



Conservation Network Gathering

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Alestine Andre

Alestine, a Gwichya Gwich'in from the community of Tsiigehtchic, NWT, grew up on the land around the Tree River and Travaillant Lake area. At age 7, Alestine was sent along with her siblings to school and after 12 years at residential she graduated high school. After each school year, she has fond memories of spending two summer months at Tree River with her parents, grandmother, auntie, and her siblings and cousins. Alestine enjoys learning so today she has a BA in Anthropology and an MA degree in Environmental Studies along with on the land skills. In her lifetime Alestine travelled to many countries around the world, she worked with First Nations organizations in administration and research capacities and returns to her family's fish camp at Tree River every August. Today, Alestine is retired and lives with her husband in Whitehorse, Yukon where she continues to work on GTC projects.

Brenda Parlee

Brenda Parlee (B.A, M.E.S., and PhD) is a non-Indigenous academic and holds the position of Professor in the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology at the University of Alberta. She has a B.A. from the University of Guelph (1995), and an M.E.S. in Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo (1998). She went on to receive her PhD from the University of Manitoba in Natural Resources and Environmental Management (NREM) in 2005. Through these grants, Parlee has directly supported /supervised over 31 graduate students at the MSc and PhD level and financially and intellectually supported another 70+ students and staff on other committees, within partnering communities/organizations. She has worked in collaboration with Indigenous governments and organizations in Canada and internationally for over 20 years on a range of collaborative and community-based research projects related to issues of resource development, climate change, biodiversity conservation and health and well-being. Most notably she is currently the Principal Investigator of a major tri-council project - Ārramāt: Biodiversity Conservation and the Health and Well-being of Indigenous Peoples.

Dahti Tsetso

Dahti is the deputy director of the Indigenous Leadership Initiative. She is Tłıchǫ Dene and played a leading role in the launch and operation of the Dehcho K'édodi Stewardship and Guardians Program and the establishment of the Edézhíe Dehcho Protected Area and National Wildlife Area.

Before joining the ILI, Tsetso served as the director of Lands & Resources for Dehcho First Nations in Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories. She worked collaboratively with the Nation's ten member communities to develop a Guardians program that approaches conservation from the Dene perspective. The Dehcho K'édodi program is founded on honouring the Dene Laws, strengthening the Dene language, and fostering connections between Elders and youth and currently employs about 20 Guardians a year.

In her roles with Dehcho First Nations, Tsetso led a team that finalized negotiations to protect Edézhíe, a 14,200-square-kilometre sweep of boreal forest, headwater lakes and caribou grounds west of Yellowknife. In July 2018, the Dehcho Assembly passed a

resolution to permanently protect Edézhíe as a Dehcho Protected Area under Dehcho Law; then held a signing ceremony with the Government of Canada to formalize an Establishment Agreement that would designate Edézhíe as a joint Dehcho Protected Area and National Wildlife Area.

Tsetso graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Conservation Sciences and Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies. She also holds a Diploma in Indigenous Language Revitalization from the University of Victoria. She lives in Łíídljį Kúé (Fort Simpson), NT with her husband and three children.

Deanna Duncan

Deanna is the SEAS Co-ordinator for Kitasoo Community School in Klemtu, BC. The SEAS program has been active since January 2012. Deanna represents the Kitasoo Xaixais nation and proudly shares her knowledge. She has greatest respect for her people and is grateful for the lifelong learning experience.

Deneze Nakehk'o

Déneze is Dehcho and Denesuline Dene from Denendeh. He is a strong advocate for Indigenous knowledge systems, particularly Dene ways of knowing. As one of the founding members of Dene Nahjo, he works at encouraging and supporting connections/re-connections to land, language and culture. Déneze is a public speaker that recognizes and actively confronts the impacts of colonization through Dene methods of decolonization. He has over a decades worth of experience in northern media and communications. Déneze is originally from Liidlii Kue but now lives in Yellowknife with his family.

Glenn MacKay

Glen is the Territorial Archaeologist and Manager of the Northwest Territories Cultural Places Program (CPP) with the Government of the Northwest Territories. He is also the NWT representative on the Geographic Names Board of Canada. He manages the CPP's work to protect, commemorate, and investigate archaeological sites in the NWT, as well as their work to officially recognize Indigenous community and geographical place names.

