



*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.*

## 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 includes 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 opportunity offered by Coady will strengthen my leadership role in the Indigenous communities I am involved in, as well as build lasting collaborative relationships with strong, like-minded Indigenous women, mentors and the Coady team. It's a Game Changer!*

## Darlene Cox

*Indigeneity Resources, Black Diamond, Alberta  
Métis*

My role as director of Indigeneity Resources is to customize the Red Road program according to the participating community's needs with the collaboration of the six Indigenous founders/facilitators. I also provide mentorship to the participants and to the founders/facilitators. I am a mentor and graduation coach to the First Nations, Métis and Inuit students attending our local high school.

Indigeneity Resources is a collaborative organization that develops, facilitates and operates the Red Road Program for Indigenous Communities. Our mandate is to promote healing and economic/employment development with a holistic approach, encompassing traditional teachings with the outline of the program based on the teaching of the Medicine Wheel. We believe that participants need to heal first in order to start their journey to be healthy productive members of their community. We believe in a head-on approach to finding balance in the working and education world, which includes ongoing mentorship from the six Indigenous founders/facilitators and working with families to support the success of all participants.



*We have agreed to come here for our Earth Walk. We all have purpose and we all have the capabilities to seek and walk it. Knowing and trusting our clear-thinking self is by far the most fulfilling and promising path in life. We are all descendants of love and compassion!*

## Andrea 'Aowenji:io' Curley

*Event Planner, Six Nations*

*Haudenosaunee of the Grand River Territory*

Resourcing like-minded people to share and explore a united vision is key. Time and time again it is transparency, accountability, trust, reliability, and exceeding expectations on the job that are all great qualities that pave a clear path in allowing community clout to build. Understanding as many aspects and perspectives of yourself and of the people you work with will strengthen unity to reach any vision.

Event planning for all Onkwehonwe (the Original People) aiming to be an avenue to reclaiming our Absolute Way Of Life through creative and innovative fun and leadership. As long as our people keep gathering we will never forget how precious we are to one another. Our relationships are of priority. In putting spirit first, we can be still and know that we are exactly where we are supposed to be at all times. Be aware. Ask spirit for guidance. Nothing is of coincidence. 2015 and here I am at Coady!



## Lynda Fox Trudeau

*Wikwemkoong Rental Property Management, Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory  
Anishinaabe - Odawa*

At present Wikwemikong Rental Property Management is responsible for 500+ social housing units which provide suitable and affordable housing to meet community needs. My responsibilities are to develop a relationship with tenants and applicants to provide enhanced community services to meet the needs of membership by also understanding the community and the various operations. I also keep abreast of regional developments to ensure knowledge for enriched service delivery.

“Wikwemkoong is a fast-growing community on Manitoulin Island in terms of population and commercial opportunities. The mandate is to encourage self-sufficiency to improve the quality of life for the community membership in accordance with Anishinaabe Bimaadziwin.

45 - 50 million dollars a year flow into Wiikwemkoong to service approximately 8,000 members. There are 23 core departments, 41 sub-departments, and 2 transfer programs. There are also several corporations.

Wikwemkoong Unceded Territory is 22,590 hectares.

In June 2014 Wiikwemikoong ratified its own constitution, establishing its own law-making authority and exercising its jurisdiction, and as a member of the Anishinabek Nation.”

At present, Wikwemkoong operations include finance and administration, community services and infrastructure, governance, education and culture, health and wellness, and Chief and Council.

*I am here to network, gain insight to various processes, gain an understanding of Indigenous community advancements throughout Canada, and share my knowledge. The development of Indigenous communities aids in the rise of Indigenous people and Indigenous economies.*



# Jade Harper

*Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Oji-Cree*

The Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre Inc. was established in 1984 to reclaim Aboriginal people's inherent role and responsibility as the caregivers for Aboriginal children and families in Winnipeg. We are a community-mandated, Aboriginal-directed and supported human service organization, delivering children in care and community-based programs and services to Aboriginal families. Today, with over 50 programs, 11 sites, and over 200 staff and volunteers, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre provides a valued local presence in key Winnipeg neighbourhoods where our community lives.

All Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre programs and services are developed and operate within a philosophy that is embodied in the name of the centre. The name Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata translates from Ojibway into the phrase "we all work together to help one another". These words reflect the vision in the concept of collective responsibility and reciprocity towards helping each other. Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre has invested in a neighbourhood-based practice model aimed at identifying innovative policy and practice initiatives to create and sustain family supported neighbourhoods. This approach is based on principles that emphasize the return of capacity of the community to care for its members, through neighbourhood networks and skill sharing.

*There is a long history of colonization and oppression in Canada for Indigenous peoples. It is through the resiliency of our ancestors that I am here today practicing my traditional ceremonies and exploring my leadership. I came to the Coady Institute in the spirit of reciprocity.*



*I look forward to growing alongside other strong Indigenous women! I have the desire to gain knowledge from my Métis mentor and I want to expand my leadership skills so I can effectively engage my community and educate others. I am honoured to be a part of the movement!*

## Kirsten Henderson

*Métis Nation of Ontario, Simcoe County District School Board, Victoria Harbour, Ontario  
Métis*

In my positions, I have had the opportunity to teach and train others how to better themselves and their lives through continuing education, wellness programming and community events. My growth both personally and professionally has stemmed from the chance to develop and deliver Métis cultural programs and create events in order to educate others on the rich history and traditions of the Métis people. Additionally, in my teaching career, I am able to create opportunities for students to complete their final secondary school credits, working closely with mature, high needs and First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. I am proud to say that I have obtained a Bachelor of Arts in English as well as a Master of Science in Secondary Education.

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was established through the will of Métis people and communities coming together throughout Ontario to create a Métis-specific governance structure. Goals of the MNO include: establishing a credible and recognized identification system for Métis people within the province, focusing on 'nation building', and proudly asserting the Métis existence as a distinct Aboriginal people within Ontario.

The goal of Simcoe County District School Board's Adult and Continuing Education branch is to provide adult learners of all ages and abilities with a full range of opportunities to discover new knowledge, develop new skills and to achieve personal learning goals.



*I place high value on mentorship and feel this program can create opportunities for potential future collaborations while providing valuable support, encouragement and ideas for change - providing participants with important tools we can bring back to our communities.*

# Cheyenne Henry

*University of Winnipeg-Department of Urban and Inner-City Studies, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Anishinaabe*

In my role as program coordinator/student adviser, I predominately work with Indigenous students and adult learners who come with many unique challenges. My role has been assisting students manoeuvre the sometimes overwhelming university setting, as well as assisting students with securing post-secondary funding options, housing, daycare and employment opportunities. Often the most important part of my job is to support students through encouragement, nurturing support and role modeling.

The Department of Urban and Inner-City Studies at the University of Winnipeg is an interdisciplinary program of studies that looks at the dynamic urban environments, most particularly the inner city. The department is located in Winnipeg's north end, which has a high proportion of Indigenous and new immigrant populations. The program offers a number of degree and certificate options, and provides one-on-one support to students.



*I would like to learn from the other delegates: their successes and challenges and incorporate new ideas into my role as trust manager so that Garden River beneficiaries recognize efforts made for the Community Trust to be the long-term asset it was originally intended to be.*

## Alanna Jones

Garden River First Nation Community Trust, Garden River, Ontario  
Ojibway, from Garden River, Ontario

As trust Manager, I help the Garden River trustees manage and administer the Trust Property according to the Trust Agreement. I perform daily office administration duties. My main tasks include educating our Band members/beneficiaries about this very important and vital economic resource. I help empower and motivate our Band members to participate in the annual community votes that I conduct for the members. These votes require the Band members' approval so that the Trust can fund those projects. Although it has been challenging in obtaining the required minimum participation rate of 35% for votes to be considered valid, there were 39 projects approved with \$1.7 million disbursed to Garden River for such projects since 1999.

The Garden River First Nation (GRFN) Community Trust was created when Garden River settled Ontario's compensation monies into the Trust Capital Account in 1997. The GR Trustees developed a tripartite agreement between the beneficiaries (Band members: present and future generations) as represented by Chief and Council, the seven Garden River trustees and the corporate trustee to manage and administer the Trust property in ways that are wise and prudent as this asset is designed and intended to be held as a long-term asset of Garden River, for present and future generations. Capital monies are invested to generate interest to pay for office expenses and projects approved by Band membership at (annual) community votes organized by GRFN Community Trust.



