

# FNES 2025 – Speaker Biographies

## Keynote Speakers




**Roberta Jamieson O.C.,  
I.P.C, LLB, LLd (Hon),**  
Director, RBC, Deloitte Canada  
and Chile, Former President  
and CEO, Indspire

Roberta Jamieson is Mohawk who has achieved many firsts. They include being the first First Nation woman in Canada to earn a law degree; the first woman Ombudsman of Ontario; and the first woman elected Chief of the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory.


Roberta has long been recognized as an accomplished expert in alternative dispute resolution and is an effective and visionary member of corporate boards, with an acknowledged expertise in Environmental, Social and Governance matters. She is currently on the board of directors of the Royal Bank of Canada, where she sits on the Risk and Governance committees, and Deloitte Canada and Chile, where she sits on the Governance and Quality committees. She is also a member of the Independent Directors Advisory Committee to the Chair of Deloitte's Global Board (DTTL).

Roberta is a former member of the Board of Directors of Ontario Power Generation and Hydro One. At the request of Prime Minister Trudeau, Roberta served on the inaugural Gender Equality Advisory Council during Canada's G7 Presidency.




As President of Indspire, Canada's largest Indigenous charity, Roberta oversaw an eightfold increase in bursaries and scholarships. Charity Intelligence Canada named Indspire one of the 10 Canadian Charities with the most impact and Macleans and the Financial Post chose it as one of Canada's Top Charities. Roberta has continued her involvement in philanthropy, most recently as a Founding Visionary of the Prosperity Project and as a member of the board of directors of the Rideau Hall Foundation where she Co-Chairs a national initiative to increase to more than 10,000 the number of Indigenous teachers.

	<p>Roberta has received 32 honorary degrees, earned numerous awards including the IPC designation from the Indigenous Bar Association, appointment to the WXM hall of Fame, the Indigenous Women's Leadership Award from the Canadian Council of Aboriginal Business, and has been recognized by the Public Policy Forum for outstanding contributions to the quality of public policy and governance in Canada. She is an Officer of the Order of Canada.</p>
 <p><b>Perry Bellegarde</b> Former National Chief <b>Assembly of First Nations</b></p>	<p>Chief Perry Bellegarde has dedicated his life to championing the rights and well-being of First Nations. For 35 years, he has held various First Nations leadership roles, including two terms served as the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). Chief Bellegarde believes passionately that at the heart of the original Treaty relationship sits a vision of peace and friendship that is the key to building a better and brighter future for Canada.</p> <p>A member of Little Black Bear First Nation, Chief Bellegarde credits the wisdom shared by the First Nations Elders of Saskatchewan for instilling in him a deep sense of pride in his culture, as well as a lasting conviction that Indigenous knowledge and values are crucial to building a more just and inclusive society. He describes himself as an oskâpêwis, a Cree word meaning "helper", and he believes this understanding of the role and responsibilities of a leader applies to many walks of life.</p> <p>Chief Bellegarde has championed that vision through all his leadership roles. First, as the Tribal Council Representative for the Touchwood-File Hills-Qu'Appelle Tribal Council, and then as the Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, Councillor and Chief of Little Black Bear First Nation, and National Chief of AFN, a position he held from 2014-2021.</p> <p>As National Chief, Chief Bellegarde campaigned tirelessly to close the gap in the quality of life between First Nations and other families in Canada. He led the AFN through a period of profound transformation in public awareness of First Nations concerns and priorities. Critical accomplishments include the passage of Canada's first national legislation recognizing and protecting Indigenous languages, much needed changes in how government services in First Nations communities are funded and securing a legal commitment to a national implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</p>

	<p>Chief Bellegarde also influenced the acknowledgement of Indigenous Rights in the final Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) as a member of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Advisory Council. He has also raised the international profile of First Nations expertise on sustainable development, promoting rights-based solutions to climate change. Today, Chief Bellegarde is a special advisor to Fasken, an international law firm. He also serves as the chair of the First Nations Bank of Canada Board of Directors and as a special advisor to His Majesty King Charles III's Sustainable Markets Initiative.</p> <p>In recognition of his work, Chief Bellegarde has been awarded the Confederation Medal; the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal; and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, Golden Jubilee Medal, and Platinum Jubilee Medal. He is also the recipient of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit and an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from both Queen's University and Lakehead University. In 2021, Chief Bellegarde was named "Nation Builder of the Year" by the Empire Club of Canada and the Honorary President of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society. Chief Bellegarde is also the host of Ahkameyimok Podcast, which consistently rates highly in Apple's Canada-Government category.</p>
 <p><b>The Honourable Stephen Lecce</b> Minister of Energy and Mines <b>Province of Ontario</b></p>	<p>Stephen Lecce is Ontario's current Minister of Energy and Mines and the Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for King-Vaughan.</p> <p>Stephen Lecce was recently appointed as Ontario's Minister of Energy and Mines, with an expanded mandate focused on accelerating resource development.</p> <p>In his mission to position Ontario as an energy superpower, Stephen is expanding electricity generation—anchored by nuclear power—along with transmission and storage. To deliver on this urgent imperative, he announced the largest competitive public energy procurement in Canadian history, along with the plan to build the largest nuclear generator on earth.</p> <p>With his expanded mandate, he will work to aggressively unlock one of the largest untapped deposits of critical minerals and rare earth metals on the planet—vital to Canada's future prosperity and security. This includes accelerating permitting to get shovels in the ground, while working to diversify export markets—from minerals to nuclear energy.</p>