Ingrid Krtisch

Ingrid is a cultural anthropologist and archaeologist and has worked with Indigenous people in the Canadian Subarctic since 1977. She was the founding Executive Director of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute from 1993-1998, and Research Director from 1998 to 2019. During this time, she managed over 120 research projects with her favourite time being on-the-land and learning from the Elders while travelling through Gwich'in traditional lands. The institute transitioned into the Gwich'in Tribal Council Department of Culture and Heritage in 2016. In 2008, Ingrid was honoured to be designated an honorary member of the Gwich'in of the Northwest Territories. Ingrid's education focused on anthropology and includes a B.A. (1978) from McGill University, an M.A. (1983) from McMaster University, and partial requirements towards a Ph.D. from the University of Alberta. Ingrid retired in 2019 and lives with her husband in Sherwood Park, Alberta where she continues to work on Gwich'in projects.

Kaila Jefferd-Moore

Kaila is a Haida and Canadian journalist and communications consultant, currently living in Yellowknife, NT on Chief Drygeese Territory. She was born within Snuneymuxw territory in what is known as British Columbia, and raised in Inuvik, on Gwich'in and Inuvialuit lands. She earned a Bachelor of Journalism (Honours) from the University of King's College in 2019, where she was Editor-in-Chief of the Dalhousie Gazette and began her freelance career. She's had stints and bylines with local and national outlets such as Inuvik Drum (NNSL), CBC North, Maisonneuve, THIS Magazine, Up Here, and more.

Joanne Barnaby

Joanne builds on over four decades of experience working with northern, National and Aboriginal governments, providing both leadership and facilitation on matters related to (Indigenous) Traditional Knowledge (TK). Her research focuses on traditional knowledge and its application to solving problems. Ms. Barnaby served as an Advisor on TK to the Canadian Delegation on the United Nations Biodiversity Convention. She also served two terms on the Board of the Science Institute of the NWT and was the founding Executive Director of the Dene Cultural Institute, working to bring traditional knowledge systems forward in a modern-day context.

Joanne has led the development of an Indigenous knowledge policies, works with scientists and aboriginal elders to build working relationships and explore how TK and science-based knowledge systems could be used together effectively. She works with Elders to guide mining companies, government regulators and utilities companies to address the use of TK in diverse matters related to; environmental protection, closure and reclamation planning; community based monitoring and guardianship, and matters of cultural, social and environmental sustainability.

Joanna Lehrer

Joanna Lehrer is the Project Director of Northern Youth Leadership. She has worked as an ambulance driver, lawyer and charity director, and is happy to now call Sòmba K'è (Yellowknife), home.

John B. Zoe

John is a member of the Tlicho Nation, born and raised and continues to reside in Behchoko, one of four Tlicho communities. John has been involved in the pursuit of Land Claims and Self Government since the early 1980s helping to facilitate dialogue with Leaders, Elders and community people. Eventually, John was appointed Chief Negotiator with a group of negotiators and Elder Advisors along with a technical team to eventually negotiate the Tlicho Agreement. After the Effective date of the Agreement, John continues to be involved in implementation as well as heading up research initiatives. John's favourite past times have been in paddling the Trails of our Ancestors along with youth and Elders every summer since 1988.

Kristi Benson

Kristi is an archaeologist, anthropologist, and GIS manager living in northern British Columbia. She began work with the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute in 2004 as a project director for the Gwich'in Knowledge of the Mackenzie Gas Project Area study and has continued to work for the Institute and later the Gwich'in Tribal Council Department of Culture and Heritage since that time. She has a BA and MA in archaeology and attended BCIT for Geographical Information Systems. She oversees the Department's GIS and digital ethnographic archives, conducts traditional knowledge studies, and reviews licence and permit applications. In addition to her anthropological work, Kristi is a professional dog trainer and dog training educator and writes extensively about dogs as well. She lives with her wife and seven dogs on a mixed farm in the Bulkley Valley.

Michelle Swallow

Michelle is the manager of conservation planning and implementation with ENR in the GNWT. She lives in Yellowknife with her family. She likes skiing during the winter months and getting out on the water in the summer. In addition to her accomplishments in her conservation work, she is also an award winning film maker and author.

