



Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women



ANNUAL REPORT
2015-2016

Ministry of Aboriginal
Relations and Reconciliation

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



I am pleased to present the 2015-2016 Annual Report of the Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women (MACAW), which highlights achievements that took place between April 1, 2015, and March 31, 2016.

Among many accomplishments, I would like to draw attention to two important developments in MACAW's work. First, B.C. and Aboriginal leadership partners planned and hosted a gathering for families of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls so that they may heal together by sharing their stories and strength. The 2016 Provincial Family Gathering occurred from January 31 – February 2, 2016, in Lheidli T'enneh territory (Prince George). We are proud to have been a part of this historic event.

Second, we are thrilled to report that this year's Giving Voice projects have been a success. This initiative supports communities to bring Aboriginal women and girls together and "give voice" to issues of violence within their lives, families and communities. These community-led projects were designed to bring participants together in a safe and supportive way. There are so many powerful stories of resilience and strength!

Early in the 2016 calendar year, Minister Rustad made four new appointments to MACAW: Karen Joseph, Sarah Robinson, Linda Thomas and Coreen Child.ⁱ I would like to thank all of the women on the Council who are committed to improving the quality of life for Aboriginal women in B.C. I'd especially like to express my gratitude to Mary Teegee, Vice-Chair, Annita McPhee, Darlene Shackelly and Debbie Williams who served the Council with great leadership during the 2015 calendar year.

I'd also like to acknowledge the many other women, Aboriginal organizations and communities who are working to achieve safe and healthy communities. We know by working in partnership, we will make a difference for all of our women.

Chastity Davis
Chair

BACKGROUND

In June 2011, the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) and the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) co-hosted the Collaboration to End Violence: National Aboriginal Women's Forum in Vancouver. It brought together 250 participants from all over Canada, including government agencies, national Aboriginal organizations, First Nation, Métis and Inuit communities, and community-based organizations.

Following the Forum, the Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation at the time, announced the establishment of the Minister's Advisory Council on Aboriginal Women (MACAW).

Mandate

MACAW provides advice to government on how to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal women in British Columbia.

Vision

A world where all Aboriginal peoples live free of violence and are healthy, sustainable and self-determining.

Mission

To improve the quality of life for Aboriginal women.

Philosophy

MACAW honours Aboriginal worldviews and works from a holistic perspective of women; thus, when we speak of women, we consider this to be inclusive of, but not limited to, children, family, community, nation, wellness, justice, land and water.

Duties

- Advocate for the well-being of Aboriginal women in British Columbia
- Provide advice and support to the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
- Provide guidance and direction that is rooted in Aboriginal worldviews
- Strategically influence decision-making that will improve the quality of life for Aboriginal women in British Columbia.

MEMBERS

MACAW is comprised of 10 accomplished and respected Aboriginal women from across B.C. There is one Chair, one Vice-Chair and eight members, including an Elder



L to R: Sarah Robinson, Karen Joseph, Chastity Davis, Minister John Rustad, Marjorie White, Barbara Ward-Burkitt, Paulette Flamond, Coreen Child, Dr. Lorna Williams, Assistant Deputy Minister Laurel Nash. Absent: Linda Thomas, Sophie Pierre

Representative and a Youth Representative. Council members are appointed by the Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, and are selected based on criteria of diversity, experience and regional representation.

Name		Position	Term
Chastity Davis	Tla'amin Nation	Chair	2012 – Present
Barbara M. Ward-Burkitt	Fort McKay First Nation	Vice-Chair	2014 – Present
Paulette Flamond	Métis	Member	2011 – Present
Sophie Pierre	Ktunaxa Nation	Member	2011 – Present
Marjorie White	Huu-ay-aht Nation	Elder Rep.	2012 – Present
Dr. Lorna Williams	Lil'wat	Member	2014 – Present
Coreen Child	Kwakiutl First Nation	Member	2016 – Present
Karen Joseph	Kwakwaka'wakw	Member	2016 – Present
Linda Thomas	Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc	Member	2016 – Present
Sarah Robinson	Fort Nelson First Nation and Saulteau First Nation	Youth Rep.	2016 – Present