	<p>Stephen's first experience in politics began in his hometown of Vaughan where he was involved in the 1999 election of the late MPP Al Palladini. Since then, he has served as Chief Spokesperson to Canada's 22nd Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper. Upon his election in 2018, he served as Deputy Government House Leader, the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Infrastructure, Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier, and then served as Ontario's longest-serving Minister of Education in modern history.</p>
 <p><b>Stan Wesley</b> Kahnekahnekahtahk</p>	<p>Stan Wesley is from Moose Factory and currently living in Six Nations Territory with his wife Mandy and two daughters Maya and Tenona.</p> <p>With his high-energy and sincere professional approach, he's considered by many to be one of the most high energy speakers around.</p>

# Presenters

<b>Alena Thouin</b>	
 <p><b>Alvin Fiddler</b> Grand Chief <b>Nishnawbe Aski Nation</b></p>	<p>Alvin Fiddler, a member of Muskrat Dam First Nation previously served as NAN Grand Chief for 2 terms from 2015 to 2021 following several terms as Deputy Grand Chief. He was acclaimed Grand Chief in 2023 and was re-elected at the NAN Keewaywin Chiefs Assembly in 2024.</p> <p>His leadership priorities focus on systems transformation including health and child welfare, and advocating for improvements in education, housing, infrastructure, and access to clean water. He is also committed to justice reform, and the assertion and recognition of First Nations' treaty rights in land and resource development with Ontario and Canada.</p>
 <p><b>Brooke McLeod</b> Community Energy Champion <b>Moose Cree First Nation</b></p>	<p>Brooke McLeod is the Community Energy Champion for Moose Cree First Nation, where she supports and leads clean energy initiatives that advance both sustainability and sovereignty. Her work includes leading the Nation's own biomass utility, JB Aski, which reduces reliance on fossil fuels while creating local capacity and economic opportunity, as well as setting new pathways for energy efficiency and conservation.</p> <p>Inspired by her community's vision to keep traditions and values alive, Brooke is committed to engaging community members in shaping the decisions that impact their clean energy future. She believes Moose Cree's homelands hold tremendous opportunity, and through her role she is helping build a strong foundation that will serve her Nation for generations to come.</p>
 <p><b>Bruce Achneepineskum</b> Chief</p>	<p>I have been Councilor for 18 years and Chief for 11 years over a span of 32 years.</p> <p>I'm a father with 2 adult daughters and son Joseph 3 years with my partner Larissa!</p> <p>As Chief, I advocate for our membership on political, legal and socio-economic issues and initiatives in our territory including our ancestral territory at Ring of Fire or Wawang Wajing as we call it!</p>




<b>Marten Falls First Nation</b>	<p>I am a believer in economic self determination and preservation of the environment and a practitioner of traditional sustenance hunting and fishing!</p>
<div data-bbox="212 310 597 569" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><b>Cadmus Delorme</b>  Founder and Partner  <b>OneHoop Advisory Services and Flowing River Capital Group</b></p>	<p>Cadmus Delorme, a Cree and Saulteaux (pronounced: sow-toe), is a citizen of the Cowessess (pronounced: Cow-is-ess) First Nation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Delorme was an elected Chief from 2016 to 2023.</li> <li>• In 2025, Mr. Delorme received an honorary Doctorate Degree from the Athabasca University</li> <li>• In 2023, Mr. Delorme received an honorary degree from the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Institution.</li> <li>• In 2021, he achieved an Institute of Corporate Director designation.</li> <li>• In 2016, he achieved a Masters of Public Administration from the Johnson-Shoyama (pronounced: Shoi-ama) Graduate School of Public Policy.</li> <li>• And, in 2013, Mr. Delorme achieved a Bachelor of Business Administration along with a Certificate in Hospitality, Tourism and Gaming Entertainment Management from the First Nations University of Canada (FNUUniv).</li> </ul> <p>In addition to his educational achievements, he has also been the recipient of numerous awards and sat on various committees, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2025 Mr. Delorme was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal.</li> <li>• In 2022 Mr. Delorme was awarded the Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee.</li> <li>• In 2012, Mr. Delorme was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his student leadership and the hospitality he showed to King Charles III and his Queen Consort Camilla when they visited First Nations University of Canada in 2012.</li> <li>• In 2015 Mr. Delorme was named one of CBC Saskatchewan's Future 40, which celebrates the province's new generation of leaders, builders, and change-makers under the age of 40.</li> </ul>







	<p>While Chief, Mr. Delorme’s focus was on three pillars: cultural rejuvenation, political sovereignty, and economic self-sustainability. During the seven years in office, Cowessess First Nation advanced in governance stability, child welfare reform, renewable energy projects, agriculture, property management, and more.</p> <p>In April 2023, Mr. Delorme chose to not run for a third term and soon after became a founder and Partner to OneHoop Advisory Services and founder and Partner to Flowing River Capital Group, which focuses on enhancing the private equity market through Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #92: Business and Reconciliation, and #57: Professional Development.</p> <p>Mr. Delorme and his wife Kimberly raise his brother-in-law, daughter and two sons in Regina and on the Cowessess First Nation</p>
 <p><b>Damien Côté</b> Chief Commissioner <b>Ontario Energy Board</b></p>	<p>Damien Côté was appointed as Chief Commissioner in April 2025. He brings a wealth of expertise and experience to this role, including three years as a Board Member of the (former) National Energy Board, followed by three years as the inaugural Lead Commissioner at the Canada Energy Regulator (CER). Prior to the CER, he was the Executive Director of the Nunavut Water Board in Gjoa Haven (Nunavut), and as Chief Operating Officer of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation in Inuvik (Northwest Territories). He also served as a Member of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada.</p> <p>Mr. Côté holds a Juris Doctor and a Licentiate of Laws from the University of Ottawa, a Master of Arts (Economics) from the University of Toronto, as well as a Bachelor of Engineering (Environmental) and a Bachelor of Arts (Economics) from Carleton University.</p>
 <p><b>Dawn Lambe</b> Economic Policy Analyst</p>	<p>Dawn Lambe leverages 30 years of experience in technology design, clean energy development, and strategic planning to support sustainable economic development.</p> <p>She has led international business delegations from Finland and Sweden to communities throughout northern Ontario to share opportunities in community energy sovereignty with bioheat and biopower.</p> <p>Dawn has led successful not-for-profit and for-profit organizations in the sustainable forestry and technology sectors and enjoys guest lecturing at colleges and universities across Ontario on strategic innovation for a zero carbon future.</p>