Lianne Charlie

Lianne Marie Leda Charlie is Wolf Clan and Tagé Cho Hudän (Northern Tutchone speaking people of the Yukon). She was born in Whitehorse to her mother, Luanna Larusson, and late father, Peter Andrew Charlie. Her maternal grandparents are Donna Olsen (Danish ancestry) and Benedict Larusson (Icelandic ancestry) and her paternal grandparents are Leda Jimmy of Tánintşé Chù Dachäk and Big Salmon Charlie of Gyò Cho Chù. She has created community murals in Whitehorse, Łu Ghą, Somba K'e and Mayo; and co-created four pieces for To Talk With Others (Valerie Salez, 2018), including a life-size hot pink papîer maché bull moose made out of the Umbrella Final Agreement. Lianne has a PhD in Political Science from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She is a faculty member with Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning and lives in Whitehorse, Yukon.

Larry Innes

Larry is a partner at Olthuis, Kleer, Townshend LLP practicing in the area of Indigenous rights and environmental law. Larry has worked with First Nations on lands and resources issues for more than 25 years, and has developed extensive experience in the negotiation of impacts and benefits agreements, environmental assessment, co-management measures, self-government and treaty provisions. He currently represents and advises Indigenous governments dealing with major mining, forestry and energy developments, and is also involved in several leading Indigenous conservation and land use planning initiatives across Canada. Larry is called to the bar in Ontario, Alberta, Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Newfoundland and Labrador. He holds a JD from the University of Victoria, a Masters in Environmental Studies from York University, and is a graduate of McMaster University's Arts & Science Programme. He resides in Yellowknife. Larry is listed as a "Most Frequently Recommended" lawyer in his field by Lexpert, Chambers Global, and Best Lawyers.

Paul Andrew

Paul is a resident of Yellowknife, originally from Tulita. He is well known for his work in culture, residential school education and healing. Paul was first taken to residential school at the age of 8 and spent a total of seven years in residential school. He became chief of Tulit'a at the age of 22 and is now retired from a 30-year career with the CBC. He has received numerous awards, including Order of the NWT and a National Aboriginal Achievement Award, now called Inspire Awards.

Jonathan Tstetso

Jonathan is from Fort Simpson Northwest Territories and is a member of the Liidlii Kue First Nation. He was introduced to Parks Canada in 1998 as a summer student in Nahanni National Park Reserve. Jonathan held a number of positions in Nahanni and is currently the Superintendent. Nahanni is cooperatively managed with the Naha Dehé Dene Band and the Dehcho First Nations and Jonathan has been actively participating in a cooperative management during a decade as a manager. A new 10 year management plan for Nahanni builds on previous successes and resourcefully integrates Indigenous reconciliation and cultural revitalization with the Agency's mandate. Jonathan recognizes that there is much work to do and is always open to explore new ideas and make improvements.

Tyanna Steinwand

Tyanna is the Manager of Research Operations, with the Tłı̨chǫ Government. She manages and coordinates Ekwò Nàxoèhdee K'è and the Tłı̨chǫ Highway Wildlife Monitoring Program. Tyanna has worked with the Tłı̨chǫ Government since 2016, and has worked with Ekwò Nàxoèhdee K'è since 2017.

Tyanna grew up in Behchoko and still calls Behchoko home. In her spare time she likes to bake, go out on the land and play sports.

Nicole Redvers

Dr. Nicole Redvers, ND, MPH, is a member of the Deninu K'ue First Nation in Denendeh and has worked with Indigenous patients, scholars, and communities around the globe her entire career. She is an assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine and the Department of Indigenous Health at the University of North Dakota where she helped developed and launch the first Indigenous health PhD program. Dr. Redvers is co-founder and current board chair of the Canadian charity the Arctic Indigenous Wellness Foundation based in Yellowknife, NWT, providing traditional Indigenous-rooted Land-based wellness supports to northerners. She has been actively involved at regional, national, and international levels promoting the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives in both human and planetary health research and practice. She is author of the trade paperback book titled, 'The Science of the Sacred: Bridging Global Indigenous Medicine Systems and Modern Scientific Principles'.

Peter Pulsifer

Peter is Associate Professor with the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada. His research addresses questions around data sharing across different knowledge systems. This includes examining technical and social aspects of data and information sharing. For more fifteen years he has worked in partnership with members of Arctic Indigenous communities to facilitate the sharing and ethical use of their local observations and Indigenous Knowledge. He has extensive experience working directly with Indigenous communities in a co-design and co-production model for the establishment of community-based expertise, capacity, and information systems. This includes working with Indigenous communities in Canada, Alaska, Scandinavia, Russia, Southwest U.S., and Latin

America on language revitalization projects, heritage initiatives, and community-based monitoring program. In his role as Chair of the international Arctic Data Committee, and former co-chair of the U.S. Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee data team, Peter is active in leading the coordination of polar data resources. This includes co-chairing the international Polar Data Forum series in 2015, 2018, 2019 and 2021 and representing the U.S. at the Second Arctic Science Ministerial Science Forum in October of 2018. Currently, Dr. Pulsifer is the co-lead of the Canadian Consortium for Arctic Data Interoperability (<https://ccadi.ca/>) and leads a series of community-based research projects at the Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre at Carleton University where he is Associate Director.

