

# Summary of Events

## Bezhigo Giishigad (Day One)

### **ROBERT C. GREENE**

**(CANADIAN MUSEUM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, KNOWLEDGE KEEPER)**

Robert C. Greene is an Anishinaabe Knowledge Keeper from Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent First Nation (Shoal Lake Band No. 39). A survivor of Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School, Robert worked for his First Nation in various roles and served as an elected councillor for 10 years. At 43, he received a sacred bundle, which deepened his connection to Anishinaabe spirituality and led him on a healing path. Robert has worked as an Elder and Spiritual Caregiver in several Manitoba institutions and is a certified Counsellor and Complex Trauma Therapist. Currently, he serves as Elder-in-Residence at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, where he cares for the sacred drum and pipe gifted to the museum by his Knowledge Keeper and teacher, Fred Kelly.

# Summary of Events

## Niizhigo Giishigad (Day Two)

### **1 P.M. - DECOLONIZING COLONIZED SPACES**

#### **CHELSEA COOK (MANITOBA HARM REDUCTION NETWORK)**

Tansi, my name is Chelsea Cook. I use She/Her pronouns. I am a young Oji-Cree woman who has grown up in many different First Nation communities throughout the Province of Manitoba. I now call Swan Valley located on Treaty 4 lands home. I work for the Manitoba Harm Reduction Network, I am the Network Coordinator for the HELP network based out of Swan River, established in 2017. I am very fortunate to be in a position that allows me and supports me to be an advocate and allows for meaningful connections that better help me fulfill my role in the work MHRN does.

#### **LORRAINE SEYMOUR-HENDERSON (KA NI KANICHIHK INC.)**

Lorraine Seymour (she/her) belongs to the Bear clan, and is from the Anishinaabeg of Naongaashing, Treaty #3. Lorraine survived St. Mary's Indian Residential School (IRS). She knows how the colonial project continues to ravage Indigenous Health. She holds a Masters of Social Work, focusing on Indigenous Knowledge (University of Manitoba). She also obtained a B.A (Hons.) in Native Studies (Trent University). Lorraine is currently a Research Coordinator at Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc., in partnership with Waniska Indigenous Centre. Waniska is an Indigenous-led centre for research on HIV, Hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted and blood borne infections (STBBI) focused on Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Accessing Ancestral Knowledge Systems is Lorraine's way of helping. Her research method is hands-on, which opens conversation and educational opportunities. Her holistic take on Indigenous Social Work methods centres on cultural protection. She is the mother of five, grandmother to twelve, and great grandmother to two, who carry on the tradition of Beading is Healing.

#### **JOHN KIM (PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA)**

Dr. John Kim is the Chief of the Public Health Agency's National HIV Reference Services (NLHRS) Laboratory at the National Microbiology Laboratory's JC Wilt Infectious Diseases Center in Winnipeg, MB.

Since 2015, their engagement with Indigenous relatives has resulted in increased access to testing opportunities for STBBI (HIV-HCV-syphilis) infections using dried blood spots (DBS). The ease with which this form of testing can be performed has empowered communities across the country to address the challenges that previously prevented many from accessing the traditional form of blood testing. The success of this form of non-traditional testing is now being witnessed at the colonial level with several provinces implementing or developing policies to accept test results from DBS.

This novel model embodies the principle that relationships and respect for self-determination are the most important element for partnerships to thrive.

## Summary of Events

## Niizhigo Giishigad (Day Two)

### **3 P.M. - ATOHTITAM**

***Becoming of Age: Inspiring healthy sexuality & wellness through 'Identity healing' to prevent, reduce, and eliminate HIV/HCV/STBBI inequities among indigenous youth in Saskatchewan***

### **DR. AMANDA FROEHLICH CHOW**

Dr. Amanda Froehlich Chow is an Assistant Professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Saskatchewan. Amanda's research program aims to apply wellness approaches in conjunction with community-based participatory research methods to promote holistic wellness. Dr. Froehlich Chow's current projects weave in Indigenous methodologies including etuaptmumk (Two-Eyed Seeing), alongside intergenerational and land-based wellness approaches. Every aspect of her research is guided by community relationships as she works collaboratively alongside Indigenous community members and non-Indigenous allies to develop and implement culturally-rooted, community-based initiatives aimed at promoting overall wellness among children, their families, and their communities. Additionally, Dr. Froehlich Chow has research and lived experiences understanding the unique factors influencing the health and wellness of those living in rural areas.

