dr. Aamir Jamal is a multidisciplinary international scholar and community-based researcher whose transformative work

interrogates deeply rooted socio-cultural and political issues that affect the marginalization of women and other oppressed groups. He is most recognized for his book "The Gatekeepers: Engaging Pashtun men for gender justice and girls' education in Pakistan" (2018), which has been translated into local language. Dr. Jamal's work has regularly informed policy and practice for governments and international agencies.



**Holly Kletke**

Holly Kletke is a recent graduate and current employee of the University of Lethbridge, where she was able to foster her passions for leadership, advocacy, and post-secondary. During her time as a student, she was a Residence Assistant, an elected student representative, and an executive of many different clubs. She was elected Students' Union President in 2021, and during her time was a strong advocate for preventing gender-based violence on campus, and was able to secure many advocacy wins on behalf of students. She maintains her strong passion for advocacy and will continue to fight against gender-based violence.



**Raven Lacerte** is a proud member of the Lake Babine First Nation and belongs to the Grizzly Bear Clan. She is a co-founder and ambassador for the campaign and leads

outreach to Indigenous communities. She is a hunter and a practitioner of traditional Indigenous cultural and ceremonial activities. Raven is also a proud mother of daughters Cedar Sus and Chas Yaz, and partner of Dominic Paul.

**Liza Lorenzetti**

Dr. Liza Lorenzetti is an Associate Professor at the University of Calgary, on Treaty 7 territory. Informed by three decades of working as a counsellor, community social worker and activist in Alberta and Québec, her research focuses on the intersections between family and gender-based violence prevention, anti-racism and social transformation. She has impacted policies and practices, and strengthened the capacities of leaders, policymakers, researchers and students to advance peace-building efforts through an intersectional lens.



**Lisa Lunn** (they/them) is a 2SLGBTQIA+ advocate who has lived in Amiskwaciwâskahikan since 1994. A graphic designer by day and karaoke

host/performance artist by night, Lisa explores multidisciplinary approaches to advancing equality. Through their work at Women Building Futures, Lisa is a founding member of their DEI Working Group and helped to facilitate their Community Partner relationship with the Pride at Work Canada network. They are a volunteer organizer for an annual Queer Youth Prom and a member of the ACWS Blueprint Project's 2SLGBTQIA+ Community of Practice.



**Jeannette MacInnis** is the former Director of Health and Ending Violence initiatives at the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres. She has an extensive

background in a multitude of social determinants of health and wellness areas, extending as far afield as the plight of women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Jeannette has been highly active in the movement to end violence against women and girls. She has sat on the board of directors for the Battered Women Support Services, BC's Community Coordination for Women's Safety provincial working group, the Canadian Women's Foundation, and the former National Advisory Committee on the prevention of human trafficking and exploitation of Indigenous women and youth. She is currently Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association's Acting Executive Director.



**Mary McGuire** graduated from MacEwan University's Social Work program and has spent many years in urban areas doing frontline and community engagement work

in the gender-based violence sector. Now a project manager with the Rural Development Network, Mary manages the Shelter Pulse project in partnership with the Mountain Rose Women's Shelter Association, an initiative focused on the development of a centralized policy database for Violence Against Women (VAW) shelters in Canada.





**Lauren McLean**

(she/her/they) is a PhD candidate in the Literary Studies and Theatre Studies program at the University of Guelph. Her current work

focuses on queer acts of resistance in relation to popular culture within online community spaces. Within and beyond her current work, Lauren self-declared feminist killjoy hoping for change.



**Carrie McManus** breaks down barriers and embraces change as the Director of Innovation and Programs at Sagesse, where she has supported the development of

new programs and initiatives that take a closer look at the unique experiences of domestic abuse within rural and remote communities, the intersections of sex work and domestic abuse, and diverse communities that are often unsupported by domestic abuse interventions. Carrie has over 20 years of experience in strategic and program development, small business management, facilitation, and education. She started her social work career with Mount Royal University's Stepping Up program, a peer-led domestic abuse program in Calgary. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Dalhousie University in Halifax and a Diploma of Social Work from Mount Royal University in Calgary.



