

# Indigenous Youth Conference

October 5, 2016 - Olds, Alberta Canada



We are looking forward to hosting the Indigenous Youth Conference.  
If you have questions, please contact Tracy Laut: [tlaut@cesd73.ca](mailto:tlaut@cesd73.ca)



## Shalome Hope

Shalome Hope is of Cree-Metis Heritage and was born in Calgary, AB. She is currently studying @ the University of Calgary. Shalome has been on various committees, panels and projects in the urban Aboriginal community including youth empowerment programs, leadership training and human capacity building initiatives. Shalome's endeavour for 2016 is to focus on her degree and to continue to deliver and further develop a public speaking career

addressing unique cultural and societal issues. Shalome volunteers extensively in the community, is invested in her family and is a recipient of 2015 Chief David Crowchild Award.

## Session: A Journey of Resilience

Shalome speaks to how her experience as an urban aboriginal young person has shaped her successes and challenges today. Shalome experienced family trauma and poverty as a result of colonialism and her father's residential school experience. During her youth she was displaced and a ward of the government placed in Wood's Homes and Aspen group homes to attend Discovering Choices Outreach High School. On her powerful journey to a strong and empowered identity, Shalome battled addictions, homelessness, disease, single parenting and social injustice. Shalome's rise to health and fulfilment has been aided by community initiatives and sparked by community members in and surrounding the Treaty 7 Area.

Shalome's spirit and passion for her community builds connections between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, between youth and service providers, and between youth in conflict with the law and law enforcement, community rehabilitation. Shalome speaks

respectfully and gratefully to the spirit in which she has found fulfilment and her speeches are motivational and inspiring.

- This speaks to our community's focus on kids as Shalome continues to reach highest potentials as an adult, confirming the value of investing in the lives of children
- This speaks to our community's focus on resilience as Shalome has overcome barriers of extreme poverty and continues to build wealth in all areas, showing that society has benefitted from taking pro-active approaches to ending poverty.
- This strongly speaks to our community's focus on communities as Shalome has emerged, being community-raised, a strong and resilient individual with her own family and healthy community, has taken on leadership roles and is giving back using her talents, gifts, and abilities with various initiatives.



## Thomas Snow

Thomas is a cultural facilitator for Okiyabi Consulting and has been facilitating courses focusing on cultural awareness training, intergenerational trauma and healing, and traditional parenting for the past 2 years.

Thomas graduated from the University of Calgary in 2014 with a Bachelor's degree in Social and Cultural anthropology.

Thomas has worked previously as an Economic Development officer for Wesley Nation and sits on the Stoney Education Authority advisory committee and the Wesley First Nation

Education Committee.

## Session: Languages of the Land (The Importance of Language and Culture)

Thomas can speak to how education has changed his life and his experiences as being the First Stoney Nakoda to complete high school and university and the challenges that he encountered.

Thomas' own lifelong journey of education has transformed into one of teaching and incorporating traditional knowledge and youth experiences of addressing issues of suicide, social injustice, intergenerational trauma, growing up on a reserve, addictions, importance of sobriety, transitioning to an urban environment, allyship, and being active in grassroots movements such as Moose-hide Campaign to bring awareness to issues of MMIW and male violence.

Most recently Thomas was awarded a sponsored spot to the BC Centre of Excellence for Young Indigenous Leaders in Ottawa and a sponsored student for the University of Calgary Dynamic North to look at the impacts of Climate change in the North on food security for Indigenous and non indigenous populations.

Thomas is currently working on a food strategy that will incorporate community gardens for his community in Morley to promote healthy diets and connection to the land through Nakoda language based programming.

# Pam Piche Lashmore



Pam's life work is about healing the human spirit through Aboriginal culture. Raised in a strong Métis family, Pam is a Métis dance instructor and travels throughout western Canada and United States performing. Pam has worked with female inmates and teaches the importance of the female role in the family and community.

Currently she travels to schools sharing her teachings and working with the youth, preparing them for adulthood through traditions and culture.

## Session: Moon Time Teachings for Young Women

Moon time teachings are the sacred teachings for women. The teachings explain and guide our young women so that as they understand the highly respected contribution women hold in our society

# Chantal Chagnon



Chantal is a Cree Métis Drummer, Singer, Storyteller, Actor, Educator, Workshop Facilitator, Social Justice Advocate and Activist. She shares Traditional Indigenous Songs, Stories, Culture, History, Arts, Crafts, and Teachings at Events, Schools, Businesses, Community Organizations and more.

She has performed at MacEwan Hall, Jubilee Auditorium, Jack Singer, and many other stages showcasing Traditional and Contemporary Aboriginal Music, as well as Modern Music in Collaboration with various Bands and Artists.

