

GLADUE CONFERENCE MARCH 2023
SPEAKERS

Dr. Alanaise Ferguson

Dr. Alanaise Onischin Ferguson is a citizen of the Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation and a Registered Psychologist and Associate Professor of Indigenous Studies at the University of British Columbia on the unceded Syilx lands in the Okanagan. Her work addresses healing and recovery processes in response to the historical trauma experienced by Indigenous peoples in Canada. She was born and raised in Stó:lō territory and she currently resides on the Westbank First Nation. She has over 18 years of experience as a mental health practitioner in Indigenous communities across Manitoba and BC.

Beverly Cook

Beverly *Kiohawiton* Cook is a Family Nurse Practitioner and a prominent voice in the mind-body medicine approach to restoring wellness, reproductive health and environmental justice for the Akwesasne Mohawk people. Chief Cook is embarking on her fourth consecutive term as an elected Chief on the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council.

She represents the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe on the United Southern and Eastern Tribes Board of Directors. She is also a member of the National Indian Health Board (NIHB), National Institutes of Health Tribal Advisory Committee (NIH TAC), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Technical Tribal Advisory Committee (SAMHSA TTAC) representing the Nashville area, which includes tribes/nations in the state of New York.

At home, she is a member of the Three Sisters' Advisory Board and championed the Akwesasne Child Advocacy Center, which provides victim-centred care for abused children. Chief Cook remains a valued supporter of the Tribe's Summit committee (formerly the Child Safe Summit Committee), which focuses on establishing tools and resources to support trauma-informed and resilience-building practices for tribal programs that serve the community, as well as for employees in the workplace.

Marie-Andrée Denis-Boileau

Ms. Denis-Boileau has been a member of the *Barreau du Québec* since 2011 and is a member of the Law Society of British Columbia. Besides holding a Bachelor of Laws, she also holds a Common Law degree from *Université de Montréal* and a Master of Laws from the University of Ottawa. She also completed training in Indigenous law at the University of Victoria.

She began her practice as a criminal and penal prosecutor in Algonquin Anishinaabe territory in Amos, as well as in the itinerant court of Nunavik and Eeyou Istchee Baie-James. Subsequently, she worked as a young researcher in the group “Towards an Atikamekw justice model”.

Ms. Denis-Boileau acted as counsel for the Public Inquiry Commission on relations between Indigenous Peoples and certain public services in Québec (Viens Commission), where she worked in particular on evidence in matters of justice. She held the position of Gladue lawyer for Legal Aid BC, where she participated in the writing of several guides related to the Gladue principles and reports, as well as the development of training for Gladue writers.

She is currently collaborating with *Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue* (UQAT) to develop training for several professions dedicated to supporting Indigenous people in the criminal justice system, as well as teaching a class on criminal law and Indigenous legal orders at University of Ottawa’s Faculty of Law.

Lyne St-Louis

Psychoeducator and mediator in criminal and social matters, Ms. St-Louis is a trainer, writer and editor of Gladue reports. Since 1999, she has worked with approximately 25 Aboriginal communities in Quebec at different levels, particularly in the development and implementation of community justice structures based on the values, legal traditions, realities and needs of each community. To achieve this, she founded Taiga Vision in 2004—an organization she still leads today, which supports Aboriginal programs to promote and request the recognition of culturally meaningful ways to intervene with their people within the justice and correctional systems. In early 2012, she introduced Gladue reports in Québec.

In January 2014, Ms. St-Louis co-founded the First Peoples Justice Centre of Montreal. She was in charge of the Nunavik Justice Program for Makivik Corporation from October 2014 to July 2018.

Sharon McBride

Sharon McBride is a proud Anishinaabe Kwe from the Timiskaming First Nation, (Notre Dame du Nord) in Abitibi-Témiscamingue. Mrs. McBride is in her 35th year as an employee of *Les Services Parajudiciaires Autochtones du Québec*. In her employment, Mrs. McBride has been a Court worker and is now Gladue Coordinator and staff supervisor. She sits on many committees both locally and regionally.

Jacy Jacobs

Born and raised in Six Nations, Ontario, Ms. Jacobs relocated to Akwesasne four years ago. She is a married mother of a 16-month-old daughter, with another baby on the way this summer.

Ms. Jacobs received her Honours B.A. in Sociology and Indigenous Studies from McMaster University in 2014 and has spent much of her career in the realms of education and writing. She has been a Gladue Writer for the Akwesasne Community Justice Program since 2021 and writes reports for the Ontario portion of the Akwesasne territory, as well as surrounding reservations and communities.

