



*I am excited about the opportunity to learn from the collective experience and wisdom of the participants, facilitators and mentors in the Indigenous Women in Community Leadership Program.*

## Shyra Barberstock

*Eagle Village First Nation, QC  
Algonquin/Mohawk*

I came to the Coady Institute to learn leadership skills and philosophies so that I can become a better leader. The Coady Institute is renowned for its Asset-Based Community Development approach and I look forward to applying the principles of this approach to future projects.

I am currently in my 4th year at Western University, studying First Nations Studies and Health/Environmental Geography. I am also a graduate of the Holistic Nutrition program from the Institute of Holistic Nutrition in Toronto (C.N.P., 2010). Through my studies and research, I have become passionate about Aboriginal entrepreneurship and economic development because of the potential to improve socio-economic conditions in Aboriginal communities across Canada. With my background in health and nutrition, I am also very interested in food sovereignty and helping to improve food security in Aboriginal communities. In 2015, I plan to pursue a Master's degree.



## Paulie Chinna

Kasho Gotine - Fort Good Hope

North Slavey Dene

I came to Coady to enhance my leadership abilities and learn from Indigenous women from across Canada.

I have been employed by the Government of the Northwest Territories for the past 10 years in the area of Land Administration. The position included self government and land claim issues with the sale and leasing of land in the NT. The Government of NT emphasizes Aboriginal employment and establishes opportunities for Aboriginal people to be successful. They have also created opportunities for post-secondary students and offer summer employment and one-year internships in various government departments.

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Indigenous Women in Community Leadership

*The IWCL program is the only program intended for Aboriginal women to learn leadership and community development skills. I want to learn how Aboriginal women lead in this country and to build upon a good work ethic. I will utilize everything, especially the funding opportunities that IWCL has to offer towards community development.*



*I am beyond ecstatic to fulfill my dreams that once seemed impossible but are now made possible thanks to this amazing program. I am excited to come together with other Indigenous women, to have the opportunity to strengthen one another, and to go out into this world to make a difference in our communities!*

# Kaylene Gambler

*Bigstone, AB*

*Cree*

I came to Coady Institute to grow, to gain more wisdom, and to come together with other Indigenous women to focus on one goal: to be effective leaders for our communities and bring stability, happiness and peace. My dream to one day be a voice on reserves and communities for my own people is coming true in ways I could never have imagined. I look forward to learning, studying, listening, and building on my strengths, as well as meeting many inspiring Indigenous women from across Canada.

This fall, I will be starting my first year of university for a Social Work degree. I am also a middle school youth leader. This consists of mentoring, leading, counselling and speaking into the lives of many young female teenagers that come from diverse upbringings and backgrounds. Last summer, I completed my second year of a leadership program called “Masters Commission,” which changed my entire life for the better, and guided me to finally find my voice as well as my leadership calling.



*I am looking forward to an opportunity that not only enables mentorship and leadership development, but an opportunity to advance my community. I look forward to learning and sharing with others while facilitating positive change in our communities.*

# Courtney Hitchcock

*Red Deer, AB  
Anishnaabe*

I came to Coady to develop my capacity, knowledge and skills in the area of leadership. I am also seeking the opportunity to learn and be inspired by other Indigenous women, while increasing my abilities and competencies in community development. I look forward to building upon my strengths to help my community.

I currently work as an employment counselor for Rupertsland Institute-Métis and First Nation Training and Employment. In my role as an employment counselor, I work to increase training and employment opportunities for Aboriginal individuals, while seeking to reduce barriers.



*What excites me most about the IWCL program is the opportunity to network with amazing Indigenous women from across the country, and develop friendships that nurture growth and leadership.*

# Jessie Johnson

*3rd year student, University of Calgary, AB  
Cree*

I came to the Coady Institute to reinforce my teachings and to learn new leadership skills. With these teachings, I hope to be able to instill leadership values that will encourage empowerment within the community of High Prairie, Alberta.

I grew up the sixth child of seven siblings in a family that lives and honours our traditional Cree culture. I embrace our traditional teachings. My main goal is to walk an honourable path so that I can live an honourable life. I am currently studying at the University of Calgary, in the Bachelor of Social Work program and I will graduate in 2016. I have volunteered for the past five years and currently sit on three different boards within my community and province.



