

Gail Bitternose

Gail is a Cree woman from the George Gordon First Nation in Treaty 4 Territory. Gail is a master of business administration (MBA) candidate in Community Economic Development focusing on Indigenous social and economic development. Gail helps First Nations develop business opportunities and delivers workshops on entrepreneurship, business development, and financial literacy. She views economic development as key to financial independence and self-sustainability. She believes Indigenous women, in particular, uphold strength and resiliency in everything they do.

Tanya Pace-Crosschild

Tanya Naatoyitspa'pa waakaaki - Holy Walks Across Woman, is a member of the Kainai (Blood) Nation. She is an advocate of Indigenous children's and women's rights. She is a founding member of the Aboriginal Council of Lethbridge and a past member of the Pita Pawani Learning Society at Lethbridge College. She graduated from the Global Women's Leadership program at the Coady International Institute in Nova Scotia with 23 women from 22 developing countries around the world. She is a member of the University of Lethbridge Board of Governors and holds a bachelor of science in neuroscience from the University of Lethbridge and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Regina. Tanya is returning to the council.

Tracy Lee

Tracy is a Senior Advisor for Aboriginal Health at Alberta Health Services and leads several projects that address health inequities facing women. A member of Ermineskin Cree Nation, Tracy has held various leadership positions, which have helped her to understand and address the issues and challenges First Nations women face in the areas of health and wellness, education, employment and culture. Tracy has a bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's degree in public administration. Tracy is returning to the council.

Suzanne Life-Yeomans

Suzanne is a member of the Liidlii Kue First Nation. She holds a master's degree in business, a bachelor's degree in law, and an Indigenous Corporate Relations Diploma - all from Royal Roads University. Suzanne has over 18 years experience working with First Nation communities in the areas of Aboriginal consultation, lands, economic development and communication. She is currently working with Montana First Nation. Suzanne is a member of the Alberta Lands and Economic Development Advisory Committee and is a member of the Treaty and Aboriginal Land Stewards Association of Alberta.

Dakota Manson

Dakota is a First Nations mother from the Kainai (Blood) Nation of the Blackfoot Confederacy. Her spiritual name is Akoo. Dakota is an advocate for Indigenous youth promoting Indigenous rights and physical and spiritual wellness. She is an Indigenous mentor in Lethbridge and is working towards a degree in accounting, with a minor in First Nations governance, from the University of Lethbridge. Dakota graduated from the Lethbridge College with her management and accounting diplomas in 2015.

She plans on completing her degree and applying for law school to specialize in First Nations, human rights, and corporate law.

Alayna Many Guns

Alayna (Soohkapinakii) is a member of the Siksika Nation, which is a part of the Blackfoot Confederacy. She has a university degree in Aboriginal Health Administration, and has worked with the Tribal Council in a variety of capacities. Alayna also owns an events management company that focuses on sharing First Nation wisdom and professional experiences to empower Indigenous communities and organizations. She is currently the Project Manager for the culturally based, Elders-led Child and Family Intervention Services project, which is seeking ways to implement traditional Siksika culture into a new legislation model.

Valerie Moses

Valerie is the Senior Strategist of Indigenous Relations with Women Building Futures in Edmonton. In 2013, Valerie was recognized as an emerging female Indigenous leader in Canada. Valerie is a former member of the Aboriginal Education Council at Brock University in Ontario where she also studied Aboriginal Women's Education. She was also a member of the Aboriginal Education Management Circle at Niagara College, Ontario. She is a registered member of Six Nations of the Grand River.

Tina Northwest

Tina is a contract service provider. She completed a degree in Indigenous Doctoral Studies in iyiniw pimatsiwin Kiskeytamowin at nuhelots'ine thaieyots'inistameymakanak Blue Quills University. She also has an Indigenous Leadership and Management Certificate from the Banff Centre, a master's of arts in leadership and administration, and a bachelor of social work. She is an avid gardener, pow-pow dancer and practices Cree cultural traditions. Tina is returning to the council.

Meeka Otway

Meeka is president of the Inuit Edmontonmiut (the Inuit Society of Edmonton) and serves on the National Board for Inuit women, Pauktuutit. She currently works as a Community Liaison Officer for the Indigenous & Global Health Research Group, with the University of Alberta. Meeka speaks English and Inuktitut and works as a translator for various groups, such as the Baffin Regional Education Board. She has participated at numerous national and international conferences as a volunteer, most recently at the National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Meek is returning to the council.

Marlene Poitras

Marlene has spent much of her career working with Indigenous communities, organizations and individuals in several capacities across Canada and internationally. A member of Mikisew Cree First Nation, Marlene was appointed to chair the Alberta Treaty 8 Health Authority and appointed by the Alberta Chiefs to chair the Resolutions Committees as well as the Assembly of Alberta Chiefs meetings. Marlene is currently a consultant; some of her projects include coordinating the World Aids Day

Aboriginal Awareness event in December 2015 and conducting research on behalf of Tsuut'ina Nation. Marlene is pursuing a master's degree in business administration executive management from Royal Roads University. Marlene is returning to the council.

Crystal Shade

Crystal is a member of the Kainai Blood Tribe. She has experience and knowledge of Indigenous economic development through her employment with the Nation. She has a bachelor of management in business enterprises for self-governing systems. Crystal also volunteers with a variety of organizations from delivering meals with Meals on Wheels to helping with home construction with Habitat for Humanity. She was also a long-time volunteer with Junior Achievement presenting The Economics of Success to grade nine students.

Rhonda Spence

Rhonda is from Sandy Bay First Nation, Treaty 1 Territory in Manitoba and has lived in Edmonton for close to 20 years. She is a Canadian Certified Addiction Counsellor (CCAC) and works as an addictions councillor with the Enoch Cree Nation. She has also worked for the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women as an advocate and frontline worker. Rhonda is a Board Member with Wichitowin's Housing Action Circle, Red Road Healing Society and is a Co-President with Creating Hope Society. She has 8 children and 10 grandchildren.