Sarah Plamondon

In addition to a Bachelor of Laws degree, Ms. Plamondon holds a Master's degree in criminal law, obtained at Université de Montréal in 1995. She has been a member of the *Barreau du Québec* since 1996. She was a teacher at François-Xavier Garneau and at Collège Maisonneuve from 1999 to 2002 in Police Technology.

Ms. Plamondon has been practicing criminal law at the Circuit Court since March 2002 and has represented clients at the trial and appellate levels on Cree and Inuit territory. She requested and pleaded the first Gladue report in Quebec in 2012 for a client from Nunavik. Ms. Plamondon was also a Cree and Inuit youth protection lawyer from 2002 to 2014. She sits on several committees related to justice in Northern Quebec.

Catherine Perron

Ms. Perron has been a member of the *Barreau du Québec* since 1992. Following an internship at the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions (DPCP) of Valleyfield, she became and still is a defence lawyer in private practice.

Since the beginning of her practice, Ms. Perron has developed a large Aboriginal clientele, mainly from the Akwesasne community. Over the years, this has become her main interest in law. In 2011, she founded the firm Fournier Perron Avocats. She is a member of the Akwesasne table of Valleyfield since its inception.

Éric Theriault

A criminal prosecutor for 11 years, Mr. Thériault has practised on the Atikamekw territory of La Tuque for 7 years. He is in daily contact with his partners at the Atikamekw Nation Council and approximately 35% of the cases he deals with concern Aboriginal offenders. In his files, several Gladue reports are written each year.

Marie-Josée Barry-Gosselin

Ms. Barry-Gosselin is a member of the *Barreau du Québec* since 2008. In addition to a Bachelor's degree in Civil Law from *Université Laval*, she obtained a Master's degree in Common Law from *Université de Sherbrooke* in Transnational Law as well as a Master II in International Cooperation and Development from *Université de Montpellier 1*. Ms. Barry-Gosselin also holds a Graduate Diploma in Dispute Prevention and Resolution, with a specialization in negotiation, mediation and arbitration.

She began her legal practice in civil law before joining a team at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. A criminal and penal prosecutor since 2012, Ms. Barry-Gosselin has been assigned to the Circuit Court for more than 10 years, mainly practicing in the Cree and Inuit communities of Northern Quebec.

Ms. Barry-Gosselin was also the Deputy Chief Prosecutor of the Public Inquiry Commission on relations between Indigenous Peoples and certain public services in Québec (Viens Commission). Since 2021, she has been working at the *Bureau du Service Conseil* and teaching at the *École nationale de police*, where she trains all aspiring Aboriginal police officers.

Pamela Gabriel-Ferland

Member of the Kanien'kehá: ka (Mohawk) Nation of Kanehsatake, where she lives with her partner of 20 years and their two children, Ms. Gabriel-Ferland comes from a diverse cultural heritage, with family roots in England, Quebec, as well as the Kanien'kehá: ka Nation. She is a holistic Indigenous practitioner, blending both her traditional and cultural teachings and Indigenous ways of knowing and doing with her Western education and training. She is also co-founder and owner of a family-owned social enterprise named Back to the Source /*Retour aux Sources/Tsi non we tiota'shá:ronte* in Kanehsatake, QC, whose mission is to address and reverse the impacts of colonization through group work, professional training and development, research and knowledge sharing, and creating awareness and partnerships with non-Indigenous allies.

She holds three professional licenses: as a social worker, psychotherapist, and couple and family therapist. Ms. Gabriel-Ferland has worked with Indigenous people and communities for over 20 years, offering a wide variety of services in the areas of healing and social work, education, social research and development, psychotherapy, and cultural safety training. She was also a member of the mental health support team that accompanied and supported residential school Survivors during the Pope's visit to Quebec City in July 2022.

Her most recent projects include the development of a skills-based course outline on social work practice with individuals and families for Old Sun Community College in Alberta.

Brittney Skidders

Teiosakentahon niwaksennoten (meaning “flowing reeds along the banks/islands/swamp edge”) is Ms. Skidders’ traditional name. She is a Wolf clan member of the Mohawk Nation, people of the flint, in the Community of Akwesasne and a mother of twin boys and a daughter. Ms. Skidders is a Gladue Aftercare Worker (GAW) in the Akwesasne Community Justice Program, where she has served for almost three years. She is also an independent Gladue Writer for Quebec. Her background education is in concurrent disorders and she has a certificate in Mental Wellness and Addictions Counselling.