*I came to Coady to be part of a circle of strong, independent, Indigenous women from across Canada; to be inspired by ideas, successes and opportunities that are going to change and build up our communities.*

## MiKenze Jordan

*Vancouver BC Helping Spirit Lodge Society  
Cree, Montana First Nation, Maskwacis AB*

I have supported families in our transition homes as a support worker and now have the opportunity to work with individuals and families as a housing resource navigator. I directly engage with individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Through case management we assess needs and goals, and create action plans to accomplish these tasks. We are client-driven and use a strengths-based approach to help our families find and keep permanent housing.

Helping Spirit Lodge Society provides services to women and children fleeing violence; we are the leading Aboriginal women's organization in the lower mainland to alleviate family violence and enhance community wellness through a traditional, holistic approach. Women access our transition house, second stage programming and subsidized housing units, employment resources, housing resource navigator, and our wellness centre.



*“With hard work, dedication, the right attitude and the right opportunity dreams do come true. Dream big, believe.”*

*I came to Coady to listen, learn, share and grow alongside strong like-minded Indigenous sisters and to continue to develop my skills and further enhance my nation.*

## Kiera-Dawn Kolson

*Gwich'in Nation, T'so T'sine Nation  
Denendeh (Yellowknife, NWT)*

I believe that the creator does not make mistakes - only miracles and masterpieces and I strive towards amplifying and uplifting others to recognize the gifts they carry within themselves and how those gifts can assist with the decolonization of the greater world around them. We all carry much power within ourselves to be the change, but the power for change resides in your power of choice. Be powerful, live your gifts.

I have facilitated cultural goal-setting workshops for the past 11 years. My goal has always been to educate, empower and engage others in recognizing their individual gifts and abilities to contribute to the greater success of not only themselves but their families, communities, nations and inevitably the greater world around them.



# Adeline Large

*Maminaweyitatowin Action Group, Saddle Lake, AB  
Plains Cree*

**Tipi Teaching: Maminaweyitatowin (Control Flaps From the Wind)**  
We can change our destiny.

Making positive changes in our lives.

We can wake up everyday and decide to have a happy day.

We can decide what is best for us.

One person can make a difference... imagine what a group of people can do! I am slowly believing in myself and I hope others will feel the same way. We are a part of The People and they are a part of us. I feel I owe it to my community for providing me and my family with a place to call home and for giving me an opportunity to help my First Nation people; this is what my conscience and my heart tell me. My dream is for my First Nation people to help build our community together! ai hai

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*The amount of wisdom and knowledge shared between all the Indigenous women in the IWCL Program is something I am proud to carry home to my people. I will be forever grateful for this humbling experience. Ai hai Nehiyaw Iskwewak, IWCL ekwa Coady.*

In a proactive approach and initiated by Chief and Council, the nation members, staff, departments, and organizations have been coming together to unite with common goals of making our nation safe, addressing social issues, developing a plan of action, and promoting wholistic wellness according to our nehiyawak traditional and cultural teachings. As a result and under Elders' advisement, a volunteer committee was organized to assist in "ensuring we don't lose sight of what we are doing and who we are doing this for" and assist in moving our plans of actions forward for wholistic success.

Indigenous Women in Community Leadership



*Through learning about leadership and community development within an Aboriginal framework, I hope the knowledge shared at the Coady International Institute will help me to further identify and develop my role within my community.*

## Holliston Logan

*University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta  
Métis*

Through my involvement in the IWCL program, I hope to marry my two areas of interest: working with Aboriginal youth, and addictions research. Over the course of the summer, I will develop a research proposal for a study investigating Aboriginal youth substance addictions in Calgary and surrounding areas. My research interests include risk-pathways leading to addictions, impact of intergenerational trauma on youth addictions, and the use of cultural tools for both prevention and treatment. I hope to create a community-driven research project where front-line workers, community members, and Elders are consulted and help guide the direction of the research.