Sarah Woodman

Sarah is the Cultural Places Officer with the Northwest Territories Cultural Places Program (CPP) with the Government of the Northwest Territories. Sarah conducts research on new, and/or replacement community and geographical place names, maintains the official Northwest Territories database of nearly 10,000 place name records, and responds to public inquiries regarding NWT place names. Sarah also participates on federal working groups to advance national objectives and projects in Canadian Place Naming.

Tammy Steinwand

Tammy Steinwand-Deschambeault is a Tłı̨ch̨o Citizen born and raised in Behchokò, NT. Tammy graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in the Bachelor of Education Program with great distinction in 1997. Tammy taught in her community for many years before moving to the board office as a Culture and Language Coordinator with the Tłı̨ch̨o Community Services Agency. During this time Tammy has helped create an immersion program in her community that is still running today. Tammy also assisted the Government of the Northwest Territories with curriculum development in areas of Northern Studies (which included a module on Residential Schools, this work received national recognition) and the new, Our Languages Curriculum document. Tammy is the chair for the Official Languages Board of the NWT. Tammy has received numerous awards for her work including the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. Presently Tammy is the Director for the Department of Culture and Lands Protection for the Tłı̨ch̨o Government. She holds a Masters Degree through the University of Victoria on Indigenous Language Revitalization.

Tracey Williams

Tracey is the NWT Program Director for Nature United (NU), Canadian affiliate to the Nature Conservancy (TNC). She worked with Łutsël K'éd (LKDFN) people to complete the designation protection of Thaidene Nëné Indigenous Protected Area. She has lived and worked in the Northwest Territories for over twenty years, working with communities on their vision for their land, and their stewardship goals that have always included community youth. Tracey is a conservation practitioner with a diversity of experience, that includes strategy, coordination, coalition building, research, planning, technical fieldwork and turning ground-floor conceptualizing into project initiatives. She and her husband have three children, and live to be outdoors.

Roberta Duncan

Roberta is a Kitasoo/Xaixais youth, who has taken part in both the school and summer SEAS programs. She has lived in Klemtu her whole life, but has only just gotten to know about her history and beautiful territory in the past few years. She is now very passionate about sharing what she has learned over the years of taking part in both programs.

Vern Brown

Vern works for the Kitsoo / Xai'xais Stewardship Authority as a technician and has also been involved in marine planning work. He coordinates his department's youth work as the SEAS Internship program coordinator each summer. Vern is passionate about sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm for exploring his territory with youth and has expertise in bear safety and research.

Walter Bezha

Most of Walter Bezha's early years on Mother Earth were spent out on the land with all of his grandfathers, travelling and learning the Dene traditions of Sahtú (Great Bear Lake) in the Northwest Territories. After thirty-two years in the resource development field with both the Federal and Territorial governments, he switched to the working with Aboriginal governance organisations. Walter is currently serving as Chair of the Déłıne ʔohda K'áowə Kə (Elder's Council), and in this capacity serves on the Déłıne K'aowədó Kə (Main Council) of the Déłıne Got'ıne Government. He has served as Implementation Director for the Déline Governance office, Chair of the Sahtú Renewable Resources Board, member of the Sahtu Land and Water Board, and member of the Mackenzie Land and Water Board. Walter has been actively involved in a caribou traditional knowledge study in the Sahtu Region since 2006. He was a founding member of the national Learning Communities Network, oriented to understanding the role of communities in resource management. He is author of "Using Indigenous Stories in Caribou Co-Management" (Rangifer, 2012) and co-author of "'Our Responsibility to Keep the Land Alive': Voices of Northern Indigenous Researchers" (Pimatisiwin, 2010).

Zahra Remtulla

Zahra is the On the Land Programs Coordinator for a conservation organization called Nature United. She supports Indigenous communities in running strong and resilient youth On the Land programs. Her background is in research/program evaluation and K-12 teaching. She is grateful to have been living, learning and playing in Coast Salish territory since 2012, spending time in Nanaimo, Victoria and Vancouver (where she lives currently).