# Jordan Koski

Sucker Creek First Nation, AB

Cree

I came to Coady to develop and learn new skills to bring back to my First Nations community. I want to be able to teach my community members the skills and knowledge to help them start on their career path or enhance their professional skills. I also came to Coady to set a good example for the young women of my community, and to teach them that you can do anything if you set your mind to it!

Currently I am working towards a Bachelor of Professional Arts in Governance, Law, and Management. I also volunteer in various community positions to promote and foster growth for not-profit associations/societies in my community.



*I am very excited to partake in IWCL to meet new people who are involved in community development. I have had an interest in capacity building from an early age.*

## Raven Linklater

*Thunder Bay, ON  
Anishinaabe*

I came to Coady Institute to help build my capacity to contribute to my local community. I have a drive to invoke positive change and growth. I understand many people have tremendous obstacles to overcome. People with proper supports can navigate systems to elevate their standard of living.

I have heard from past students, how great this program was for them. I researched it further and decided we were a great fit. I would love to contribute to share my experience and knowledge with my fellow students and mentors.



## Tennille Makinaw

Maskwacis, AB

Cree

I came to Coady Institute to engage in my personal and professional development through teachings and different perspectives. I am looking forward to being challenged from different world views, as I am a strong believer that I cannot go by my own view, beliefs and values consistently, as I am leaving no room for growth. Essentially every individuals view, values and beliefs are different due to their own personal experiences rather that does not make their world view right or wrong compared to mine, it just enhances the learning curve.

*I am very excited to learn about leadership from an Aboriginal epistemology, also stepping out of my comfort zone mentally, emotionally, spiritually and physically. I am looking forward to learning from different perspectives, being challenged on my own perspective and ultimately accomplishing my goals of bringing positive change to my community.*

I am a recent graduate from University of Calgary receiving my Bachelor in Social Work. I am presently employed at Kasohkowew Child Wellness Society as a caseworker. My job entails providing counseling services for children, youth and parents; referring children and families to proper services that meet their needs; advocating for children, youth and families; assessing situations; interviewing and ensuring the social, psychological, spiritual, physical and emotional well-being of my clients.



*I am excited to meet Indigenous women from across Canada who are driven to become agents of change within their own communities. I am honoured to be part of this outstanding program that will surely lead to personal and community betterment.*

## Stephanie MacLaurin

*Fort William First Nation, ON*

*Anishinaabe*

I came to Coady to learn how to promote the many strengths that already exist within my community. My aim is to foster the empowerment of Fort William First Nation and to give my fellow members a voice throughout the entire process. I hope to engage community members by bringing us together in a positive and safe space where we are comfortable to share our needs, desires, strengths, and assets. My ultimate goal is to create a strong bond between myself and the community of Fort William, as well as foster the growth of many other important relationships. I believe healthy relationships are integral to the successful growth of a community and hope to initiate dialogues that will continue for many generations to come.

I am a residential care worker at Wequedong Lodge, a not-for-profit organization located in Thunder Bay, Ontario. We serve members of First Nations communities in Northwestern Ontario who travel for medical appointments. I am a member of the Fort William First Nation Governance Committee where we are currently establishing a custom election code with the goal of building our own constitution. I am also participating in the first research project to be completed by the Indigenous Learning Knowledge Centre, which is located out of Lakehead University's Indigenous Learning department. The project is an Aboriginal Voter Participation study. This is my first research opportunity and I look forward to many more in the future.

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*I know the IWCL program will introduce me to inspiring Indigenous women from across Canada - a circle of leadership I am honoured to join.*

# Michelle Nahanee

*Michelle Nahanee Design, BC  
Squamish Nation*

I came to Coady to learn new tools and discover what's next for me. I've achieved the goals I set for myself five years ago and find myself ready to take on bigger challenges. In the hectic day to day, it can be hard to find time to take stock and create a strong vision. I'm grateful to take time for myself, to dream new dreams and gather inspiration to move forward.

I work with First Nations – focused clients to communicate their vision, create awareness and change minds through a suite of creative services informed by over 17 years of professional experience. From health promotion to government communications, my collaborative process has resulted in outstanding trade show graphics, inspiring reports, eye-catching posters, creative collateral and effective marketing campaigns. I love using my creativity to make a difference.