Holliston is a recent graduate from the University of Calgary where she completed her B.Sc. in Psychology. During her time at university, she had the privilege of working at the Native Ambassador Post-Secondary Initiative (N.A.P.I.) program. The N.A.P.I. program is a community-based Aboriginal youth outreach program designed to motivate and empower Aboriginal youth to realize their own potential in order to become emerging leaders of today and tomorrow. Additionally, while at university, Holliston spent time volunteering with the Addictive Behaviours Lab in the psychology department as a research assistant. The lab's primary focuses are substance abuse and gambling addiction.



*I came to Coady in hopes of learning from other strong beautiful Indigenous women who also share the same passion to make a difference in our communities. I would like to build community and also be able to use my new-found knowledge in my everyday life and lead by example.*

# Veronica Marlowe

*Student, Calgary, Alberta  
Lutsel-ke Dene*

My project I am working on is developing a cultural camp where the youth of my community can come together and learn the traditional Dene teachings guided by the elders & community members of Lutsel-k'e.

I believe it is important to preserve our culture and language so that we can carry on our cultural teachings for the next generations; these teachings will be taught with a hands-on approach and through oral traditions of the stories of my people.

I am a mother of three beautiful children and I have always stressed the importance of education to my family and community.

I have left my employment as an early childhood educator in order to pursue a degree in Bachelor of Elementary Education.

I see a lack of First Nation teachers in mainstream society where there is a high number of Aboriginal children attending mainstream schools; my ultimate goal is to be able to encourage children to have a positive outlook on education and to feel welcomed in an environment that helps them to develop cultural identity.



## Jolene Mercer

*Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
First Nations*

As a health policy analyst/researcher, I work with communities and their citizens, leadership, health systems and government to develop solutions to address health issues. I work in a number of areas as part of the overall health team and also hold the files for non-insured health benefits and personal care homes that are located within the First Nation communities. Throughout all the work we do, it is our belief that First Nations people have the solutions to address their own health needs. Through the facilitation of discussions, research and technical work around common issues, we can make changes towards better health outcomes for our people.

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs was established to provide technical support and assistance to the Chiefs-in-Assembly to better address and facilitate their unified political action. The mandate of AMC is to:

- protect our First Nation governments from further encroachment and to prevent any action by any Nation, group, jurisdiction or government from violating the integrity and freedoms of self-determination and from violating individual and collective rights of First Nations;
- reaffirm our belief in the sovereign equality of Nations and the fundamental rights of First Nation peoples;
- seek justice for the obligations arising from our international treaties; and
- promote and ensure social progress, harmony and the quality of life among our peoples.



# Lareina Rising

*Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Sarnia, Ontario  
Ojibway*

I currently work with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change which gives me a chance to use my science background to work with ministry staff, Aboriginal communities and project developers on issues such as the duty to consult.

I am the mother to one beautiful child who reminds me of the importance of looking forward and leaving a legacy for the next generation. I have 13 years of experience working for government (federal and provincial) and was elected as a councillor in my FN in 2012 and my goal is to ensure that council makes informed decisions in the best interest of the community. My time at Coady is helping me to think about community development and how I can affect positive change at Aamjiwnaang FN.

*From the moment I found out about the IWCL program I knew I wanted to attend. I am grateful for this opportunity here at Coady to further develop my leadership skills and to develop a network with other Aboriginal women who want to make a difference in their communities!*

The community of Aamjiwnaang First Nation, formerly Chippewas of Sarnia, is located on the St. Clair River, three miles south of the southern tip of Lake Huron, in the city limits of Sarnia. There are 2,300 Band members and roughly 1,000 live on Aamjiwnaang First Nation. Aamjiwnaang is dedicated to saving our culture and environment for the generations to come.

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change protects and improves the quality of the environment and coordinates Ontario's actions on climate change leading to healthier communities, ecological protection and economic prosperity for present and future generations.



*I hope to gain an understanding of community development approaches which are respectful of Indigenous communities, that promote meaningful engagement, participatory action and collaboration. I also hope to expand my network and learn from other community perspectives.*

## Lori Sokoluk

*Edmonton, Alberta*

*Métis*

My vision is to create an urban Aboriginal community hub that is suitable, accessible and sustainable. The hope is that the space will encourage a collaborative and supportive environment that promotes community development and well-being.

I am interested in exploring and developing a multi-tenant commercial space based on the concepts of co-location and shared services geared towards Aboriginal organizations and businesses.