<p><b>Anishinabek Nation</b></p>	<p>Currently pursuing her MA in Economics, Dawn supports the Forestry and Energy files with the Anishinabek Nation's Economic Development Department.</p> <p>Dawn treasures the time she spends hunting, fishing, harvesting, and just being in the forest and on the lakes and rivers of northern Ontario.</p>
<div data-bbox="256 401 574 716" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><b>Emily He</b> Manager, Renewables in Remote Communities <b>Pembina Institute</b></p>	<p>Emily He is the Manager of the Renewables in Remote Communities program at the Pembina Institute. At Pembina, Emily's work has focused on supporting Indigenous-led clean energy in remote communities through exploring the topics of energy policy, utility regulation in remote communities, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), diesel reliance, and microgrids.</p> <p>Emily's background and ongoing projects have culminated in a detailed understanding of the intersectional social, policy, and technical nature of the clean energy transition in remote communities.</p>
<div data-bbox="245 968 563 1283" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><b>Erika Voaklander</b> Associate Lawyer <b>JFK Law LLP</b></p>	<p>Erika is an Associate at the Toronto JFK Law office. She is Métis, and her family hails from Red River. Erika grew up in Alberta and is a citizen of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government. She holds a Juris Doctor and a Certificate in Aboriginal Legal Studies from the University of Toronto. Erika also holds a Certificate in Negotiation from Osgoode Hall Law School.</p> <p>Since being called to the bar, Erika has exclusively worked in Aboriginal law representing Indigenous communities. Erika has experience advising Indigenous communities, governments and nations on Aboriginal and treaty rights-related matters, including advancing their visions of self-determination through the negotiation and implementation of self-government agreements and modern-day treaties. She has also advised clients on the duty to consult and accommodate, partnerships between industry and Indigenous peoples, environmental stewardship, and opportunities for Indigenous peoples to help advance their economic prosperity goals.</p> <p>She has worked on negotiating innovative relationship and economic reconciliation agreements, including impact benefit agreements and other accommodation arrangements that recognize and respect Indigenous rights across traditional territories.</p>






 <p><b>Jim Tait</b> Senior Director, Energy <b>Batchewana First Nation</b></p>	<p>Jim Tait is the Senior Director of Energy for Batchewana First Nation, where he leads efforts to develop and deliver energy initiatives that support financial independence, build internal capacity, and reflect the Nation’s long-term priorities. His work is grounded in collaboration, transparency, and a commitment to creating practical solutions that benefit the community. With over 15 years of experience in energy infrastructure, construction management, and organizational development, Jim has worked with leading corporations across Ontario in both technical and leadership roles. He brings a steady, team-oriented approach to project planning and execution, with a focus on safety, performance, and respectful partnerships. Jim is dedicated to ensuring that energy-related projects align with Batchewana First Nation’s values and contribute meaningfully to its future.</p>
 <p><b>Joseph Nahwegahbow</b> Community Energy Champion <b>White Fish River First Nation</b></p>	<p>Since February 2024, I have proudly served as the Community Energy Champion for my home community, Whitefish River First Nation. This pivotal role allows me to lead strategic energy initiatives and implement sustainable solutions that drive meaningful community development.</p> <p>I am committed to fostering impactful, positive change by providing leadership and assistance to community members in realizing their own energy goals.</p>
 <p><b>Justin Lok, CPA, CA</b> Director, Investments <b>Canada Infrastructure Bank</b></p>	<p>Since 2019, Justin has been supporting the delivery of projects to support Canada’s clean energy transition with the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB). His work focuses on advancing economic reconciliation through investments in renewables, transmission and energy storage that deliver long-term community benefits, capacity building, and sustainable development. Justin has played a key role in milestone financings such as CIB’s first Indigenous equity loan and its first investment in Nunavut.</p> <p>Justin has over 8 years of financial advisory and project finance experience. Prior to joining the CIB, he advised Indigenous communities on investments in energy infrastructure projects with PricewaterhouseCoopers, including the landmark Wataynikaneyap Transmission Project in northern Ontario where</p>