**Astrid Mitchell** is an Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, Domestic Violence and the Work Place Consultant as well as a Facilitator in the ACWS' Leading Change: Inspired

Communities Program. She is from Drayton Valley and works as an Occupational Health and Safety Consultant, primarily in the transportation industry. She has a diploma with distinction in Occupational Health and Safety from the University of Alberta Faculty of Extension and is an Alberta Motor Transport Association internal auditor. Astrid is a passionate advocate for work place health and safety and believes involving employers in the fight against domestic violence will truly effect change.



**Corinne Ofstie** is a BA and BSW and the Director of Strategic Initiatives for the Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services (AASAS, [www.aasas.ca](http://www.aasas.ca),

[@aasasmembership](https://twitter.com/aasasmembership)). Corinne is a RSW with experience working with community, system, and government in both sexual and domestic violence sectors. Corinne is well versed on topics such as child sexual abuse, adults who have experienced child sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and sexual assault. Corinne began her antiviolence career as the Coordinator for the Calgary Domestic Violence Collective, a collaboration comprised of more than 60+ community partners working to end domestic violence. In 2018 Corinne was awarded Avenue Magazine's #Top40Under40. Corinne is a member of the Rebuilding Lives Committee for the Canadian Women's Foundation and is on the Expert Advisory Panel member for the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability.



**Cindy Ogden, PhD**, is a social worker in private practice in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, whose primary area of expertise is intimate partner violence. As a research

associate, Cindy contributed to a number of RESOLVE Alberta projects including evaluations of abusive men's groups, women's peer support groups, and the intersection between women's homelessness and IPV. Her PhD dissertation focused on IPV and Canadian Indigenous women.



**Tami Oliphant** is an Associate Professor at the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta. Her previous work has examined mental health, women, and heart disease, and, with Dr. Danielle Allard and Angela Lieu, she is engaged in a research project that draws from intersectional feminist anti-violence frameworks to examine patron-perpetrated sexual harassment in libraries.



**Michelle Okere** is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) and Inclusion specialist with over a decade of experience leading the growth of provincial and

national organizations. She is the Principal of Okere & Associates where she supports organizations in building their EDI capacity to successfully transform workplace culture, drive engagement, and build high-performing teams. She was named to Edify Edmonton's Top 40 Under 40 in 2021 and recently received the Queen's Platinum Jubilee medal.



**Nicole Orji** (she/they) is a Haudenosaunee woman who has worked to create healthy, safe, and inclusive communities in Nistawâyâw (Fort McMurray) for the past

10 years. Holding a master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Western Ontario, Nicole brings both a research-based and a social justice lens to her violence against women work. Working as a Librarian and an Outreach Manager, they advocate for accessible, barrier-free, and culturally safe programs and services for communities and individuals. She is a compassionate leader who looks to Indigenize and decolonize spaces while challenging the status quo. They are guided by humility and curiosity, own a cat, and are an avid volunteer.



**Miranda Pilipchuk** (she/her) received her Ph.D. in philosophy at Villanova University, specializing in gender-based violence, feminist theory, critical race theory, decolonial theory, and legal theory. Before joining the ACWS, she worked as an adjunct professor and social justice facilitator at Villanova, and as the managing editor of a *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*. Miranda has received several research awards and fellowships, including a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship, the Sir James Lougheed Award of Distinction, the Villanova Gender and Women's Studies Graduate Research Award, and the Greater Philadelphia Women's Studies Consortium Graduate Research Award. Her research has been published in peer-reviewed journals and encyclopedias, as well on public blogs.



**Jana Pruden**

Jana G. Pruden is an award-winning feature writer for The Globe and Mail based in Edmonton. Her work on gender-based violence has been recognized internationally, including with an ACWS Lynda Steel Award for outstanding contributions in the field of media.



**Raj Rajakumar**, BURPI & Fellow at On Deck (Linkedin), leads innovation at Islamic Family, a social change organization that is disrupting systemic inequity through

research & beauty. Raj is passionate about service through leveraging technology for the greater good. He spent 6 years in the public sector helping shape revitalization, infrastructure, and long term planning related projects. He built a B2C mobile app that was Top 22 Most Downloaded Apps in Canada and built a B2B SaaS-based data platform that raised 7 figures in funding.



