

THE FEAST CENTRE COUNCIL OF ELDERS



Feast Centre for
Indigenous STBBI Research

THE FEAST CENTRE
COUNCIL OF
ELDERS

- 03 Albert McLeod
- 04 Anaoyok Alookee
- 06 Catherine Martin
- 08 Marjorie Beaucage
- 10 Naulaq LeDrew
- 11 Sharp Dopler
- 12 Sheila Nyman
- 14 Wayne Seward



ALBERT MCLEOD

Albert McLeod is a Status Indian with ancestry from Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and the Metis community of Norway House in northern Manitoba. He has over thirty years of experience as a human rights activist and is one of the directors of the Two-Spirited People of Manitoba.



Albert began his Two-Spirit advocacy in Winnipeg in 1986 and became an HIV/AIDS activist in 1987. He was the director of the Manitoba Aboriginal AIDS Task Force from 1991 to 2001. In 2018, Albert received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Winnipeg. Albert lives in Winnipeg, where he works as a consultant specializing in Indigenous peoples, cultural reclamation, and cross-cultural training. www.albertmcleod.com



ANAORYOK ALOOKEE



Anaoyok Alookey has been active in the community her whole life. She was the Assistant Manager of the Women's Craft Centre for several years in the 70's and worked with women in the community in designing Inuit clothing, this women's collective created distinct designs that are now attributed to their community of Taloyoak in Nunavut. Some of her designs are

currently part of a collection at Qaumajuq, an innovative new museum, home of the largest public collection of contemporary Inuit art in the world. Anaoyok says that prep of seal and caribou skins are key in the making of Inuit clothing and that the sewing is secondary. In her bio photo, she is wearing a traditional outfit that she made during the Covid lockdown; to this day she continues to design and has passed this skill down to her grandchildren. Some of her past work involved running the Women's shelter and counselling women who access the shelter.



ANAOYOK ALOOKEE

She is currently a resident Elder at the Netsilik School in Taloyoak and a language specialist at the school. She has served on many community boards including the Hunters and Trappers Association Board of Directors. She represented her community at national Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) conferences and provided advice on the national level to that movement. In her spare time, she is on-the-land hunting, fishing, and camping with her family. She is widowed but still very active in her language, culture, and on-the-land activities. She is a mother to 7 children, grandmother to 28 grandchildren and great-grandmother to 40+. She is 77 years of age and requires the support of a helper from her community in doing the work with the Feast Centre. She is a well respected and amazing leader in her community of Taloyoak. She has knowledge and has participated in several community-based research projects and looks forward to offering up her guidance and insights into the research done by the Feast Centre.



CATHERINE ANNE MARTIN

Catherine Martin, is a member of the Millbrook Mi'kmaw Community, Truro, NS. She is an independent international award winning film producer and director, a writer, facilitator, communications consultant, community activist, teacher, drummer, and the first Mi'kmaw woman filmmaker from the Atlantic region. She is a past Chair of APTN and served on the board for the first five years of its inception. She has contributed to policy and institutional change to make cultural and arts more accessible to First Nations artists. Her contributions to film, television and digital media in Atlantic Canada were recognized with a WAVE Award from Women in Film and Television Atlantic. She was honoured with a National Peace Award from VOW (Voices of Women) in November 2016 for her years of work as a peace activist. Catherine has contributed to the development of many programs to advance



CATHERINE ANNE MARTIN



the education of Mi'kmaq and Aboriginal women and youth in the Atlantic Region and across the country, including the Certificate in Community Health at Dalhousie for women in Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, Innu, and Inuit communities, the Indigenous Black and Mi'kmaq

Law Program also at Dalhousie, and the Indigenous Women in Community Leadership program at the Coady International Institute at St. Francis Xavier University, and Professor for CBU's BA Community Program. From 2015 to 2019 Catherine was appointed as the 14th Nancy's Chair in Women's Studies at Mount Saint Vincent University. Catherine is a board of governor for Kings College School of Journalism. She was awarded the Senate 150 medal and the Order of Canada 2017. She is now the first Director of Indigenous Community Relations at Dalhousie University.