	<p>24 First Nations Communities worked together to bring 17 remote communities off diesel. He is committed to fostering partnerships that empower Indigenous communities to shape and benefit from Canada's sustainable energy future.</p>
 <p><b>Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer</b> President and CEO <b>Sky-Deer Consulting</b></p>	<p>Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer is a Kanien'kehá:ka business leader, former politician, and strategist from Kahnawà:ke, near Montreal (Tiohtià:ke). A skilled negotiator, she has spent over a decade driving transformative agreements and positioning First Nations as key players in Canada's economic future.</p> <p>As Grand Chief of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke, she led major development initiatives and secured multi-million-dollar economic benefits through a landmark agreement with Hydro-Québec. This deal stands as a model of economic reconciliation in action, proving that strong partnerships with First Nations leaders drive shared prosperity. The agreement has since inspired chiefs and decision-makers across the country and continues to shape major negotiations.</p>
 <p><b>Karen McCarthy</b> Vice-President, Communications and Government Relations <b>Fortis Inc.</b></p>	<p>Ms. McCarthy has been with the Fortis group of companies for over a decade, joining Newfoundland Power in 2013 as Manager, Corporate Affairs and Communications and subsequently Director, Customer and Corporate Relations. She joined Fortis Inc. in 2016 as Director, Communications and Corporate Affairs and was appointed Vice President, Communications and Corporate Affairs in 2018 and to her current role in 2023. Ms. McCarthy was previously President of an Atlantic Canadian public affairs consulting firm for seven years. She spent 15 years in the Newfoundland and Labrador provincial public service with senior roles in communications, cabinet operations, energy, labour relations and intergovernmental affairs. She holds a Bachelor of Public Relations from Mount Saint Vincent University and a Master of Education (Leadership) from Memorial University. She was awarded the ICD.D designation from the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD) in 2017.</p> <p>Ms. McCarthy is Chair of the Newfoundland and Labrador Independent Appointments Commission, Past Chair of the Newfoundland and Labrador Chapter of ICD, and past Regent and Committee Chair on Memorial University's Board of Regents. Ms. McCarthy serves on the Board of Directors of Maritime Electric, a Fortis Utility. She is active within the Canadian Electricity Association and Edison Electric Institute, is an avid arts and business volunteer, and was awarded the Confederation</p>

	75th Anniversary Medal for her contributions to Newfoundland and Labrador.
 <p><b>Kevin Woods</b> Director of Energy Services <b>North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council</b></p>	<p>Kevin Woods, P.Eng. is the Director of Energy Services for the North Shore Mi'kmaq Tribal Council (NSMTC). With an industry-scale mandate, Kevin leads a team focused on advancing Indigenous inclusion in New Brunswick's energy sector – through Nation wealth building, workforce development, and integration into supply and logistics chains. The NSMTC Energy Services Division also supports the seven Mi'kmaq Nations of the Tribal Council on their path to a net-zero future, with initiatives spanning community energy planning, building retrofits, distributed energy resources, and electrification of corporate assets.</p> <p>Kevin holds a Bachelor of Science in Fire Science from Lake Superior State University and a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of New Brunswick. A licensed Professional Engineer with two decades of experience in the energy and built environment sectors, he champions inclusive energy solutions by aligning technical expertise with community-led goals and fostering strategic collaborations that deliver multi-generational impact.</p>
 <p><b>Larry Sault</b> Councillor <b>Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation</b></p>	<p>Councillor Larry Sault brings 30 plus years of leadership working with First Nations, Inuit and Tribal Nations in North America. He has held key positions in political leadership, private sector corporations and non-profit organizations. He is currently focused on policy, legislation, regulation and First Nation participation in programs related to climate change, low-carbon energy, and First Nation energy poverty issues. He is the President and CEO of Anwaatin Inc. Anwaatin is a First Nation business working in climate change action alongside First Nation Stewardship Warriors ensuring they are front and center in fighting climate change, clean energy and leading emerging markets associated with Carbon Trading and schemes to achieve carbon neutrality.</p> <p>He is also a board member of QUEST (Quality Urban Environmental Systems of Tomorrow). QUEST is a non-profit organization that conducts research, engagement and advocacy to advance Smart Energy Communities in Canada by working with government, utilities, the energy industry, the real-estate sector, economic regulators, and the product and professional service sector. Through his Board position with QUEST, Councillor Sault has been instrumental in convening an Indigenous Caucus which aims to give voice to creating long-</p>

	<p>term, sustainable, reliable, reasonable cost, practical and accessible solutions to advance smart energy solutions that work for Indigenous communities and businesses. He is presently working as a Consultant on Municipal Service Agreements, Law Making, Intergovernmental Relations and Major Business Development with First Nations. His work keeps him involved in all local, regional, and national political matters facing First Nations in the country.</p>
<div data-bbox="253 457 574 772" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><b>Linda Debassige</b> Grand Council Chief <b>Anishinabek Nation</b></p>	<p>Born and raised in M'Chigeeng First Nation, Linda Debassige is a devoted mother to two children and grandmother to one. Linda graduated with honours from Civil Engineering Technology in at Confederation College in Thunder Bay , and holds a Certificate in Negotiations from Osgoode Hall Law School.</p> <p>First elected to M'Chigeeng First Nation Council in 2013, Debassige was Chief from 2015-2023. During her tenure within the governance of M'Chigeeng, she participated in numerous portfolios, committees, and boards locally, regionally, and nationally, across many sectors including but not limited to treaty, infrastructure, water, housing, environment, policing, mental health and addictions, community safety, economic development, education, health, emergency management, and community development. She is currently serving as the Grand Council Chief of the Anishinabek Nation following a Traditional Stand-Up Election in June 2024.</p> <p>Linda is known for her strong leadership style, knowledge, dedication, and passion for all First Nations people and is often called upon for advice and advocacy for Indigenous communities, organizations, and leadership.</p> <p>Notably, Linda was the first Indigenous Trustee to hold the position of Vice Chair of the largest school board in Northern Ontario, the Rainbow District School Board. She also serves as a co-lead for the Assembly of First Nations on the co-development of the First Nation Safe Drinking Water and Wastewater Legislation.</p>