**Jan Reimer's**

accomplishments have been remarkable and widely acknowledged. She was recognized as Edmontonian of the Century, received the

Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals and is one of the YWCA's Women of Distinction. Jan was one of six Canadians who received the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case (2006). What is exceptional about Jan is the depth and breadth of her work and passion. Whether contributing to society at large as Mayor of Edmonton, City Councilor, or private citizen, Jan consistently enables social development. Jan has served as the Executive Director of ACWS for over a decade. Under her leadership, the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters hosted the first ever World Conference of Women's Shelters, which hosted more than 800 delegates from 51 countries.



**Ashley Shalmoni** (she/her) is a PhD candidate in the Gender, Feminist and Women's Studies department at York University in Toronto, Canada. She is working as a

researcher at St. Michael's Hospital, where she is using a feminist political economy approach to investigate the gender gap in the medical field. In addition to this work, she uses an intersectional framework to examine the gender and racial disparities in labour.



**Leigh Sheldon** is from Swan River First Nations and Registered Psychologist. She has also operated Leigh's Counselling Services since 2018 and has served clients

throughout Alberta. She founded Aboriginal Psychological Services in 2017, now called Indigenous Psychological Services, located in Slave Lake, Enoch, Edmonton and Calgary. Leigh specializes in providing Psychological Services for Indigenous peoples and Decolonization. Her focus has been on research on the impacts of colonization, historical influences that impact our clients, systematic racism and oppression, trauma informed techniques that honour the Medicine Wheel approaches and integrating cultural techniques in a clinical setting. She honours the two eyed seeing approach when it comes to operating a practice and how to work with clients.



**Courtney Smith**

Courtney Smith is the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Prevention Coordinator at the university of Lethbridge, where she has been in roll

since 2018. She is passionate about creating change within systems that are defined by hierarchies and finding creative ways to ensure all individuals can feel safe, seen and heard within these spaces. Most recently, Courtney created an online training called Understanding and Responding to Sexual Violence: Level One which was mandated to the entire student population at the University of Lethbridge.



**David Stevenson** (CEO, Moose Hide Campaign) has worked in Indigenous social wellness for over 25 years - from youth outreach worker in Vancouver's Downtown East

End to executive positions in government leading reconciliation initiatives. He is of Irish, French and Haudenosaunee ancestry and lives on the side of Pkols Mountain in Lekwungen-speaking people's territory with two daughters.





**Bright Thorsteinson** (they/them) is a queer and non-binary social work student at the University of Manitoba. They are finishing the last year of their degree with

RESOLVE, and they have chosen to focus on the project: Examining the Nature & Context of Intimate Partner Violence in 2SLGBTQ+ Communities. Bright is passionate about addressing barriers to services for 2SLGBTQ+ survivors of IPV and advocating for improvements in service provision. Bright has previously gained experience working with accessibility services and directly with survivors of IPV and family violence.



**Deb Tomlinson** (MSW, RSW) brings a wealth of experience and knowledge from her thirty years of working in the anti-violence sector. Her leadership and social change

work has been recognized with awards for Advocacy from the Alberta College of Social Workers; multiple Inspiration Awards and a Community Justice Award from the Government of Alberta; and a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal. In her current leadership role, she is passionate about working collectively with AASAS member agencies, community, and government partners to raise awareness of sexual violence and reduce its impact on individuals, families, and communities throughout Alberta. Deb is also a founding member and Co-Chair of Ending Violence Association of Canada, a national organization that works to amplify the collective voice of those who believe it is possible to end gender-based violence.



**Dr. Leslie Tutty** is a retired professor from the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary where she taught courses in clinical social work methods and research. Over

the past 30 years, her research focused on domestic violence services including evaluations of shelter and post-shelter programs for abused women, support groups for abused women, treatment for adult and child victims of sexual abuse and groups for men who abuse their partners.