Chantal aims to entertain, engage, enlighten, educate, and inspire everyone she meets.

## Session: Drumming

Drums carry powerful significance in Traditional Aboriginal culture. The drum is the heartbeat of Mother Earth. Before we enter the world, when we are in our mother's womb, the first sound we hear is our Mother's heartbeat, the second sound we feel is our own. This Heartbeat connects us all and breathes life into every living spirit. Drums are used for healing, ceremony, and celebration, and each song and drum beat carries the messages and intentions of our ancestors. Drums are a traditional instrument found in all indigenous cultures throughout the world.



## Elder John W. Sinclair

Born: 1954, in Bonnyville AB. Métis, of Cree ancestry. Grandparents raised him. Grandmother attended residential school. Grandfather had a grade 3 education. Grandmother raised him as a catholic and attended church weekly.

University educated for two years studying psychology. Trained with a traditional Elder for 24 years, in that process, was given permission to carry a pipe and to run a sweatlodge. While working in a alcohol and drug treatment centre, John received counsellor training and specialized in trauma recovery.

He is employed by Correctional Services Canada as an Elder for the past 16 years. He consults with Schools and various organizations to provide cultural awareness and cultural training.

### Session: Warrior Teachings

#### Eastern Direction - Earth

New beginning with each sunrise, importance of acknowledging our mother earth and all that she provides for us. We begin to see how beautiful our world is. Awareness is the gift in this direction.

#### Southern Direction - Fire

Sun moves across the sky giving us time to grow, learn, live, share, care, respect, and relate to our world. We acknowledge the life-givers in our life: Grandmother, mother, aunt, sister, wife, girlfriend, daughter and friends. We learn how important they are to us men. Their special gift makes them very powerful and we must respect them for their strength and beauty. Time and relation is the gift in this direction.

#### Western Direction- Water

Thunderbird gives us water. We have grown to manhood and begin to use reason in our day to day decisions. We men are gifted with physical strength and must allow our minds to grow along with our muscles. Use the teachings of humility, love, bravery, and kindness in our daily journey through life. The gift here is feelings and reason. We begin to understand why we are here.

#### Northern Direction – Air

Grandfather Wind: We cannot see him but we feel him. He creates movement and brings change into our lives. He is a constant, meaning we are in a constant state of growth, changing every minute of every day. How we perceive the world, how we present to the world, and how we accept what the world offers changes the more knowledge we gain. The gift here is movement and change.

## Veronica Graff

Aboriginal Liaison Worker, M.E LaZerte High School, Edmonton, AB

Veronica has 20 years of experience working in various support programs in schools, and provides a safe, nurturing space within her school for students to access on a daily basis.

### Session: Circle of Courage Leadership Program

The Circle of Courage program's goal is to provide students with opportunities to develop belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity. Students have gained knowledge in those four areas with the implementation of cultural activities, connection with Elders, public speaking, school-based activities, and community involvement. Participants will be split into four groups and led through the program by two Circle of Courage students acting as facilitators, who will also report how the program is supporting them in school, culture, family and community. The students are First Nations and Metis and are involved in cultural activities and traditional ceremonies in Edmonton and area.

# Jeff Clattenburg



## Session: Inuit Winter Games

Students will learn about traditional Inuit games and the role these games play in life in the Arctic. Through active participation students will experience and gain an appreciation of a number of traditional Arctic games, including: The Back Push, The Musk Ox Push, Alaskan High Kick, etc.

# Jackie Davis



## Issoomootstaakii - First Victory Woman

Jackie Davis is a teacher on the Blood Reserve at Tatsikiisaapo'p Middle School. Jackie studied at the University of Lethbridge and has her B.A./B.Ed. With years of experience in teaching, raising children and athletics, her lessons are full of fun and important knowledge. Sports are definitely her passion and she coaches volleyball, running club, track and field and basketball. Jackie is very family-centered and is happy to see her children and grandchildren raised with Blackfoot values and traditions as she was.

## Session: First Nations Games

# Shane Wells



## Mihkohtsiitsoma - Red Paint Boy

Shane Wells is a School Counselor at Kainai High School on the Blood Reserve in Southern Alberta. He studied at Lethbridge Community College and is a well-respected member of his community. He is a single parent working hard to continue to raise his children steeped in Blackfoot teachings, traditions and values. Shane brings a positive attitude, great sense of humor and a wide variety of life experience to every lesson he shares with students and staff.