 <p><b>Luana Shirt</b> Culture Keeper <b>Red Sky Performance</b></p>	<p>Luana Shirt is Plains Cree - Anishinaabe kwe. Born in Treaty 6 Territory in Alberta, Luana's family relocated east in her early years and she was raised in Toronto among her Great Lakes relatives, the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Nations.</p> <p>In the 1980s, she graduated from Wandering Spirit Survival School, Canada's first urban Indigenous school, founded by her parents on the principle of 'Self-Determination through Native Way Education'. A visual artist, chartered herbalist, and Indigenous language curriculum developer, Luana is deeply committed to promoting Indigenous ways of knowing and being.</p> <p>Her work centers on Indigenous language advocacy, women's holistic health and wellness, the arts, and the revitalization of traditional medicines. A mother of two, she currently resides in the Simcoe County region.</p>
 <p><b>Margaret Kenequanash</b> CEO <b>Wataynikaneyap Power</b></p>	<p>Margaret Kenequanash has spent over 20 years leading initiatives to bring reliable power to First Nations in northern Ontario. She has been CEO of Wataynikaneyap Power since August 2017: an Indigenous-led, licensed transmission entity that brought grid connection to remote First Nations previously powered by diesel generators.</p> <p>Margaret has a vast wealth of knowledge gleaned from over 25 years in various high-level positions, including being on the Sioux Lookout Municipal Council from 1990-1994 and Executive Director of the Shibogama First Nations Council from 2005-2017.</p> <p>Margaret carries the distinction of being the first female Chief in her community at North Caribou Lake First Nation when she was elected in 1996. She is well known and respected throughout First Nation communities and government for her work in promoting opportunities and better quality of life for First Nation Peoples.</p>
 <p><b>Marsha Roote</b></p>	<p>Marsha was raised in Saugeen First Nation, where she currently resides with her 2 sons, ages 15 and 18. After high school, she went on to complete 2 college diplomas before graduating with a Sociology degree from Western University. She has worked with Indigenous people from several communities across Ontario, in various capacities and sectors including Corrections, Post-Secondary Education, and Child Welfare. While studying and working away from home, she visited home regularly, met elders and knowledge keepers that helped her stay connected to her</p>







<p>Indigenous Community Engagement Lead</p> <p><b>Bruce Power</b></p>	<p>identity, which all supported her along her journey before moving home to the Saugeen Ojibway Nation territory.</p> <p>During her 10 years with Bruce Power, she has been a main contributor to the Indigenous Employment &amp; Training Program and held positions such as Chair of the Indigenous Relations Supplier Network as well as Co-Chair of the Training, Education, Employment, Business Opportunities (TEEBO) committee alongside the Saugeen Ojibway Nation. Currently, Marsha is the Indigenous Community Engagement Lead as part of the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership team at Bruce Power.</p>
 <p><b>Matt Jamieson</b> President and CEO <b>Six Nations Development Corporation</b></p>	<p>Matt Jamieson is a proud member of the Tuscarora Nation and resident of Six Nations of the Grand River, Canada's most populated First Nation.</p> <p>As Chief Executive Officer, Matt leads SNGRDC investment strategy, operations, and asset management. SNGRDC has developed numerous partnerships with many of Canada's largest and most respected private and publicly traded companies. Under his leadership, SNGRDC has built a \$100+ million portfolio and participated in the construction of \$3 billion of infrastructure assets. Since inception, SNGRDC has generated \$300 million of direct economic impact for Six Nations of the Grand River. Matt holds a post-bachelor's degree in management, an MBA from Athabasca University and is a graduate of the ICD-Rotman Directors Education Program. Matt also serves as an Executive-in-residence at the Rotman Business School and an Executive fellow at the Ivey Energy Policy &amp; Management Centre.</p>
 <p><b>Mikayla Woodward</b> Project Advisor <b>First Nations Power Authority</b></p>	<p>Drawing on her unique blend of technical expertise in cybersecurity and engineering, Mikayla Woodward is a dedicated advocate for leveraging nuclear energy to advance Indigenous reconciliation. Her professional experience includes a pivotal role as a project advisor for the First Nations Power Authority (FNPA), where she led a groundbreaking capacity-building project to create a database connecting Indigenous businesses and a nuclear-certified workforce with opportunities in the nuclear sector.</p> <p>Through this work, she gained valuable insights into strategic planning for nuclear solutions, including her involvement with a provincial steering committee for SMR deployment. Her commitment to inclusive nuclear deployment and equitable participation for Indigenous communities is further enhanced by her experience in renewable energy and power project procurement.</p>