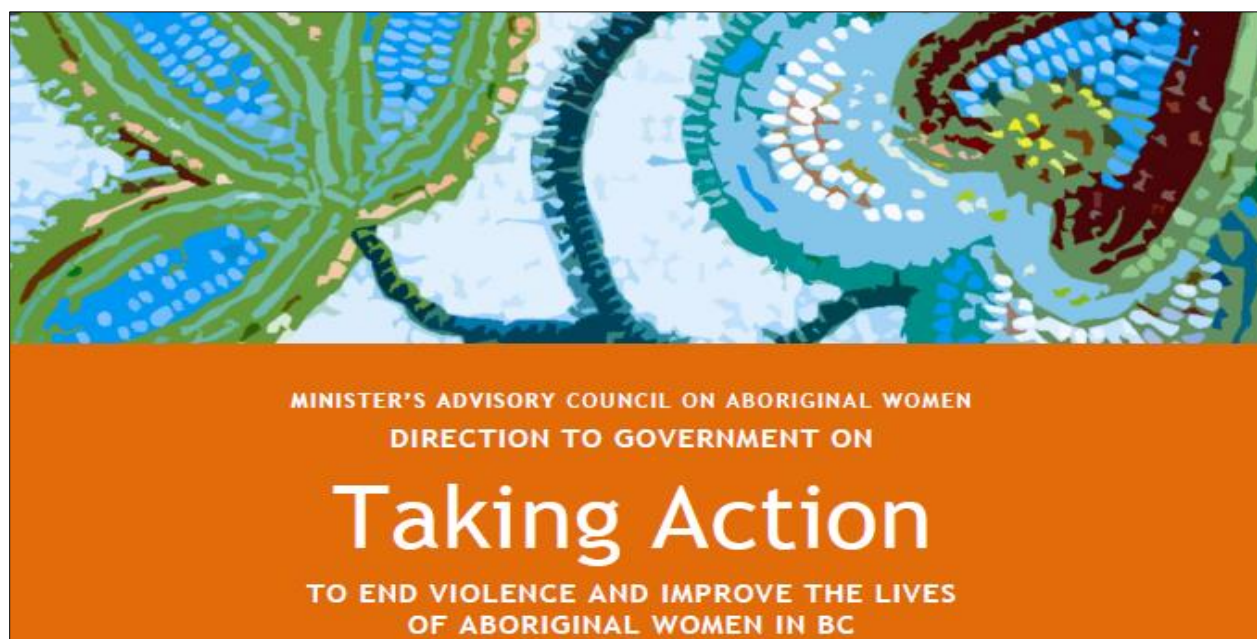
KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

>>> **Direction to Government on Taking Action to End Violence and Improve the Lives of Aboriginal Women in B.C.**

On September 16, 2013, MACAW submitted a directive to Minister Rustad titled *Direction to Government on Taking Action to End Violence and Improve the Lives of Aboriginal Women in B.C.* *Taking Action* is MACAW's guiding report to government on the actions it must take to fulfill MACAW's vision of "a world where all Aboriginal peoples live free of violence and are healthy, sustainable, and self-determining."

Taking Action identified eight strategic directions, along with 27 actions, that address systemic or administrative changes required, or that address a stage of violence. Some actions have already been completed, such as signing an Aboriginal-Government Leadership Memorandum of Understanding, establishing a Joint Aboriginal-Government Partners' Table on Stopping Violence Against Aboriginal Women, and establishing a Secretariat to support the activities of MACAW and the Joint Partners' Table. Other activities are ongoing or must be implemented.

It has been three years since MACAW submitted *Taking Action*, and a more specific action plan must be jointly developed, implemented and measured over time. Strategic planning continues, in order to ensure the Province implements *Taking Action*'s recommended steps by working collaboratively with other agencies, Aboriginal leadership and communities.



>>> Giving Voice

The Giving Voice initiative was developed to provide Aboriginal women, men, youth and Elders safe opportunities to “give voice” to issues of violence within their lives, families and communities. These community-led projects aim to stop violence against Aboriginal women and girls by changing behaviours and attitudes, and mobilizing communities.