*Coady gives me hope that all of this energy I feel within can be channeled more effectively. This opportunity tells me that I have potential within me waiting to be exposed and delivered.*

## Vanessa Ormeasoo

*Maskwacis, AB*

*Cree*

I came to the Coady to make a difference in myself and in my community. I believe that the IWCL program will equip me with what I need to make a positive impact on my community and in Aboriginal communities across Turtle Island. I came to the Coady to be inspired so that I can return to my community and implement an awesome project that will show my peers and friends that anything is possible. I want to be an effective and inspirational leader. I want to look at a community issue and be confident in addressing it.

### Restorative Justice Coordinator

Restorative Justice is an all-inclusive approach to addressing crime and conflict through keeping the offender or wrong doer accountable for his/her actions and focusing on healing and repairing relationships. Utilizing the sacred circle and our Cree culture, we assist community members in conflict with or at risk of becoming in conflict with the criminal justice system. We help youth, adults, families through various types of circles; healing, extra-judicial sanctions, talking, mediation, case conferences. We also help housing/land disputes, workplace conflict, and child welfare mediation. We offer assistance to the schools to help with high risk students .



*I want to be able to give back and help create opportunities for growth in our communities.*

# Angela Parisian

Peguis, MB

Nakoda Ojibway Nation

I chose to apply at Coady Institute because of the Indigenous Women in Community Leadership (IWCL) Program. I was reading and talking to folks who have either had a friend in the program or who have been in the program and all comments were positive. I come hoping to build onto my current leadership skills and share the knowledge I have been gifted with.

I am an outreach worker, at Mount Carmel Clinic in a program called Manito Ikwe Kagiikwe – Mothering Project. I am the national female youth leader for Manitoba First Nations Youth, through the Assembly of First Nations National Youth Council. I volunteer my time with two First Nation organizations; Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and Assembly of First Nations. I enjoy dancing Southern Traditional Cloth at Pow Wows, playing volleyball, yoga and visiting with family and friends



## Fawn Pettifer

*Wahnapitae First Nation, ON  
Ojibway*

I came to Coady Institute to learn the tools that can help me make positive change within my community. I knew that the Coady Institute would provide an environment that would include great programming and fabulous Indigenous women from all over Canada. It is through this diversity of learning that I will discover and learn from the many other ways that women from across Canada contribute and strengthen their own communities.

I am an accomplished educator with experience teaching in the northern community of Fort Albany, Ontario (James Bay region) and New Zealand. Currently, I sit on the Governance Committee with Wahnapitae First Nation and I am a member of the Lions Club International. I work with Angelis Consulting, which has contracts with various First Nations to facilitate workshops in governance, economic development and team building. The work that I complete for my community garden project will lay the foundation for my master's thesis in environmental studies at Queen's University that is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2014.

*I learn from a First Nation perspective how to strengthen my own community from the teachings of other strong Indigenous Women who have proven to be awesome leaders in their own communities. I also get to meet other community leaders from all over the world. This is all provided in a beautiful setting in one of the most prestigious universities in Canada.*



*I am excited about the possibilities. I am excited about all of the, “What if...” questions that lead to action! I believe leadership is action, not position.*

# Adriana Roach

Edmonton, AB

Dene

I am from the Lutsel K'E Dene band. I grew up in Inuuik, NWT and now reside in Edmonton. I work hard to create healthy communities.

I would like to change the way sexually exploited Indigenous youth are processed by the police and government officials. They are victims, not criminals. Legislation change is needed!

I am the program manager for the Opportunity Plus program in Edmonton, AB. The program is non-profit and sponsored by the Alberta government. The Opportunity Plus program assists women who have experienced domestic violence to either re-enter the workforce or go back to school. The empowerment of women is a beautiful process to witness!



*I'm excited. I get to learn from Indigenous women. We are diverse, yet bring our unique experiences and perspectives to working towards making our communities better, healthy and strong.*

# Miriam Sainnawap

*Kingfisher Lake, ON  
Oji-Cree*

I came to the Coady Institute to listen and learn. I wanted to build up my confidence and grow in my strengths as a leader in a caring and supportive environment. I feel inspired and empowered through building relationships with Indigenous women across the country. We have a common vision to build up our communities by focusing on the strengths and wisdom from our people.

I am from an Oji-Cree community called Kingfisher Lake, ON. Currently, I live in Winnipeg, MB. I am in the process of completing a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature at the University of Winnipeg. My interests are filmmaking and writing. I would like to find ways to work closely and be more involved in the Aboriginal urban community.