## Isca Spillett

*Ka Ni Kanichihk (those who lead), Winnipeg, Manitoba  
Nehiyaw (Cree)*

As a mentor within my organization I work exclusively with Indigenous youth who are leaving (or who have recently left) the child welfare system and assist them in their journey into independent living. Youth are given the opportunity to explore their unique gifts and how they can use their gifts to achieve their goals, passions and dreams.

Ka Ni Kanichihk provides Aboriginal-identified programs and services that focus on wholeness and wellness and that build on the strengths and resilience of Aboriginal peoples. We do this to help people to help themselves, to build healthy relationships and to create a sustainable future for our community.

Through mentorship and group activities, MYTEAM provides a range of services intended to identify and address youths' strengths and needs for support and skill development in the areas of education, training, finances, housing, employment, self-development, child care, and basic living skill so that youths' primary educational and training goals may be achieved.

*I am hoping to work with traditional knowledge keepers in my community to bring forward teachings around rites of passage ceremonies, traditional healing methods and traditional medicines/foods so that Indigenous youth in my community can reclaim their sense of identity.*



*I came to Coady to experience teachings in a unique and ever developing curriculum. Learning from each other's life experiences as well as developing and shaping my own leadership style will enable me to provide leadership when I return to my community.*

## Pearl Tacan

*Wahpeton Dakota Nation*

As executive director, my role is to ensure all the departments are working to the best of their abilities for the betterment of the community as a whole. Our department managers are all very responsible people and because they are all Band members, they know the needs of the community and the community is not afraid to provide feedback. The Chief and Council hold four general assemblies a year where all the managers provide reports to their respective Council members that hold the various portfolios. Wahpeton provides financial statements showing all revenues and expenditures at the general assembly and the audit report is presented and accepted yearly at the assembly as well.

Wahpeton Dakota Nation is a small Indian Reservation 12 miles northwest of the city of Prince Albert, SK. The reserve has a Band-operated school that teaches grades K-8. The Dakota language is taught in each class and a Dakota language app is in the process of being developed using words and pictures from our own community. Wahpeton employs about 50 to 60 people, most of whom are Wahpeton band members. Wahpeton relies mainly on AANDC funds as well as flow through-dollars from Prince Albert Grand Council of which Wahpeton is one of 12 member bands. Wahpeton has developed a business arm called Wahpeton Dakota Developments and Wahpeton Dakota Developments LLP to look after our business acquisitions.



## Deidre Thompson

*Region 6 of the Métis Nation of Ontario, Northbrook, Ontario  
Métis*

My day-to-day activities include navigating people through the various resources available to them through the Métis Nation of Ontario. I was an infinite reach facilitator at my college and during that time I assisted students in getting the information they needed to apply for grants and scholarships.

I held monthly meetings where I would inform the citizens of community projects province-wide. I pride myself in helping youth find our potential in this crazy place called life. I believe strongly that we the youth are our future and we need to learn our history from a young age. Only then will we truly understand the meaning and importance of our lives.

*I came to Coady because I knew it would help strengthen my leadership skills. I've been a leader for years but I lack key skills such as confidence. Coady is known for bringing women to their full potential and I knew they would be able to help me overcome this obstacle.*

The Métis Nation of Ontario strives to give their citizens the resources they need to succeed. I have been part of the MNO for the past seven years. It started out as a youth position on my provisional council and then moved into the president's position over the past two years.



*I came to the Coady Institute to enhance my learning so I can return home and effectively lead my nation. I hope to learn new strategies and develop my professional skill set. I also hope to be challenged to rise to a higher level of leadership.*

# Caitlin Tolley

*University of Ottawa - Faculty of Law, Kitigan-Zibi Anishinabeg, Quebec  
Algonquin Anishinabe*

Through my project, I am planning to create a resource manual for Indigenous woman who aspire to go to law school. I have faced many challenges on my education journey. Aboriginal people are severely under-represented in the legal profession. Therefore I would like to make the road to achieving a law degree easier for the next generation.

I have currently completed my first year of law school at the University of Ottawa, where I obtained a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. Upon completion of law school, I plan on working to advance First Nations rights. I also aspire to practice law, in order to advance equality and achieve justice for Indigenous women in Canada. I would like to use my education to address the injustices when it comes to the legal representation of Indigenous people.