**Jonathan Van Ness** is an Emmy-nominated television personality, New York Times best-selling author, award-winning podcaster, and hairstylist to the stars. He

stars on Netflix's Emmy Award-winning reboot series "Queer Eye," where he shines as the hair guru and self-care advocate. He was a 2020 Primetime Emmy nominee for 'Outstanding Host for a Reality or Competition Program' along with his "Queer Eye" cast mates. Jonathan was also a 2020 People's Choice Award nominee for 'Favorite Reality TV Star' for the second year in a row. He recently completed his first worldwide comedy tour "Jonathan Van Ness: Road to Beijing," and in September 2019, he released his revelatory memoir, *Over The Top: A Raw Journey To Self-Love*, now a New York Times Best-Seller. Jonathan is passionate about using his platform and voice for change. He is an avid supporter of the LGBTQ+ community, has worked closely with Planned Parenthood and The Trevor Project, and advocates to remove the shame and stigma that comes along with talking about sexual health, as well as the long-lasting effects of bullying and how to overcome it.



**Leen Yaghi** is a first-generation immigrant to Canada, born and raised in a Muslim family. Leen has always been dedicated to making a difference in her community, especially for marginalized and visible minority women. She has spent the last six years working in non-profit organizations in Calgary, focused on reducing barriers and providing support for Muslim women. Currently, she is the Alberta Regional Manager for Nisa Homes, working to raise the voices of domestic violence survivors within the community.



**Abbas Mancey** For over 13 years Abbas has worked in the areas of engaging men and boys in domestic violence and gender equity; mental health and community development as a researcher and project manager. He has worked on initiatives with the United Nations, local governments and non-profit organizations in Guyana, the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, the US and Canada. He is a founding member of the Alberta Men's Network which is a diverse community of Albertans committed to nonviolence and working across the gender spectrum to create healthy families and communities.



**Omar Yaqub**, DSL MBA BSc (@somyaqub Twitter, LinkedIn), serves the team at IslamicFamily, a social change organization that is disrupting systemic inequity through research & beauty. He is the Historian Co-Laureate for the City of Edmonton. He has two decades of experience in the for-benefit sector. During his time with IslamicFamily the organization has become a multi-award winning Imagine Canada & Great Places to Work accredited charity. Omar has been awarded a Doctor of Sacred Letters from St Stephen's College, EMCN's RISE award for Community Leadership, and the University of Alberta's Co-op Mentorship Award. He is a settler on Treaty 6.



# Our Values

Together, ACWS and its members work to end domestic violence—in our homes and throughout our communities.

## Women's Equality and Empowerment

Imbalance in power relations excludes women from decision-making across all aspects of our society. With a focus on women's strengths, we promote their rights, needs, and the value of their lived experience. We seek to create women-centred service provision which promotes equality, improves outcomes for women (and their families), reduces long-term costs and builds stronger communities.

## Inclusivity

We recognize and pro-actively affirm the dignity of all, regardless of race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religious beliefs, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, physical disability, mental disability, marital status, family status, source of income, and sexual orientation. We value the welcoming spaces created by ACWS members so those fleeing violence may heal from their trauma without attempts by abusers, and others, to impose their values, customs or beliefs.

Gender-based violence is an issue faced by people all over the world. The prevalence of gender-based violence worldwide is largely due to systemic gender inequality that disempowers those who identify as women, girls, and other gender minorities, stifles their voices so that their stories are not heard, dismisses, or takes away their dignity, safety, and human rights, or, even worse, depicts violence against them as “normal.”

ACWS acknowledges that current structures often fail to account for the many expressions of gender, and we affirm the importance and the need for resources and supports for gender-diverse people who have experienced violence, as well as safe spaces for them to share and discuss their experiences. Scarcity of resources and aging shelter stock in our sector means that we may not, at this point in time, be able to serve all genders well. Given that women are disproportionately harmed by gender-based violence, our work at ACWS focuses on those individuals who identify as women, but we stand as allies with survivors of all gender identities and sexual orientations in our pursuit of a world free from violence and abuse.



## Meaningful Relationships and Partnerships

We value and seek out meaningful relationships and partnerships to further our vision and increase understanding in a changing society. These relationships take effort by all and are key to both understanding the causes of violence and making changes to end it.

## Stewardship

We are stewards of the many resources gifted to us by women, of past, present and future generations. We commit to appropriate management of the human and financial resources and sustainability of ACWS and the support of our members, while also caring for the earth by restoring and protecting it.

Our values are the foundation upon which our strategic goals are based.

## We Work Collectively

ACWS leads and supports member initiatives which mobilize stakeholders to work collectively to end domestic violence and abuse.

