



# 7<sup>th</sup> Annual National Aboriginal Youth Violence & Changing Times Training Conference

*"Celebrating Our Nations & Traditions"*

Harbour Towers Hotel & Suites, 345 Quebec St., Victoria BC

March 25-27, 2009

## PRESENTERS

### **Shane Baker**

Shane Baker is 31 years old and is from the Gitksan Nation of Hazelton, BC. After graduating from high school, Shane moved from Victoria back to Hazelton to work with the Tribal Council to assist in mapping old growth areas and traditional territories of the Gitksan people. Shane decided to pursue a career in Computer Graphic Design and returned to Victoria. Just prior to completing his program, he had a severe head injury and became blind as a result. Today, he volunteers in the P.A.R.T.Y. Program as a head injury survivor, sharing his story and telling youth how their decisions could have an impact on the rest of their lives. His story of recovery and his "Red Road" journey continues to inspire Aboriginal youth to reach for the stars and never give up. Shane believes that our youth have unlimited potential and challenges them to not only make right choices but to always do their best in all aspects of their lives

### **Stacy Bear**

*Biography currently not available*

### **Niso Bradford**

Niso is Odawa-Cree, Manitoulin Isle, of Ontario. He attended high school in Calgary and has been involved in Native Youth Leadership Training for 17 years in Canada and the United States, specializing in Violence Prevention, Substance Abuse Prevention, Suicide Prevention and Cultural Enrichment. Niso is an International Grassdance Champion, Singer & Dancer, an experienced Conference M.C. and Motivational Speaker.

### **Alex Diabo**

Alex is a Husband, Father, Grandfather & Great Grandfather. He has been involved with Health, Social Services & Education for many years. He has been a member for 10 years on the National Advisory for the Home & Community Care Program and has been a member for 10 years on the Head Start Program in his area. Alex is a diabetic, which is his forte. He is also a Pow-wow Dancer.

### **Tessa Karangawai Fraser**

I am always grateful when presented with an opportunity to work alongside youth and youth advocates. When we share a desire for understanding one another then turn to assess the challenges we face, by implementing love with every policy, procedure and approach that we make success is the final outcome. Growing up I lived with over sixty children who were placed into my family's care. I remember all of them, I formed a bond with each of these souls and it seemed that the moment they began to connect they would be removed, torn away. Society labelled these lives by calling them "foster kids", I ripped that label up and said, "these are my siblings!". At the age of 16 I lost my biological brother to addiction, violence and tragically.. to suicide. His name is Charlie, and my siblings are still with me, everyday. These events have shaped my heart into that of a Warrior Queen, devoted to the youth who feel silenced, who feel forgotten. I am a Corrections Officer at PGYCS (Prince George Youth Custody Services) and I have authentic allies who provide resources relevant to the youth. I am supported to

teach Hip Hop, free-styling, art, and dance. We use these mediums as tools to express our lives, spread truth, and to cultivate hope. I also speak locally, nationally and internationally on a vast number of topics, the common goal being holistic healing and generating authentic relationships regardless of age, race, or walk of life.

### **Eugene Harry**

Eugene Harry is a father of four, foster father of two, grandfather of 13 and great grandfather of two. He has been the Minister of the Squamish Nation Shaker Church for over 21 years. As a Minister he performs weddings, baptisms, funerals, house blessings, and hands on healing in the Musqueam, Prince George, Sliammon, Sechelt and Squamish Nations. He has been teaching and speaking in the traditional longhouse for over 38 years. Canoe paddling is what he enjoys most in life. He started canoe racing at the age of 9 and is still canoe racing today, 50 years later. Eugene also shares teachings to students at the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University and Douglas College. Eugene's motto is to weave the past into the future.

### **Suzanne Johnson & Penticton Indian Band Youth Leadership**

Suzanne Johnson is a member of the Penticton Indian Band and is a Registered Dietician. She also works with the Penticton Indian Band as well as the First Nations Health Council.

*Biography/Description of the Penticton Indian Band Youth Leadership currently not available.*

### **Ron Kanutski**

Ron Kanutski is a very active and energetic social worker, cultural teacher and facilitator, who continues to work extensively throughout northern Ontario, Manitoba, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and, Illinois. As a consultant, group facilitator, counsellor, and most recently recording artist and writer, Ron has delivered a wide variety of mental health, addictions, and culturally sensitive wellness presentations, workshops and services to both Anishnawbae and Non-native peoples for the past 18 years. Ron is experienced and very flexible in working with children, youth and adults residing in urban, rural and remote communities. In addition to private practice, Ron is presently employed by the Children's Centre Thunder Bay (formerly Lakehead Regional Family Centre) delivering community based programming and counselling to youth 12-17 years, who are struggling with concurrent disorders. Please visit his website at [www.withcareconsulting.com](http://www.withcareconsulting.com).

### **Mary Lee**

Mary Lee is a Plains Cree speaker who originates from Chitek Lake. She has worked with youth for 27 years and is a Cultural Advisor and Elder at Oskayak High School. She has always been involved with various government and non-government organizations that strive to benefit children and youth. Mary has many traditional teachings to share with native and non-native community members. She is very accomplished in her beadwork and creates tipis upon request and continues to tan hides and enthusiastically teaches anyone interested in learning these skills.

### **Catherine North**

Catherine North is the Program Development Coordinator for Healthy Heart Society of British Columbia. At this year's conference she will have a workshop on hearts@work. Her team will speak on heart health and conduct diabetes screening tests

**Jada-Gabrielle Pape**

Jada-Gabrielle Pape is from the Saanich and Snuneymuxw Nations. She lives in Vancouver wither four year old daughter and their pit-bull.

**Elsie Paul**

Elsie Paul is currently an Elder in Residence for the Vancouver Island University in Powell River and is involved in healing programs at Tsow-Tun Le Lum (Parksville) and Tsa Ksw Luten Lodge (Quadra Island). She was a Social Worker in her community for 24 years as well as the Justice of the Peace for seven years. Elsie also does presentations at local schools on wellness and traditional history.

**Doreen Pelkey**

Doreen is a Coast Salish Elder of the Tsawout First Nation located within the traditional territory of Saanich. Doreen's traditional name is LOM'LOMULWUT means "Child of Lightening". She has 10 children, 47 grandchildren and 33 great grandchildren. She is a 30 year member of the BC Homemakers Society and a founding parent of the original Tsartlip School which later became the LAU,WELNEW Tribal School. She is also a founding member of the Adult Care Society and of NIL/TU,O Child and Family Services

**Red Power Squad**

The Red Power Squad is a performing group from Edmonton, Alberta. Formed in early 1998 by founder Conway Kootenay. The RPS was designed to give inner city youth a way out of all the negativity that they faced on a daily basis. Almost 10 years later the RPS has exploded into a world wide success. With top notch Traditional Native Dance combined with Emcee, boys/girl skills that are second to none, the RPS will leave you with a high octane performance that is hard to forget.

**Jodie-Lynn Waddilove**

Jodie-Lynn is an Anishinabe/Lenni Lenape lawyer from the Munsee-Delaware Nation in Southern Ontario. She was named "One of Canada's Top 100 Under-30 year olds to watch in the new millennium" in 2000 and a National Aboriginal Role Model in 2006. Recently, Jodie-Lynn served as Assistant Commission Counsel with the Ipperwash Inquiry in Toronto. The Commission's mandate is to inquire and report on events surrounding the death of Dudley George, who was shot in 1995 during a protest by First Nations representatives at Ipperwash Provincial Park and later died. Jodie-Lynn currently practices civil litigation and corporate commercial law in Toronto

**Ken Watts**

*Biography Currently not available*