In total, the Province provided \$350,000 in funding to support two streams of community-led projects over 2014-2016. Twenty-five communities and organizations received funds to implement Giving Voice projects over one year (2014-2015), while twelve received funding to support mobilization and implementation projects over two years (2014-2016).

Communities told us that Giving Voice projects:

- ✓ Created opportunities to give voice to issues of violence and abuse
- ✓ Built empathy and connectedness amongst community members
- ✓ Created opportunities to engage in traditional activities for vulnerable people
- ✓ Created awareness about different types of violence
- ✓ Increased opportunities for vulnerable populations to participate in community programming
- ✓ Addressed the impacts stemming from violence
- ✓ Built a community partnership or collaboration
- ✓ Assisted the community to build capacity.



Many Giving Voice projects offered educational workshops or talking circles. Some projects exclusively served women or girls/teens. Others focused on men, such as the Aboriginal CATCH project in Kelowna, which hosted a monthly talking circle open to male participants in the Aboriginal Fathers Engagement Program. Families and other community members were often invited to participate and celebrate their accomplishments.

Many projects brought in guest speakers to address issues surrounding violence, such as prevention and safety plans, spiritual healing, personal wellbeing and self-care. Often projects featured interactive programming and cultural experiences. For example, the Penticton Indian Band, in addition to their bi-weekly program, organized two outings to gather birch bark and cedar root to make traditional birch bark baskets. These baskets were later used on a berry-picking trip to prepare for a community feast. Other cultural activities included traditional cleansings, and drum and regalia making. Many women and girls/teens developed healthy social relationships while connecting with one another through spiritual and cultural activities.

The success of Giving Voice speaks to the enduring need for community-driven, nation-based programs to address violence against Aboriginal women and girls.

>>> 2016 Provincial Family Gathering for Families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

The Provincial Family Gathering for Families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was held January 31-February 2, 2016, in Lheidli T'enneh territory (Prince George).ⁱⁱ The Provincial Family Gathering intended to create a supportive environment and help foster healing for families and communities who have lost loved ones.

The Provincial Family Gathering was emceed by Carla Robinson and Dr. Evan Adams and included renowned speakers such as Dr. Gabor Maté, Ernie Crey and Wanda Good. It offered facilitated sessions and cultural activities, and there was a private welcoming event for family members on the first day. Traditional healers and spiritual advisors offered guidance and healing throughout.

The first day opened with a prayer, cultural ceremonies and a Kwakwaka'wakw Mourning Ceremony and Blanketing. The afternoon session included Dr. Gabor Maté's workshop, Trauma & Recovery – Meeting Our True Selves, as well as a Lheidli T'enneh Gathering of Rocks Welcome Ceremony. The evening banquet featured messages to the families, an honouring ceremony for advocates, and performances by the Butterflies in Spirit Dance Group, Kym Gouchie and Métis Fiddler Keith Hill.

The second day began with cultural ceremonies and songs, and moved into breakout sessions. There were facilitated sharing circles for youth, women and men that discussed the Highway of Tears and the Moose Hide Campaign. The event closed with final words shared by Lheidli T'enneh Chief Dominic Frederick and Minister John Rustad. Kim Gouchie and the Khast'an Drum Group offered closing songs.

The Provincial Family Gathering provided family members with the opportunity to share their experiences and support each other in their journey of healing. Their stories provided input into the Second National Roundtable and the design of the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Finally, family members were invited to participate in the formation of a quilt by creating cloth squares in memory of their loved ones. The quilt will be unveiled and displayed throughout the summer of 2016 in the B.C. Legislature to honour these Aboriginal women and girls.



KEY ADVICE

>>> Fifth Justice Summit

On November 6-7, 2015, the Fifth Justice Summit was held at the UBC Allard School of Law. Two significant topics that were discussed are:

- A trauma-informed justice system response to victims of violent crime
- Better coordination and information sharing in and across family justice, criminal justice and child protection proceedings.