### **4:30 p.m. - LAND-BASED TOUR WITH KNOWLEDGE KEEPER BARB NEPINAK**

### **ELDER BARBARA (BARB) NEPINAK**

Elder Barbara (Barb) Nepinak is a band member of the Pine Creek Ojibway First Nation and retired from a successful career in Provincial/Federal public service. Barb is active in various cultural organizations, such as serving on the Provincial Council of Manitoba. She has been a staple at The Forks for over two decades, where people can visit the couple in their teepee, eat down warm bannock, and learn about Indigenous culture. She is the Founder and Coordinator (along with her late husband, Clarence) of the well-respected Summer Bear Dance Troupe, a performing group focused on educating and sharing aspects of Indigenous culture and community with audiences for over 20 years. Both Barbara and Clarence Nepinak have been the recipient of numerous awards and credits related to their work around cultural awareness, including having been the first couple presented the Order of Manitoba, the province's highest honour.

## Summary of Events

## Niswi Giishigad (Day Three)

### **11:00 A.M. - DR. TASHA SPILLETT**

***Harm Reduction in Indigenous Storytelling***

Tasha Spillett, PhD (she/her/hers), stands as a luminary at the intersection of Indigenous advocacy, education, and literature. As a celebrated author, educator, & advocate, her commitment to uplifting marginalized voices shines through her literary works, scholarly endeavours, and community-led initiatives. Tasha's dedication to fostering equitable learning environments and advocating for the liberation of Indigenous women and women of colour marks her as a guiding force toward a more inclusive future.

### **11:30 A.M. - KOTAWÊW**

***Expanding the Role of Indigenous Doulas in HIV/STBBI Care in Manitoba***

### **CANDACE NEUMANN**

Candace Neumann (she/her) is a Métis artist, student, doula, sundancer, cedar bath practitioner, community worker and facilitator from Winnipeg, Manitoba. She is currently enrolled in the Master of Social Work Program in Indigenous Knowledges at the University of Manitoba continuing in community work in whatever capacity is needed. Having previously supported research on how Indigenous HIV doulas can support community members to access HIV care in Treaty 1, Candace is a research assistant with Village Lab furthering that research with Kotawêw. All community work, professional development and education that Candace pursues is for the explicit purpose of ending violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2S folks.

# Summary of Events

# Niswi Giishigad (Day Three)

## **1:00 P.M. - SUNSHINE HOUSE** ***Sexual Health Programming***

**HELINA ZEGEYE (GIZHIWENIMIN & SHOW PROGRAM DIRECTOR)**  
**ASHTON HEIBERT (GIZHIWENIMIN & SHOW SUPPORT WORKER)**

Sunshine House is a drop-in and resource center that operates in the Point Douglas neighborhood in Winnipeg Manitoba. It was first established as the Kali Shiva HIV/AIDS service organization in 1987 and has grown with the city's demand for harm reduction services. The SHOW (sexual outreach workers) team is composed of 3 staff trained in STBBI education, awareness, and outreach with a focus on Hepatitis, HIV, and Syphilis. At both the fixed and mobile Sunshine House operational sites individuals can access rapid HIV/Syphilis and pregnancy self-testing, and even attend testing and vaccine clinics run by partnered nurses.

Individuals seeking to access medication, assessment, or STBBI care can speak with a SHOW staff member who will work with them around their health, substance use and or housing goals by developing a support plan. Individuals seeking advice, advocacy, education and low barrier sexual health services can gain stigma free support through the SHOW program. Currently, the Sunshine House's sexual health initiatives are funded through partnerships with the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network as well as the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Sunshine House & Manitoba Harm Reduction Network worked with the Public Health Agency of Canada to introduce rapid HIV Syphilis tests to urban and rural communities in Manitoba. The Friends of Philis pilot project trained peers on how to approach testing community members, building relationships and educating Manitobans on the benefits and updates to self testing technology for HIV and Syphilis. This project aims to improve access outside of tradition clinical settings as STBBI cases increase in the province.

## **1:30 P.M. - TWO-SPIRIT COMMUNITY BASED RESEARCH TEAM (CBRC)**

**LANE BONERTZ**  
***Indigenous PrEP/HPV Modules***

Growing up in Southern Alberta, Lane's work ethic is one inspired by the collaboration to uplift community instilled by a rural upbringing in ranching and agriculture. Lane is queer, Blackfoot and a Piikani Nation (Aapátohsipikáni) member, and it is within these intersecting identities that he feels a sense of responsibility to contribute to care and research that is decolonial and affirming of identity and lived experience. He is a Two-Spirit Program manager at the Community Based Research Centre (CBRC), contributing to sexual health related programming and research that centres Indigenous identities, cultures and realities. Lane is currently based in Tiohtià:ke/Montréal.