## Session: Teepee Teaching

# Cree8 Speaker

## Session: Métis Finger Weaving

The art of finger weaving originated among the First Nations of the Eastern Woodlands. As they began trading with the French, they acquired wool, and the belts woven by the First Nations became colourful. These colourful belts were so beautiful that the French adopted them as well! As French fur traders began to move west, many of them took wives from Western First Nations. Their children, the Métis, carried on the fur trade tradition, sporting the sash of their forefathers. To this day, the sash is an integral part of Métis culture, and the art of finger weaving has become one of our proudest traditions!



## Amanda Lamothe

Amanda's ancestral roots are from her mother; the Upper Nicola, of the Okanagan Salish Nation. Coming from a family of 5, she grew up living in Alberta. Edmonton has been her home for the past 18 years. Currently Amanda lives with her husband and their 5 children.

Since 1995 Amanda has worked in the school systems as a Liaison support for Aboriginal students and a Cultural Instructor for K-12. Her passion is to share the positive aspects of Aboriginal People and history to people of all ages and all races. 26 years ago she found her gift of teaching and performing through Aboriginal dance, music and stories. The opportunity to travel throughout Canada and the US and New Zealand has been a blessing for Amanda, to learn and share on a much larger scale. Her favorite things are; powwow dancing, regalia making, performing traditional flute music and public speaking at various events.

Her belief is that we all have something special, a light within that we were born to discover, to Shine brightly and help others to do the same.

## Session: Healing Residential School effects through Native Dance & Flute

Participants will experience the resonating sounds of the Native Flute as they are transported to a time when we were all connected to the land and animals.

The presenter will share her story of the multi generational effects of Residential School. How the negatives have been replaced with positive empowering cultural practices she carries on today. Native Dance and ceremony has helped in the healing journey, and basic lessons will be shared with the participants.

This session is sure to connect your heart with every unifying beat of the drum!

## Elder Randy Bottle



Randy Bottle, is a member of the Blood Tribe, with whom he served on Chief and Council for 24 consecutive years. His Blackfoot name is Saa'Kokoto. Mr. Bottle spends a great deal of time in schools with students, teachers and community agencies, where he helps young people connect and understand the rich history and valued traditions of Indigenous peoples.

Session: Traditions, Ceremony and Protocol



## George Leach

2014 JUNO Award Winner for Best Aboriginal Recording of the Year!

Winner of 3 Aboriginal People's Choice Music Awards for:

- Best Rock Album of the Year
- Best Single of the Year
- Best Songwriter of the Year

Music Videos:

From album "Surrender": "You Got It"

From album "Just where Im at" : "Young Enough"

Live Performance:

Full Band: Young Enough Live

Solo: "Carry Me"

Session: George's Story

George's first album Just Where I'm At was released in 2002 to critical acclaim. Since then Leach took a long break from recording to focus on healthy living and pottery. He says that when he wasn't writing music he was studying and creating pottery.

"Like writing music, making pottery is telling a story," he said. It helps keep him centered and focused in an otherwise crazy music business.

It took George Leach 12 years to write his sophomore album Surrender. It was certainly well worth the wait. His album just received a Juno nomination for Aboriginal album of the year.

“I’m really surprised but very grateful to the Juno committee and CARAS for considering my album,” said Leach from his home in Regina.

It has been quite the year for the musician originally from Lillooet, B.C. In May, Leach headlined a showcase in Dresden Germany. Returning to Ottawa celebrating National Aboriginal Day. July 1st in Victoria B.C was the kick off of his 2016 Tour including the Kispiox BC, Edge of the World Haida Gwaii, Music on the Meadow (M.O.M), & All Folked up SK to name a few.

In 2012, Surrender took home three Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards including songwriter of the year, single of the year and best rock CD.

“I’ve worked hard on this album. I am so honoured to be able to share my music with audiences and to have the fans stick by me all these years between albums,” said Leach.

George Leach is an artist in relentless pursuit of truth. His dedication to songcraft is evident throughout his career, nowhere more so than on his latest album, Surrender, out now.

Surrender is the follow up to George’s debut from 2000, Just Where I’m At. The album’s 11 tracks offer ample proof that the time was well spent.. From the funky groove of opening track You Got It, to the confident modern rock groove and vocal hooks of the first single, Carry Me, to the intimacy in songs like the title track, Surrender takes you on an adventure. The album covers a vast terrain – touches of classic rock, balladry, and R&B, all in the service of a restless musical explorer coming into his own. It ranks among the finest you will encounter, this year or any other.

Now it’s time to hit the road again. Shows are planned throughout 2016. The energy level of a George Leach show can be described as ‘potent’, to put it mildly. In concert George disappears into the moment, chasing the promise of fleeting transcendence that music offers and taking us all with him. Don’t miss it.