The *Fifth Justice Summit Report of Proceedings* sets out eight recommendations for a practical plan of action.ⁱⁱⁱ Chastity Davis, Chair of MACAW, sits on the Steering Committee that is responsible for governance and planning. The next Justice Summit (June 10-11, 2016) will address mental health in the justice and public safety sector.

>>> 2015 Northern Transportation Symposium

On November 24, 2015, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the First Nations Health Authority co-hosted the Northern Transportation Symposium in Smithers. It engaged First Nations leadership, community members and local government representatives to identify safe transportation options for communities along the Highway 16 corridor between Prince Rupert and Prince George. Dr. Lorna Williams, MACAW Member, attended the Symposium along with over 90 participants.

Participants discussed how best to connect communities along the 800 km Highway 16 corridor in practical, affordable, sustainable and safe ways. The First Nations Health Authority also surveyed Aboriginal communities along Highway 16 to identify their transportation needs.

The Symposium was an important step in identifying solutions that work for local communities. As Dr. Lorna Williams said, “people in the North are rallying to find solutions. Government is beginning to listen and willing to hear what people want to do. I hadn’t seen this kind of collaborative working relationship before.” The *Summary of Proceedings* identifies key themes of service expansion, capital and operating funds, collaboration and communication, and highway safety.^{iv}

>>> Five Point Action Plan for Safe Transportation Options Along Highway 16

Aboriginal women, communities and organizations, including MACAW, are well aware of the safety and transportation challenges that Aboriginal women and girls face, especially when they live in remote locations.

Chastity Davis, Chair of MACAW, attended an official announcement on December 14, 2015, for the *Five Point Action Plan for Safe Transportation Options Along Highway 16*.^v The initial \$3-million funding commitment will enhance transportation safety along the Highway 16 corridor from Prince Rupert to Prince George. At the announcement, Chastity stated:

"Today's transportation action plan for the Highway 16 corridor outlines five steps that were informed by First Nation communities through consultation efforts by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority. Our hope is that the five steps outlined today will directly benefit Aboriginal women and girls in the north by creating safe and accessible transportation systems, such as expanded transit and community-based transportation."

The *Five Point Action Plan* enhances the \$5.2 million annual investment the Province makes towards transit services in communities along the Highway 16 corridor. MACAW offers its support to the new Highway 16 Transportation Advisory Group that will oversee the implementation of the *Five Point Action Plan* and will analyze the input received at the 2015 Northern Transportation Symposium.



>>> **National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls**

On December 8, 2015, the Government of Canada announced a National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The Ministers of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, Justice and Attorney General of Canada, and the Status of Women led engagement with survivors, family members, front-line organizations, national Aboriginal organizations, and provinces/territories to seek input into its design.

The Pre-Inquiry Design process held 18 meetings across Canada, which nearly 2,000 individuals participated in. MACAW responded to discussion questions posed by the federal government by providing feedback to the Honourable Suzanne Anton, B.C. Minister of Justice and Attorney General. Dr. Lorna Williams, MACAW member, participated in a Pre-Inquiry Design meeting in Vancouver, while Barbara Ward-Burkitt, Vice-Chair, and Chastity Davis, Chair, participated in the Pre-Inquiry Design meeting in Prince George. Chastity also attended the Assembly of First Nations Pre-Inquiry Design meeting.

Ministers Bennett, Wilson-Raybould and Hadju concluded: "We are determined to do this right for the survivors, families and loved ones, to honour the spirits and memories of those we have lost, and to protect the future generations."^{vi}

>>> **Anti-Domestic Violence**

MACAW continues its advisory role with the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence (PODV) to ensure that special consideration is given to the needs of Aboriginal women and girls. As part of B.C.'s three-year, \$5.5 million Provincial Domestic Violence Plan, \$2 million was allocated to develop and deliver programs specifically for Aboriginal women, men and children affected by domestic violence.^{vii}

In February 2016, twenty-four Aboriginal organizations and communities received a combined total of \$1.5 million through the Aboriginal Domestic Violence Funding Project to deliver culture-based programs that address domestic violence.