<p><b>Miskwaa Animkii Bnesii</b></p> <p>Traditional Knowledge Carrier</p> <p><b>Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation</b></p>	<p>I am Miskwaa Animkii Bnesii, I belong to the Eagle clan and I'm a traditional knowledge carrier from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations.</p>
<div data-bbox="251 346 568 661" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><b>Pat Chilton</b></p> <p>Former CEO</p> <p><b>Five Nations Energy Inc.</b></p>	<p>Pat Chilton recently retired from the position of Chief Executive Officer of Five Nations Energy Inc., after 10 years at the helm. FNEI is an independent, not-for-profit, 100% Indigenous owned---- 100% Indigenous governed ---- 100% Indigenous managed electrical transmission company that provides electrical service and fibre optics to three remote communities along the western shores of James Bay. Five Nations Energy Inc. was incorporated on September 30, 1997, and will celebrate their 28th Anniversary on September 30th, 2025.</p> <p>With his combination of experience, skills and knowledge, Pat successfully led many organizations through start-up, survival, turnaround and growth modes, leaving behind a path to sustainability. Pat's management career started at the age of 18 at the Moose Factory Board of Education, after which he moved to work for the Federal Government at senior levels, including the position of Regional Director of Indian and Affairs in the Northwest Territories. As the founding Executive Director of the Mushkegowuk Tribal Council, he was responsible for start up of the Council which included the eventual transfer of programs to the member First Nations.</p> <p>Pat's varied career also included several senior positions in the Health Services sector, including the positions of founding CEO for the Weeneebayko Health Ahtuskaywin, and the Weeneebayko Area Health Authority. He has been recognized for his dedication to improving Indigenous health services with the Deputy Minister's Award for Excellence from Health Canada in 2008, and the Assistant Deputy Minister's Recognition Award in 2007, from the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch for Health Canada.</p> <p>Over the years Pat has also participated on a wide variety of Boards and Committees, where he has gained a significant amount knowledge and understanding in the issues facing First Nations. Pat also served on the Boards of Coral Rapids Power (which constructed a 28MW hydro generation project) and the Western James Bay Telecommunications Network. In April 2025, he was recognized for his hard work and dedication for which he received the King Charles III Coronation Medal.</p>

	Pat now resides in Timmins, Ontario, and is member of the Mushkegowuk Cree
 <p><b>Russell Wesley</b> Chief <b>Cat Lake First Nation</b></p>	<p>Chief Russell Wesley, from Cat Lake First Nation in Treaty 9 Territory, is dedicated to community development and regional collaboration. Serving as Chief from 2013-2016 and currently, he has championed land and resource preservation rooted in Indigenous traditions and Elders' teachings. Russell has significantly influenced policies across federal and provincial governments, including Indigenous Affairs, Natural Resources, and Northern Development mandates.</p> <p>In 2017, his regional leadership was evident in his creation of Ontario's first Shared Territory Protocol, guiding resource development among neighboring First Nations. In 2022, he negotiated Ontario's first Indigenous-led impact assessment for the Springpole Mine Gold Project, empowering his community's environmental sovereignty. Currently leading a community-focused bioeconomy and biomass initiative that combines local and Scandinavian expertise. In addition to his recent induction to the Clean50, he is widely recognized for his environmental and Indigenous rights advocacy.</p> <p>For context: Cat Lake First Nation is a northwestern Ontario, Anishinaabe (Ojibway) speaking community located 180 km north of Sioux Lookout. It is accessible by air or winter road from Pickle Lake.</p>
 <p><b>Saga Williams</b> Senior Advisor <b>First Nations Major Projects Coalition</b></p>	<p>Saga Williams, LL.B. is the principal and owner of AS Williams Consulting, is an Advisor to the First Nations Major Projects Coalition on Critical Mineral Development and supports several exploration and mining companies in their Indigenous Relations outreach. She is a band member and resident of Curve Lake First Nation. Through her maternal relations, she is also a member of the Namekosipiing Anishinabeg community of Lac Seul First Nation, located in the Treaty #3 area. After graduating with an Indigenous Studies (Hons.) degree from Trent University and a law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School, Saga was called to the Ontario Bar in 2000.</p> <p>With over 20 years experience, Saga has been involved in the successful implementation of several high-profile initiatives, including energy, mining, economic and policy development projects and land claims settlements.</p> <p>Saga was an elected Councillor for her community and served a three-year term, holding three portfolios and chaired a number of community-based committees. Over her years working with</p>

	<p>First Nations governments, and holding a leadership position, Saga has gained an expertise in governance structures, policies and processes. Saga has also advised Cabinet Ministers and Indigenous leaders on Indigenous and Government Relations. Saga teaches as an Osgoode Hall Law School Adjunct Professor, introducing law students to issues of Indigenous rights, reconciliation and negotiation, was the Chair of a national, non-profit youth services board and currently sits as a Director on several publicly traded mining boards.</p> <p>Saga is currently working with the First Nations Major Projects Coalition as a Senior Advisor, leading the Critical Mineral development file, as well as supporting equity ownership in mining infrastructure, mines and the value chain supporting mineral development.</p>
 <p><b>Sean Brennan</b> Energy Coordinator <b>Haida Gwaii and Wah-ila-toos Indigenous Council Member</b></p>	<p>Sean is the Implementation Manager for Tli Yahda Energy on Haida Gwaii. From the Ts'aahl Laanaas Eagle Clan and has been working towards Haida sovereignty his whole career. Sean sits on the Wahilatoos Council with Natural Resources Canada, an Indigenous Clean Energy Catalyst from 2022, and energy champion for Haida Gwaii. Tli Yahda Energy has recently built the 2 MW Solar North project at the Masset airport and is currently about to do the 2 MW expansion of Solar North. as well as overseeing an energy efficiency retrofit program that looks at all housing in Masset and Skidegate on Haida Gwaii, district heating in Old Massett, BC, and a geo-exchange project in Skidegate, BC. A proud father of three, Sean spends most of his days off fishing and gathering traditional foods, in and around Haida Gwaii.</p>
 <p><b>Skye Anderson</b> Director, Indigenous Partnerships and Business Development</p>	<p>Skye Anderson is the Director Indigenous Partnerships, Business Development at Ontario Power Generation (OPG). She is also the co-spokesperson for the Indigenous Circle at OPG. Skye has over 10 years experience building relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in various sectors. Skye has experience working with community-based organizations, Federal and Provincial agencies, and First Nations communities to develop communication pathways to achieve mutual understanding and success.</p> <p>She is passionate in her pursuit to help bridge the knowledge gap that exists and build meaningful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. She has helped the Indigenous Relations and Partnership team with Indigenous education platforms, and OPG wide lunch and learns. Her current</p>