MARJORIE BEAUCAGE

Marjorie Beaucage is a Two-Spirit Métis Auntie, filmmaker, art-ivist and educator, a land protector and a water protector. Born in Vassar, Manitoba, to a large Métis family. Marjorie's life's work has been about creating social change, working to give people the tools for creating possibilities and right relations. Whether in the classroom, community, campsite or the arts, Marjorie's goal has been to pass on the stories, knowledge and skills that will make a difference for the future. For Marjorie, story is medicine. As a Two-Spirit Métis Elder, Marjorie takes on the tough topics that need to be discussed. Her work is focused on giving voice to, and creating safe cultural spaces for, traditionally silenced or excluded groups. Marjorie is known on the local, regional and national levels as an Elder who speaks truth to power, and who holds space for difference.



MARJORIE BEAUCAGE

She has been a Grandmother for Walking With Our Sisters; the Elder for OUT Saskatoon; and the Elder-In-Residence for the University of Saskatchewan Student Union. She has also been called on for national research initiatives that focus on Indigenous women living with HIV, Indigenous Harm Reduction, Indigenous youth who experience sexual and gender-based violence, and posttraumatic stress. In all of these, Marjorie returns to story as medicine, to art as medicine. Marjorie says of her work, “creation is a powerful thing; whether you’re making a baby or a loaf of bread or a movie, it comes from the same place. To get people to tap into that energy, that creates possibilities, so they don’t get stuck in this craziness that we’re in is transformative.” And for Summer 2021 she is doing a 1900Km Water Walk to protect the Saskatchewan River, starting at the headwaters (Saskatchewan Crossing) near the Columbia Icefields in the Rocky Mountains to Lake Winnipeg.



NAUFAQ LEDREW

Born & raised in Apex Hill, Nunavut, Naulaq LeDrew is Inuk and was brought up with 8 siblings and many cousins. During her formative years in Apex Hill, Naulaq learned from her family how to live traditionally, developing a deep respect for the land and all that it provides that is grounded in Inuit knowledge and understandings. Naulaq has supported the Urban Inuit community in Toronto for many years and has been elected to be an Inuit community knowledge keeper. As part of her responsibilities in community, Naulaq has presented at universities and symposiums on the topic of Inuit well being, has provided ceremonial openings for organizations and has served lightening qulliq (oil lamp) for Ontario's Ministers. Her favourite pastime is sewing seal skin and creating art & crafts that celebrate her Inuk heritage. Naulaq is happily married to Randall LeDrew, and between them they have 7 children and grandchildren.



SHARP DOPLER

Sharp is a non-binary, niizh-manitowag (two-Spirit) person of Meshkewaki/Ashkewaki/Aniyunwiya and Irish ancestry. They live, work, and play in the unceded traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg people known by its colonised name of Ottawa. Sharp is a carrier of ceremony and Helper in Indigenous and other communities. He is an educator, advocate and researcher who uses ALL the pronouns in every context. She is a military veteran, LGBT Purge survivor, martial artist, trained as a social service worker and has been self-employed as a consultant since early 2016. They are currently in private practice as a Registered Psychotherapist (Qualifying). They have presented on a wide variety of topics at local, national, and international venues for over 20 years. Sharp believes there is no such thing as a dumb or offensive question ... if you REALLY want to know the answer.



SHEILA NYMAN



Shelia Nyman is a Syilx (Okanagan) Métis woman from the Lower Similkameen in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia her spirit name is “Stands Strong like a Rock Bearwoman” and by the generosity of the Ancestors lives in the Interior of BC. Sheila worked extensively with women, mental health and well-being in and around Vancouver’s DTES from 1994 to

2007. She was involved in the early 90s in the organizing of the Women’s Memorial March and continues the connection in the world of stopping violence against women. From 2009 to 2013, she worked supporting former survivors of Residential Schools involved in the settlement process and Truth and the Reconciliation activities. Sheila received a Fellowship from the University of Victoria and completed her Master’s thesis in 2015, which explored the link between ancient Indigenous Ceremony/Traditional Healing and energy therapies such as Somatic Experiencing. She is a skilled intuitive trauma counselor who integrates traditional healing and knowledge into her work.