Chastity Davis, Chair of MACAW, stated:

"Our Council continues to collaborate with the Province to find ways to address the systematic issues and root causes that are the reasons that domestic violence occurs at alarmingly high rates to Aboriginal women and their children. This funding is a good start to address the issues that are specific to our communities' unique needs to help men, women and children overcome abuse and live healthy, safe lives. Projects ranged from individual and family counselling services with a cultural focus to healing discussions for entire communities to increase awareness about domestic violence."

>>> Second National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

The Second National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was held February 24-26, 2016, in Winnipeg, Manitoba.^{viii} Family members, Minister Suzanne Anton, Minister John Rustad, MACAW Chair Chastity Davis, BCAFN Regional Chief Shane Gottfriedson and senior officials comprised the B.C. Delegation.

The first day was open only to family members. The next two days offered sharing circles where families met with Indigenous leaders, provincial and territorial premiers, and federal and provincial ministers. They offered recommendations to achieve justice and end violence, and discussed the upcoming National Inquiry. A side meeting was held with B.C. family members to discuss the Province's next steps to address missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

At the conclusion, an Ontario provincial government document was distributed, titled *Outcomes and Priorities for Action to Prevent and Address Violence Against Indigenous Women and Girls*.^{ix} It sets out 20 priorities in three theme areas: prevention and awareness; community safety; and, culturally relevant policing measures and justice responses.



2015-2016 MEETINGS

MACAW meetings provide the opportunity for members to share experiences, knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal women's issues, and discuss and develop recommendations to government. MACAW meets with ministers, staff from provincial ministries, Aboriginal governments, community-based organizations, service providers and members of Indigenous communities.

Date and Location	Organization(s)	Discussion Topics
Apr. 30-May 1, 2015 Vancouver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Justice and Attorney General (JAG) • Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoT) • Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) • Provincial Office on Domestic Violence (PODV) • Ministry of Health (MOH) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JAG - <i>Vision for a Violence Free BC</i> • MoT - <i>Highway 16 Action Plan</i> • MARR – socio-cultural initiatives, including Aboriginal skills training • PODV - partnerships and actions regarding Aboriginal women experiencing domestic violence • MOH - improving the health of Aboriginal women in B.C.
June 19, 2015 Vancouver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RYC - <i>Paige's Story</i> and its recommendations that are relevant to MACAW • MACAW acknowledged the one-year anniversary of the <i>Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Stopping Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls</i>
Oct. 8-9, 2015 Vancouver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health (MOH) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOH - health care for Aboriginal women in B.C., including an overview of the 2011 Health Strategy that promotes wellness for Aboriginal women

Dec. 9-10, 2015 Vancouver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister Rustad discussed his vision for MACAW, including decision-making and communication structures • MACAW discussed strategic planning for 2016
Jan. 11-12, 2016 Vancouver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) • Ministry of Justice and Attorney General (JAG) • Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FNHA - "Who We Are and the Health Benefits We Provide" included information on the health supports available to Aboriginal women in B.C. • JAG and MARR - National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). MACAW provided feedback on the design of the Inquiry • Minister Rustad shared his vision for MACAW's strategic engagement with other ministries and discussed cultural competency training for Ministers
Mar. 18-19, 2016 Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Justice and Attorney General (JAG) • Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoT) • Ministry of Natural Gas Development (NGD) • Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JAG – summarized input from the Provincial Gathering for Families of MMIWG and the Second National Roundtable on MMIWG • MoT - <i>Five-Point Action Plan for Safe Transportation Options Along Highway 16.</i> • NGD - early termination of fixed-term tenancy agreements for tenants fleeing family violence or accepted into long-term care • MCFD - <i>Aboriginal Policy and Practice Framework in British Columbia</i>



2016-2017 GOALS

As part of its ongoing work with the Province, MACAW works respectfully and in partnership with Aboriginal women, organizations and leadership to improve Aboriginal women's quality of life. To further this goal, MACAW will:

- ✓ Continue working with federal and provincial partners to support the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- ✓ Build on the momentum created by the Joint Aboriginal-Government Partners Table and the 2016 Provincial Family Gathering. A Children and Family Gathering is expected to take place in early summer 2016.
- ✓ Continue its advisory role with the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence to ensure an Aboriginal perspective surrounds the development of culturally-responsive policies, programs and services that will support Indigenous peoples affected by domestic violence.
- ✓ Report back on the success of the Giving Voice initiative, which wraps up at the end of 2016, and continue to advocate for community-led, holistic programs and services that "give voice" to issues of violence.
- ✓ Complete strategic planning sessions to prioritize its goals and foster strong relationships with Aboriginal and provincial leadership.

