



August 21, 2019

Panel

Indigenous Ways of Working with Community

This panel will help us to learn about Indigenous approaches to community collaboration, provide insight to concerns of Indigenous communities and share ways to contribute to well-being.

Objectives for the panel were determined by an Indigenous Advisory Group which was formed this year to advise on the cultural components of the 2019 ASI Forum. This group has representation from Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Inuit communities. Panelists were invited to speak on topics which are guided by objectives set by this group.

- To familiarize Forum participants with the seven sacred teachings as the basis of decision making and policy for First Nations - the importance of community, nature and respect for the earth
- To familiarize forum participants about principles of Inuit ethics and engagement
- To educate Forum participants about “Two-eyed seeing” in creating supportive environments – integration of western and indigenous world views
- To increase understanding of alternate healing processes and the role of nature in supporting Indigenous clients in the justice system, health system, and for addressing PTSD and intergenerational trauma

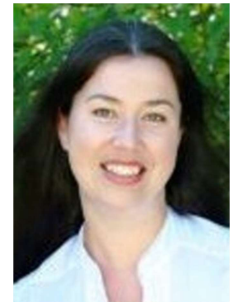
Moderator:

Cheryl Simon

Lawyer; Policy and Operations Manager, Mi'gmawe'l Tplu'taqnn Inc.

Cheryl is a proud Mi'kmaq woman from Epekwitk (Prince Edward Island) who works in governance because it allows her to balance her academic and legal background with the daily exercise of Aboriginal rights.

Cheryl completed her B.A. in Native Studies from the University of Lethbridge in 2000 and her LL.B from the University of Victoria in 2007, where she studied Maori law and comparative Indigenous studies at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand, on exchange. Cheryl is currently working on her LLM Professional Development degree with a constitutional specialty at Osgoode.



Cheryl's governance work began with the position of Director of Administration and Operations for Abegweit First Nation in 2000. After practicing law with a Dartmouth firm, Cheryl took a position with the National Centre for First Nations Governance in 2008, assisting in the development of governance models based on traditional governance systems. In 2011, Cheryl established Simon Governance Services, where she worked extensively on community-based policy development within the Maritimes.

Cheryl is currently Policy and Operations Manager for Mi'gmawe'l Tplu'taqnn Inc., a rights implementation organization working with the Mi'kmaq communities in New Brunswick.

Cheryl lives with her husband Derek and their two children in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

Panelists:

Judith Clark

Mi'kmaq Elder in Residence, UPEI

Judy is a Mi'kmaq woman from Abegweit First Nation. She is extremely active in her community and is committed to Aboriginal issues.

Judy is the UPEI Mi'kmaq Elder in Residence and works with Indigenous people within the PEI justice system. She is a Mi'kmaw Circle Keeper and served as the PEI representative for the RCMP Commissioner's National Aboriginal Advisory Committee, where she raised issues on behalf of the Indigenous community. She also served on the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention. Judy is passionate about women's issues and served as President of the PEI Aboriginal Women's Association and an Executive Council member for Native Women's Association of Canada from 2006-2018; she also received a 35-year pin for her volunteer work with the Girl Guides of Canada. Judy has received an Honorary Doctor of Laws from UPEI, a Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers and a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. She has a professional background in finance, conflict resolution and research. She is currently the owner of Epekwitk Mi'kmaq Cultural Consulting.

Judy leads her life in accordance with the teachings of her Elders, and she and her husband John are proud parents of two daughters and grandparents to three granddaughters and a grandson.



Julie Bull

Research and Policy Consultant, NunatuKavut Community Council

Julie Bull (Ph.D) is an award-winning Inuk researcher, ethicist, educator, and poet from NunatuKavut, Labrador. Julie works with communities, researchers, Research Ethics Boards (REBs), educators, and policy makers to implement emerging and promising practices in ethics and engagement with Indigenous Peoples and is an invited lecturer and speaker at many events throughout Canada and around the world. Julie was the founding director of the Mawi'omi Aboriginal Student Resource Centre at the University of Prince Edward Island and assisted several other similar program initiations at other institutions. In 2018, Julie was the recipient of the Ontario Ministry of Education *Emerging Scholar Change Maker Award* for her work on research/review with Indigenous Peoples in Canada.



Albert Marshall

Elder and advocate

Dr. Albert Marshall, Elder, LL.D is from the Moose Clan of the Mi'kmaw Nation, and lives in Eskasoni First Nation in Unama'ki-Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.

Albert and his wife Murdena Marshall are passionate advocates for the preservation, promotion, and revitalization of Mi'kmaw Traditional Knowledge, including language, spirituality, stories, practices, and ways of knowing. In 2009, Albert and Murdena were awarded Honorary Doctorates in recognition of their devotion and commitment to this work. Their energy, wisdom, and knowledge helped create the Innovative Integrative Science academic program at Cape Breton University in the 1990s.



Albert is an advocate of cross- cultural understandings and healing and of our human responsibilities to care for all creatures and our Earth Mother. He is a fluent speaker of Mi'kmaw and the "designated voice" for the Mi'kmaw Elders of Unama'ki with respect to environmental issues. He sits on various committees and boards that guide initiatives in natural resource management and Aboriginal Health Research and Education pertaining to First Nations' issues. Albert is a member of the Advisory Council for Unama'ki College of Cape Breton University, Collaborative Environmental Planning Initiative (CEPI) for the Bras d'Or Lake, and on the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health headquartered at the University of Northern British Columbia.

Albert will be presenting on the Two-Eyed Seeing Approach, a phrase he coined. This Two-Eyed Seeing / Etuaptmumk (Ed doo up dem-mumk) is a guiding principle for collaborative work which encourages learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of Western knowledges and ways of knowing... and learning to use both eyes together, for the benefit of all.

Andrea Colfer

Resolution Health Support Worker, Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat

Andrea Colfer has spent her life working to support First Nations peoples' mental health and wellness throughout the Atlantic Region and beyond. From Elsipogtog First Nation, she is a traditional and well-respected Elder and Knowledge Keeper in the territory of Mi'kma'ki. She served as a health support co-ordinator for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, helping to provide support for family members and survivors during the inquiry. She has also supported former Indigenous residential school students and their families by connecting former students and descendants with mental health providers and traditional caregivers and healers.



A fluent speaker and teacher of the Mi'kmaq language, she is part of the Mi'kmaq Wolastoq Elder Council and is called upon by Elders across Turtle Island (North America) for her knowledge in land-based education, Indigenous art history and language, and in historical trauma counselling. As a carrier of the Mi'kmaq Hieroglyphics knowledge and translation, she has also served as a resource for education departments throughout the Maritimes and has begun training with Newfoundland Elders to reclaim traditional knowledge. At Mount Allison, she has been an essential part of reconciliation and educational efforts through the Elder-in-Residence program. In 2019 Andrea received Honorary Doctor of Laws from Mount Allison University, Sackville N.B.