

Rose Bilou

Rose Bilou's current career is all about building relationships between the resource industry and Indigenous people. She works for Suncor Energy in the area of Stakeholder and Aboriginal Relations. Rose is committed to working toward a future that considers the aspirations and the possibilities for Métis people, in particular Metis women. She has a diverse background and has achieved a Supply Chain Management Professional (SCMP) designation, and Project Management certificate.

Brenda Blyan

Brenda Blyan is from the Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement. Her interest in the economic security of Metis women spans several decades. Through her work as Manager of Aboriginal Business Development at Civeo, she advocates for employment and contract opportunities for Metis women and community members. She has earned an Indigenous Leadership, Governance, and Management Excellence Course certification from the Peter Lougheed Leadership Institute. She has also volunteered and participated in the Métis Nation of Alberta's local government structure.

Candice Calliou

Candice Calliou works as a Headstart Program Coordinator on the Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement. She recently graduated from the Early Learning and Childcare Program at Northern Lakes College. She is currently the Chairperson for the CEC Northern Lakes College, Paddle Prairie Local School Board Committee and a Board Member on the Northland School Division Advisory Committee. She is also currently employed as the Community Coordinator for Athabasca University. She has worked independently as a contractor and in a small business. She sees herself as blessed to be able to live and practice her Metis culture and pass on her knowledge to the youth of the community.

Angela Carifelle

Angela Carifelle, originally from the Peavine Metis Settlement, is the Operations Manager for TeckEra Engineering Consulting in Spruce Grove. Prior to this, she was an Aboriginal Business Facilitator with Business Link where she worked with clients to help make their business dreams a reality. She has a Bachelor of Administration combined with over 15 years of experience in leadership roles. Most of her work has been in the area of community development. Angela uses skills to build bridges among corporate, community and government while always keeping in sight the importance of family and community.

Lisa Higgerty

Fifteen years ago Lisa Higgerty turned her back on a potentially lucrative career in sales to advocate for the victims of sexual abuse. The result is the Mamowichitowin, an innovative holistic program in rural Alberta that treats the entire family under one roof. Located in Hinton, it is unique to Canada, and has garnered interest in other countries as well. She has expanded the mandate of the program to cover all types of domestic violence for both Indigenous people and non-Indigenous people. Lisa has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Grant MacEwan University.

Valerie A. Kaufman

Valerie A. Kaufman was a Senior Manager of the Department of Canadian Heritage, where she retired in 2007. Her work and volunteer experience has focussed on advocacy and community engagement. She is committed to finding opportunities for Indigenous artists and craftspeople to market their products. Her mother, who was a well-respected Metis (Dene' descent) Elder from the Sahtu region of the Northwest Territories, taught her the art of many traditional crafts. She is the recipient of multiple awards including: an Esquao Award for community leadership; a City of Edmonton Salute To Excellence Award for volunteerism; a Queen's Jubilee Medal for service to the Metis community; and a Federal Public Service Award for outstanding engagement of a community (Aboriginal).

Carrie Langevin

Carrie Langevin is the owner of a successful Edmonton business, Mother Earth Essentials, which sells natural beauty and bath products. She also teaches Indigenous culture and the collection and use of traditional plants and medicines to students in schools across Alberta. Prior to becoming an entrepreneur, she earned a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Alberta, and taught at Amiskwaciy Academy in Edmonton. She is the 2013 recipient of the Business Award of Distinction for Aboriginal Woman Entrepreneur from the Alberta Chamber of Commerce.

Alberta Malcolm

Alberta Malcolm was born in a small northern hamlet, raised by an Indigenous woman who survived the era of residential schooling. She lived a traditional Metis lifestyle living off the land for many years – hunting, fishing and trapping before eventually transitioning to a farming environment. Alberta also chose a non-traditional career as a Power Engineer, working in a highly technical and male dominated environment. Alberta has a 4th Class PE Certificate from Keyano College in Fort McMurray.

Shirley Steenberg

Shirley Steenberg was born in Inuvik, Northwest Territories. She was the first to graduate from high school amongst eight students in Tukoyaktuk. Shirley earned a Bachelor of Administration from Athabasca University and currently works with Akita Drilling in Calgary. She is also a member of the Professional Aboriginal Women in Industry Association. She still has family ties in Tuktoyaktuk and visits her family to share traditional foods, stories and laughter.

Phyllis Grace Steeves, PhD

Dr. Steeves is a Cree Metis woman with strong roots in the community of Lac. Ste. Anne, Alberta. She holds a PhD with a specialization in Indigenous Peoples Education from the University of Alberta. Her work and research interests focus primarily on factors impacting the well-being of Indigenous peoples in the areas of education and health related contexts. She has more than a decade's work in the non-profit sector. Currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Calgary, she also serves on the Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board Health Panel, which provides opportunity to further develop an interest in ethics as it relates to research with Aboriginal peoples.

Sandra Sutter

Sandra Sutter is the Aboriginal Partnerships Manager for Tarpon Energy Services and CGT Industrial, and has 15 years of work experience as a small business and Indigenous relations consultant. She serves on several committees including the Aboriginal Advisory Committee for Careers – the Next Generation and the Board of Directors for Impact Society. She is the Executive Director for the Circle for Aboriginal Relations Society, sits on the Senate of the Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary, and serves on the National Negotiating Committee for the National Association of Friendship Centres.

Rachelle Venne

Rachelle Venne is the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (IAAW). She has held a variety of positions to prepare her for her current role, including Contract Analyst for Children’s Services, Project Officer for the Urban Aboriginal Strategy in Edmonton, and small business owner. Through IAAW she has created specialized training initiatives for Indigenous women. In 2012, she received the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal for her work as a board member on the REACH Edmonton Council for Safe Communities and was appointed in 2014 to the Aboriginal Roundtable for the Mayor’s Task Force on Poverty in the City of Edmonton. Rachelle is also a member of the Alberta Order of Excellence and the St. Albert Community Service Advisory Board.