Jonel Beauvais

Member of the Mohawk Wolf clan, Ms. Beauvais is the proud mother of three children and chosen auntie, sister and friend to many. She works diligently to empower and induce healing within all Native/Indigenous communities in order to prosper in the Haudenosaunee teachings of good medicine and good minds. Among other things, Ms. Beauvais is also Co-Creator of the Welcome Home Circle in Akwesasne—inspired by her own carceral experience and the undeniable need for representation and support for those directly and indirectly impacted by the criminal system, especially in Native communities.

In the spring of 2015, she began her five years of cultivating support and experience around intimate and systemic violence with the Seven Dancers Coalition as Community Outreach, located in Upstate New York on the U.S./Canadian political border of her home territory in Akwesasne. The Coalition seeks to educate Tribal communities and service providers through training and presentations on sexual assault, domestic violence, campus safety, teen dating, sex trafficking and stalking. She was a recipient of the 2020 Visionary Voice Award, nominated by the New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault and granted by the National Sexual Assault Resource Center.

Ms. Beauvais is also a member of the Section 84 board of Akwesasne and the *Neh Kanikonriio* Council, which is a Restorative Justice initiative that integrates Indigenous ways of mediation to reduce incarceration and provide a more interpersonal means of healing for both parties. In 2022, she received an award from the Women’s Institute for Leadership and Learning for her dedication to raising the voice of women and helping them attain pride and power through personal accountability.

Jonathan Rudin

Jonathan Rudin received his LL.B. and LL.M. from Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto. In 1990, he was hired to establish Aboriginal Legal Services and has been with ALS ever since. Currently, he is the Special Projects Director. Mr. Rudin has appeared before all levels of court, and over 10 times at the Supreme Court of Canada including in *R v Ipeelee*.

Mr. Rudin has written and spoken widely on issues of Indigenous justice. His book, *Indigenous People and the Criminal Justice System* was released by Emond Publishing in 2018 and won the Walter Owen Book Prize from the Canadian Foundation for Legal Research in 2019. A second edition of the book was published in July 2022. Mr. Rudin teaches in the Masters of Law program at Osgoode Hall Law School. He was one of eight Commissioners on the South Australia Advisory Commission into Aboriginal Incarceration Rates. The Commission reported in early 2023.

Last but not least, he plays the mandolin and sings with Gordon's Acoustic Living Room—a group that plays regularly in Toronto and has a number of videos on YouTube.

Daniel Jones

Associate Chair of the Justice Studies Program at NorQuest College, Mr. Jones has worked in the justice system for 28 years. He spent 3 years as a correctional officer and 25 years with the Edmonton Police Service, obtaining the rank of Inspector. Mr. Jones earned his Master's degree at the University of Cambridge in Applied Criminology. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Huddersfield.

Benjamin Ralston

An assistant professor at the University of Saskatchewan College of Law, Mr. Ralston has also taught law courses for the University of Saskatchewan's *Kanawayihetaytan* Askiy program for Indigenous land managers, for the Nunavut Law Program based in Iqaluit, and for graduate students in programs at the School of Environment and Sustainability.

Mr. Ralston completed his Master of Laws with distinction at the University of Otago in New Zealand. He also has a Bachelor of Arts and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of British Columbia.

Mr. Ralston has authored several academic articles on legal topics, including in relation to the *Gladue* principles. He is the author of one monograph, *The Gladue Principles: A Guide to the Jurisprudence* (2021), and a co-author of *Aboriginal Tenure in the Constitution of Canada*, 2nd Edition (2022). Mr. Ralston has also practised law, primarily working as a litigator in the areas of administrative law, Aboriginal law, and environmental law. He was first called to the British Columbia bar in 2011 and he later joined the Law Society of Saskatchewan in 2015.

Patricia George

Born and raised in Chisasibi, Ms. George is a Cree mother of 3, who has lived in Whapmagoostui for 27 years. She received her Bachelor of Arts from *Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue* in 2011. From 2014–2016, she was on the Justice and Healing Committee of Whapmagoostui and later elected as Band Council member. When her term as council member ended in August 2020, she returned to the Justice Committee where she still serves as Justice Committee today.

Ms. George completed her Gladue training in March 2015 and later became a Gladue writer for the Cree nation. In 2018, she then began writing Gladue reports with the Inuit.