SHEILA NYMAN

Sheila has been mentored and initiated into “Indigenous Healing and Ceremony” by Spiritual leader and Pipe Carrier, Aline LaFlamme, who is known as “Many Buffalo Running.” She has completed six “Spirit Quests” (vision quest, mountain fasts). She has learned and earned the responsibility to hold a people’s Pipe conducting healing ceremonies such as Moon Lodge and Sweat Lodge. Her connection with Grandmother Moon has inspired her interest in learning and understanding the inter-connections of the energy of our great mother, the Earth. Sheila has participated on several research teams with FEAST Co-leads, Randy Jackson and Renée Masching as well as with other members of the research team. Projects of note include: CANOC (SFU); Stable Homes Strong Families (CAAN/McMaster); The WATCH Study (McMaster); CHIWOS (Women’s College Hospital) and The Cradle Board Tool Kit. (BSW MSW RSW). All my relations.



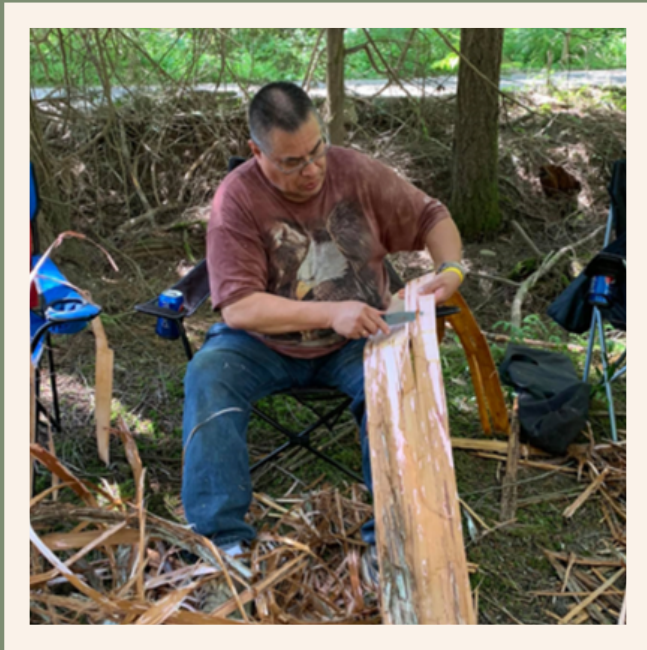
WAYNE SEWARD

I am Wayne Seward, a Coast Salish man from Snuneymuxw (Nanaimo BC). I currently work as the Indigenous Liaison Officer for William Head Institution, a minimum security facility located Southwest of Victoria BC. My job is to assist Indigenous offenders with their Correctional Plan, keep them connected to their family and community and the staff. I also bring community members into the Institution for events as well as Elders, to share teachings and culture to the offenders.

I am a man with many hats and do a lot of different things in my job as the Indigenous Liaison Officer. I also work as a Cultural Support Elder for the Truth and Reconciliation process across Canada, and provide individual cultural support for people involved in the Indian Residential School settlement hearings throughout the span of the TRC hearings. I get called upon, when available, to different communities to assist families and/or communities for cultural support.



WAYNE SEWARD



I do a cleansing with cedar boughs and water. After brushing the people, I would get them to wash away the tears with the water that I have medicine in there as well. I am a spirit dancer in our longhouses and travel up and down the Island, the mainland and the west coast of Washington USA, to these longhouses. I travel to different communities to support those gatherings. There is a lot of singing and dancing amongst other things, in which I cannot speak about as our people say that is all we have left and do not want to lose it. I love to sing for different events / gatherings. I have been taught many songs and prayer songs by my grandfather and I always share the name of the songs and what they mean. My grandfather always told me to always remember that. Most people say that I have my grandfathers voice when I sing. I provided cultural support during the Stable Homes Strong Families Digital Story Telling workshop in Victoria a few years back.





Feast Centre for
Indigenous STBBI Research