## We Share Knowledge

ACWS, in concert with our members and partners, shares and develops knowledge, resources and connections to steadily advance effective responses to domestic violence and abuse.

## We Change Systems

ACWS champions changes to systems, policies and practices to improve services for those experiencing violence and abuse, creating a safer space for all.

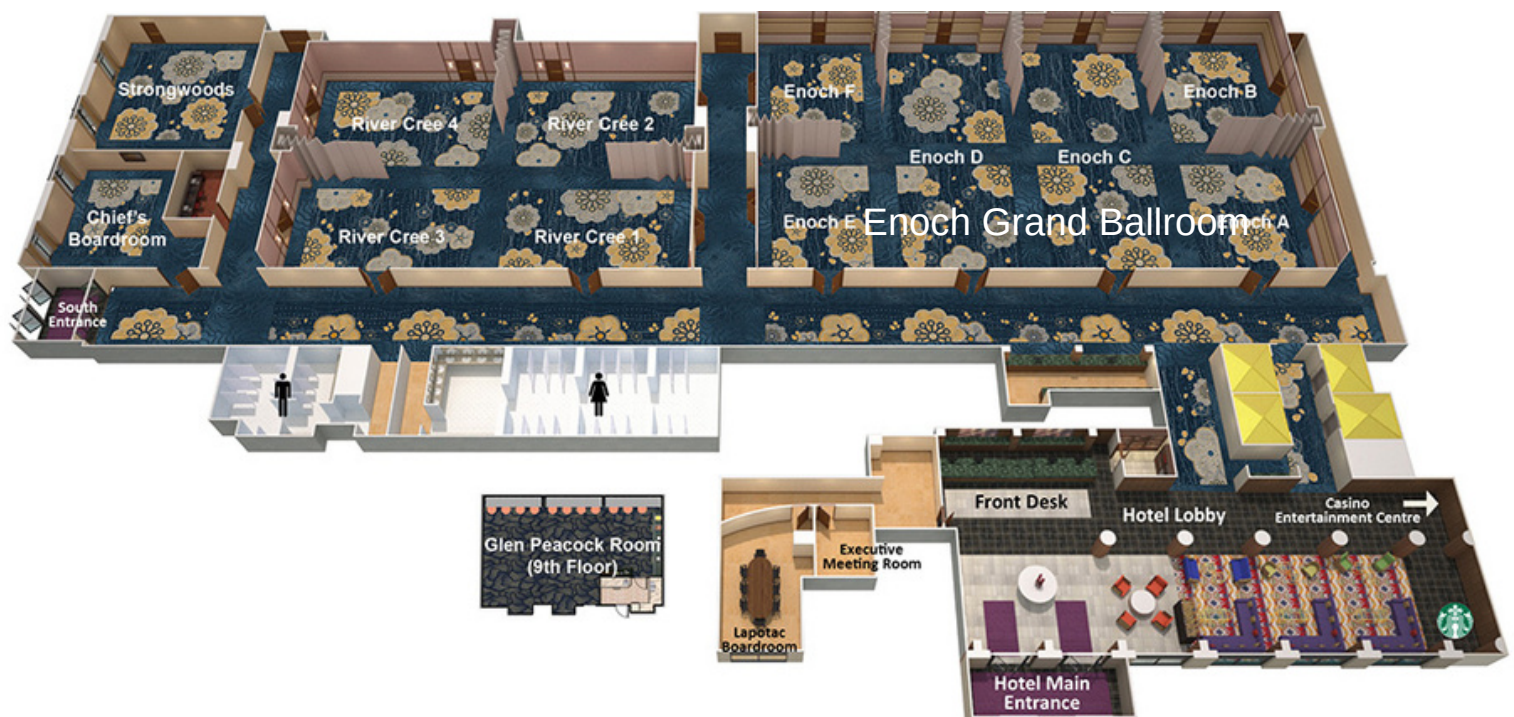
## We Change Culture

ACWS takes action to transform the beliefs, attitudes and behaviours that perpetuate gender-based violence through increased public awareness and conversation.





# Floor Plan: River Cree Resort



Gender-neutral bathrooms will be available at the event.  
Please ask at the Summit registration desk for access.



# Leading Change™ **SUMMIT 2023**

May 2 – 4, 2023 • Edmonton