<b>Ontario Power Generation</b>	<p>portfolio includes New Nuclear Development and Nuclear Sustainability at OPG.</p> <p>She has spent her life learning Indigenous histories from Elders, Indigenous knowledge holders, and community members. Her education has been in Indigenous Studies and Public Administration at universities in Ontario.</p> <p>Skye is a proud Anishanaabe-Kwe. Her mother and stepfather are from Alderville First Nation of the Williams Treaties First Nations, and her father is from Wabauskang First Nation in Treaty 3. Skye proudly raises her two children in her home community of Alderville First Nation.</p>
 <p><b>Tara Ingram</b> Director, Economic Development <b>Matawa First Nations Management</b></p>	<p>Bio unavailable.</p>
 <p><b>Valerie Helbronner</b> Partner <b>Torys LLP</b></p>	<p>By applying creative solutions and managing strong relationships, Valerie provides strategic legal advice on a range of matters relating to the engagement of, and meaningful participation by, Indigenous groups in some of the country's most transformative projects.</p> <p>As the co-head of Torys' Indigenous practice Valerie is a trusted counsel to Indigenous and non-Indigenous project participants. She often advises on complex infrastructure projects impacting Indigenous interests and parties, where she brings a robust perspective on different parties' interests and priorities. Engagement with and the meaningful involvement of Indigenous people in large infrastructure projects has always been central to Valerie's practice, beginning with her role 25 years ago as lead counsel to Five Nations Energy Inc. in the development and construction of the transmission line along Western James Bay to connect three remote First Nations to the transmission grid.</p>

	<p>Valerie's recent project work related to Indigenous involvement notably includes advising: NWMO in the negotiation of a hosting agreement with Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation in relation to the site selection of the proposed deep geological repository site for used nuclear fuel in their traditional territory; CDEV in conjunction with the Federal Department of Finance, on the possible equity participation by over 100 Indigenous groups in Trans Mountain Corporation; Wataynikaneyap Project as lead project counsel for over ten years on all aspects of the development, financing, construction and operation of the Wataynikaneyap Transmission Project in northwestern Ontario; the Government of Canada in its re-initiated consultation process with 129 Indigenous groups on the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project alongside The Honorable Frank Iacobucci, the largest consultation effort to date in Canadian history; and Alto (formerly VIA HFR) on all matters relating to the permitting and engagement with Indigenous Peoples for the proposed high-speed rail network spanning almost 1,000 km between Québec City and Toronto.</p>
 <p><b>Vicki Blanchard</b> Strategic Advisor <b>Blanchard and Associates</b></p>	<p>Vicki's passion is providing advisory services to Far North First Nation communities and Tribal Councils, promoting economic development through reconciliation.</p> <p>An economic development expert for over three decades, Vicki Blanchard excels at project management and building strategic alliances. She has been successfully forging partnerships with industry, government, and First Nations since 1991, Northern Ontario Business recognized her as one of the Regions Top Five Leaders.</p> <p>In 2022, Vicki was appointed by Lac Seul and Cat Lake First Nations' to be the lead consultant for Ontario's first Anishinaabe-Led Impact Assessment on First Mining Gold Springpole Project. She is currently leading the development of Cat Lake First Nation's Bio-economy Project and All-Season Road development.</p>



**Vince Galea**

Community Energy Champion  
**Nipissing First Nation**

Vince Galea is the Community Energy Champion for Nipissing First Nation. In his role he works with the Economic Development Department to build EcDev capacity as well as assist with community-led energy projects and planning for upcoming renewable energy generations solutions. He recently earned his Certified Energy Manager (CEM) designation through the Canadian Institute for Energy Training (CEIT). Over the past eight months as CEC, Vince has focused on practical, investable solutions—energy audits, project readiness, and infrastructure initiatives—that reduce costs, grow local skills, and create long-term value for NFN.

Previously, Vince spent over 7 years as a Business Development Advisor with The Business Centre Nipissing Parry Sound, supporting entrepreneurs through coaching, workshops, and grant programs. Blending business and financial planning with his recent energy-sector expertise, he brings both business and community insights to help turn plans into projects.





**Lesley Gallinger**

President and CEO

**IESO**

Under her leadership, the IESO oversees the safe and reliable operation of Ontario's bulk electricity system, ensuring affordable electricity is available when and where people need it.

As part of its mandate to plan and prepare for the future, the IESO works with sector partners to identify energy needs, develop supply options, drive innovation, and harness data and information for decision-making. The IESO also delivers energy efficiency and demand management programs that contribute to the cost-effectiveness and reliability of Ontario's power system.

Throughout her career, Ms. Gallinger has focused on driving strategic change within complex organizations to deliver shareholder and stakeholder value. Prior to joining the IESO, she served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Elexicon Energy, a large municipally owned electricity distributor in Ontario, which she led through a sizeable merger integration. She has also held senior roles in the electricity sector that include Chief Strategy and Financial Officer at the Electrical Safety Authority as well as VP, Corporate and Regulatory Affairs and Chief Financial Officer at Oakville Hydro.