**JAYLENE MCRAE**

***Motivational Speaking on Lived/Living Experience from a 2S Trans Perspective***

Jaylene is a proud Two-Spirit, sober Indigenous trans woman and survivor of the Sixties Scoop, her journey is a powerful testament to resilience and authenticity. Jaylene's ancestral family roots are in Treaty 4 - Zagime Anishinabek First Nation, Kawacatoose First Nation and Métis Nation, Green Lake Saskatchewan. Jaylene feels that it is important to celebrate the power of community by contributing to the energy of our world with passion, integrity and positivity. Her story, featured in *CBC Arts' Canada's a Drag*, reflects her unwavering commitment to creating spaces where everyone can be themselves. Jaylene believes that together with each other, we have the opportunity to inspire and educate. Our identities, beautifully diverse and wonderfully unique.

**MARTIN MORBERG**

***The Medicine Bundle Project***

Martin Morberg is a Two-Spirit Northern Tutchone and Tlingit man born and raised in the Yukon Territory. He is a member of the Na Cho Nyak Dun First Nation. Much of Martin's work and activism is rooted in community and grassroots initiatives and he acknowledges that many Indigenous leaders and community members have guided and supported him in growing into the activist he is today. He hopes to pay this knowledge and support forward to Indigenous communities and Two-Spirit people and contribute to the meaningful work and reclamation of Two-Spirit culture. Martin currently works with the Two-Spirit program at the Community-Based Research Centre (CBRC).

# Summary of Events

# Niswi Giishigad (Day Three)

## 2:30 P.M. - INUIT THROAT SINGERS

### **ZEANN MANERNALUK (RAISED IN RANKIN INLET, NUNAVUT)**

### **ALEATRA SAMMURTOK (TUNNGASUGIT INUIT RESOURCE CENTRE)**

My name is Aleatra Sammurtok. I'm an Inuit Throat singer from Winnipeg. My mom is originally from Chesterfield Inlet, Nunavut. I've learned how to sing in my early teenage years by Nikki, and from then on it took a lot of practices to be where I am today. I am also an employee at Tunngasugit Inuit Resources Centre, which I super proud to be a part of their team. I'm currently coordinating Inuit health surveys to evaluate the needs of our Inuit community that live, access health services, work and go to school here in Winnipeg. Also, in mid-September Tunngasugit will be offering men's and woman's programming, and I'm super excited about that as it bring our community together. As for the men's program, there will be an Inuk elder as they will have a safe space for trauma, addiction, and other issues the community is facing.

## 3:30 P.M. - WITNESS BEARERS SPEAKERS

### **SAYDI HARLTON**

Saydi is a seventh-generation Irish, Scottish, and German settler from Treaty 4 Territory, now living and working on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. As the research coordinator at the Waniska Indigenous Centre, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, she combines her academic expertise with a deep commitment to Indigenous health equity. Holding a Master's degree in Community & Population Health, Saydi's work centers on improving the health outcomes of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and across Canada. Her passion lies in community-driven research, particularly in tackling the rising rates of HIV, hepatitis C and sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections in prairie communities. With a focus on culturally safe healthcare, she strives each day to contribute to a future where Indigenous people have equitable access to health services and traditional forms of medicine, ensuring culturally relevant support for better well-being.

### **MAX TRUBNIKOV**

Max is an Epidemiologist and acting Manager of Surveillance of Communicable Diseases within First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Indigenous Services Canada. In partnership with regional ISC teams and First Nations health authorities, he is focused on developing data systems, processes and data sharing agreements to manage collection, analysis and interpretation of distinction-based reporting of outcomes of communicable diseases, treatment completion and immunizations uptake for vaccine preventable diseases; and supporting data management & analysis capacities building among government and non-government organizations providing care to Indigenous Peoples. Through the development of partnerships with First Nations and Inuit organizations and leveraging supports from the federal and provincial governments, Max is committed to respecting and promoting OCAP principles in advancing First Nations, Inuit and Metis data sovereignty and self-determination and heeding the TRC Calls to Action to close the gap in health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

### **ROXANNE GREENE (GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATOR)**

Roxanne Greene is an Anishinaabe from Shoal Lake No. 40 First Nation. She is a long-time advocate and consultant who specializes in project management, community engagement, and graphic illustration. Her goal is to help communities flourish through her various methods of facilitation.