*I am very excited to learn from and work with other Indigenous Women across Canada. It's a very empowering and inspiring experience to create, design, and carry projects that work towards our shared vision of creating positive change in our communities.*

# Bobbi-Jo Starr

*Peerless Trout First Nation, AB*

*Cree*

I am came to Coady to gain self-confidence in my ability to be a leader within my Aboriginal Community. I will develop my skills in project management, and learn to develop projects using the Asset Based Community Development approach. Too often Aboriginal women become focused on the daily motions of having a job, maintaining job security and family. Even with my current university background, I wasn't fulfilling my desire to create my own projects and work towards the vision I have for the community. Coady gave me the opportunity and experience I needed to feel confident in my abilities and passion for the Aboriginal Arts and Music.

I'm currently taking time off from being employed in the Aboriginal not-for-profit sector in Edmonton to fulfill my need for continual self-development. Prior to Coady I was the resource and services coordinator for the Edmonton Aboriginal Seniors Centre; providing programs and services for our local seniors. My background includes a Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies as well as a Certificate of Aboriginal Governance and Partnership from the University of Alberta. I enjoy working with Aboriginal people and agencies to create positive change within Edmonton.



*Meeting intelligent women with the same interests who will inspire me will be the most exciting aspect about the Indigenous Women in Community Leadership program.*

# Wyanne Smallboy-Wesley

*Big Horn, AB  
Nakoda Sioux*

I came to Coady to learn new skills and enhance my skills in management, community building, leadership style and development of professionalism. As well as meeting new women and mentors.

BA, DeVry Institute of Technology Calgary 2010  
Canadian Red Cross Disaster Management  
First Nation Recovery 2013-2014  
Calgary Urban Aboriginal Initiative  
Youth Representative 2012  
Created youth initiative that empowers Aboriginal youth to have a voice in the City of Calgary.  
Canada Bridges Social Development - Aboriginal Leadership 2.0 & Aboriginal Youth Explosion -speaker and participant 2013-2014  
Canadian Red Cross - Tipi of Courage Warrior - Volunteer



*I am excited about the new skills I will learn and how to put them into good use for myself and my community.*

## Kateri Stevens

*Eskasoni First Nation, NS*

*Mi'kmaq*

I came to the Coady Institute to find a better me. I came here to understand leadership and how to better my community. I came here to network and to learn from Aboriginal women with the same ideas. I came here to build confidence in my abilities and to learn how to work better under pressure. I want to take my communication skills and put them into action which will lead to positive change within my community. I came here to learn to lead and that is what I am going to do!

My name is Kateri Stevens Sa'n from Eskasoni First Nation. I am a Gladue writer for the Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network. I enjoy doing volunteer work within my community. I make youth empowerment educational videos on topics like anti-bullying, lateral violence and social activism. I am a fancy shawl and jingle dress dancer.



# Justice Vezina

*The Turtle Lodge, MB*

Métis

I came to Coady Institute to learn valuable knowledge and techniques on how to be a productive leader in my community. Coady will help me build upon my professional skills, making me a more effective and beneficial member of my non-profit charitable organization. In a setting of like-minded, hard-working and inspirational Indigenous women from across Canada. I am so thankful that I have been given this opportunity to learn, grow and expand my knowledge for the betterment of my community.

I volunteer at the Turtle Lodge located in my reservation of Sagkeeng, MB. The Turtle Lodge is founded upon spiritual, land-based teachings that bring balance to life. Our fundamental goal is Mino-Pi-Mati-Si-Win – A Good and Peaceful Way of Life. The Turtle Lodge is based on the Seven Sacred Laws, the ancient universal values of the Anishnabe People of Turtle Island (North America). I work wherever I am needed at the lodge, I take my role as a women leader very seriously and like to prepare healthy meals and promote a healthy lifestyle. I will be studying in January of 2015 to attain my L.P.N degree as well.



*I am excited to listen and learn from all the powerful and unique stories each woman will have to offer. Stories that are not available in mainstream schooling.*

# Kammy Vicaire

*Listuguj First Nation, QC  
Mi'gmaq*

I came to the Coady Institute to discover what makes me come alive. Because what Indigenous communities need are people who have come alive!

I recently completed my B.A at Dalhousie University, coming out with a double major in International Development and Sociology/Social Anthropology. I was fortunate enough to have been able to focus a lot of my studies on Indigenous development in Canada and internationally.