Ms. Gallinger sits on several boards, including the Ontario Energy Network. Prior to joining the IESO she also served on the boards of the Ontario Energy Association and the Electricity Distributors Association. She holds a Master of Business Administration from the Schulich School of Business at York University, is a Chartered Professional Accountant and a Certified Public Accountant (Illinois). She has also completed the Chartered Director and Audit Committee Certified program at the DeGroote School of Business, McMaster University.






**Carla Y. Nell**

Carla Y. Nell is responsible for providing strategic leadership in the areas of communications, stakeholder and community engagement, government affairs, corporate strategy, and managing and enhancing all relationships on behalf of the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO).

Ms. Nell has extensive senior leadership and operational experience within the private, public and not-for-profit sectors. Her expertise includes development of comprehensive engagement and advocacy strategies, overseeing initiatives to ensure a robust and responsive customer experience, and fostering transparency and mutual accountability with internal

<p>Executive Vice-President, Corporate Relations, Engagement and Strategy</p> <p><b>IESO</b></p>	<p>and external audiences to transform relationships into true partnerships.</p> <p>Ms. Nell holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Ottawa, completed her Masters degree at Western University, and is a paralegal licensed by the Law Society of Ontario.</p>
<div data-bbox="245 415 561 726" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><b>Kevin Berube</b> Director, Indigenous Relations</p> <p><b>IESO</b></p>	<p>Aanii, Boozhoo, Hello:</p> <p>My name is Kevin Berube. I'm a proud Ojibway from Flying Post First Nation and I originally hail from Nipigon, Ontario. I joined the IESO in the position of Director of Indigenous Relations this past October.</p> <p>Prior to joining the IESO I worked with Enbridge Inc. as a Senior Advisor – Community and Indigenous Relations. I moved to Toronto in 2015 from Sioux Lookout, Ontario where I served in the helping field beginning in 1994 with Tikinagan Child and Family Services, Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority and the Meno Ya Win Health Centre. I served in Director's roles in the aforementioned organizations from 1999 to 2015.</p> <p>I've had the privilege of sitting on various Boards and Advisory Councils: Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health, Teach for Canada, Youth Advisory Council Nishnawbe Aski-Nation. I've contributed articles as a member of the Health Advisory Team with the Globe and Mail. I currently sit on the Bell Let's Talk Mental Health Advisory Group where we are tasked with reviewing mental health proposals for funding.</p> <p>Over the past 30 years I've volunteered my time in many arenas in Northern and Southern Ontario as a hockey coach. Although I've retired from coaching my partner Christine and I still love watching our boys play hockey and will often be found in a cold rink throughout the winter. I enjoy travelling north to my homeland to spend time in the bush hunting and fishing with family.</p> <p>I'm excited to join the IESO family to see where this journey takes us.</p> <p>Miigwetch.</p>

 <p><b>Beverly Nollert</b> Senior Director, Power System Planning <b>IESO</b></p>	<p>Beverly Nollert currently serves as the Independent Electricity System Operator’s Director of Transmission Planning. In this role, Beverly leads the Division responsible for identifying electricity infrastructure needed to meet future electricity needs in Ontario resulting from demand growth, economic development and connection of new supply resources.</p> <p>Beverly has over 20 years of experience in Ontario’s electricity sector, holding several leadership roles in system planning and regulatory affairs at the IESO, as well as previous roles at Ontario Power Generation and consulting to support the nuclear sector in Ontario. She holds a Bachelor of Engineering Science in Chemical and Biochemical Engineering from Western University, and an MBA from the Ted Rogers School of Management at Toronto Metropolitan University.</p>
 <p><b>Jamie Lickers</b> Senior Vice-President, Indigenous Markets <b>CIBC</b></p>	<p>Jaimie Lickers is Senior Vice-President of CIBC’s Indigenous Markets team. With 12 years of experience servicing Indigenous clients in the legal market, Lickers joined CIBC in 2020. She leads the Bank’s Indigenous Trust Services and Indigenous Commercial Banking teams and advises on enterprise-wide Indigenous strategy in retail and business banking. She brings both personal and professional knowledge to CIBC’s mission to provide accessible and innovative banking solutions for Indigenous clients. Jaimie also sits on the Bank’s Inclusion and Diversity Leadership Council and co-chairs the Bank’s Reconciliation Action Committee.</p> <p>Throughout her career, Lickers has received numerous accolades for both her legal and banking work, frequently named as one of Canada’s most influential lawyers and in 2024, she was named as one of Canada’s most powerful women. Based in Hamilton, ON, she’s Onondaga and a member of the Six Nations of the Grand River.</p>
 <p><b>Tom Heintzman</b></p>	<p>Tom is one of Canada’s sustainability and renewable energy leaders. For 20 years, Tom has run and advised a broad range of companies in the energy transition space, including renewable electricity, renewable fuels, electrification of transportation and heating, and carbon offsets and credits. Tom founded Bullfrog Power in 2004, which became a household energy brand from coast to coast. In recognition of his contribution, Tom was named the Ontario Energy Association Leader of the Year and one of the original Canadian Clean 16.</p> <p>Prior to founding Bullfrog Power, Tom was a management consultant with McKinsey &amp; Co., where he led a number of</p>

Managing Director and Vice-Chair, Energy Transition and Sustainability <b>CIBC Capital Markets</b>	engagements in the energy, mining and metal manufacturing sectors. Tom began his career as a lawyer with Goodmans and then Ecojustice. Tom has both civil and common law degrees from McGill and an undergraduate degree from Harvard.
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