APPENDIX I: MEMBERS

Chastity Davis (Chair)



Chastity Davis is the Principal and Lead Consultant with Chastity Davis Consulting. Previously, she was a Key Account Manager with BC Hydro and prior to that, a Project Manager with Refinery Leadership. Active in the community, Chastity is a Director on the Board of the Minerva Foundation, as well as a Council member for the Combining Our Strength Initiative. Chastity is a former Vice-President of the Aboriginal Women's Leadership Association of B.C. and is a frequent speaker at events, including the Women's World Conference, National Women's Retreat, Healing Our Spirit Worldwide, and BC Institute of Technology's

Aboriginal Alumni. Chastity holds a Diploma in Marketing Management and Professional Sales from BCIT, a Bachelor of Arts in Professional Communications from Royal Roads University, and will be completing her Master of Arts in Intercultural and International Communication in the fall of 2016 from Royal Roads University.

Barbara Ward-Burkitt (Vice-Chair)



Barbara Ward-Burkitt is a member of the Fort McKay First Nation and is the Executive Director of the Prince George Native Friendship Centre. She has been actively connected in many capacities to the Friendship Centre movement for 43 years. In the past, she was a Faculty Mentor in Field Programs at Simon Fraser University and a Native Childcare Worker for the Quesnel School District. Active in her community, Barb is Vice-President of the B.C. Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres and President of Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment and Training Association. She completed her First Nations Design and

Technology Course from Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design and her Master of Education Degree from Simon Fraser University. Barb also holds a Provincial Instructor's Diploma from the Vancouver Community College and a Native Adult Instructor's Diploma from the B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education. Barb was invested into the Order of British Columbia in 2010.

Paulette Flamond (Member)



Paulette Flamond, Métis, has 18 years of experience in business and management, including international business experience. In addition to sitting on several provincial and national boards, Paulette has been the Executive Director for the Northeast Aboriginal Business Centre for the past 11 years. She owns Scoop Boutique, a successful women's clothing store in Fort St. John.

Paulette is a graduate of UBC's Ch'nook Aboriginal Management Certificate Program, as well as the Art and Science of Coaching program at Erickson College in Vancouver. She is also a graduate of the Native Communications program at MacEwan University. She holds an associate arts degree, a Life Skills Certificate from the Life Skills Institute in Edmonton, has completed extensive courses in social work and business management, and is certified as a Professional Aboriginal Economic Developer by the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO). In 2009 Paulette was named Economic Developer of the Year by CANDO and was presented with the Aurora Award of Distinction as Aboriginal Woman of the Year from Community Futures Peace Liard. She also received a Northern British Columbia Business & Technology Award in 2011.

Paulette is passionate about the work she does and is inspired to help improve communities and individuals by encouraging wellness, training, and entrepreneurship. She was instrumental in starting Walk in Balance, the first-ever Aboriginal wellness conference in northeastern B.C.

Sophie Pierre (Member)



Sophie Pierre served as Chief Commissioner of the BC Treaty Commission for six years. She led the St. Mary's Indian Band for 30 years as elected Chief and was the administrator of the Ktunaxa/Kinbasket Tribal Council for 25 years. She has served on the boards of many major organizations, including B.C. Hydro and the First Nations Financial Authority. Sophie was named to the Order Of British Columbia in 1994, and was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2016 for her role in the B.C. treaty process and for her commitment to the economic development of First Nations.

Marjorie White (Elder Representative)



Marjorie White, a citizen of the Huu-ay-aht Nation, is an Elder Advisor and former Executive Director of Circle of Eagles Lodge Society. Currently, she serves as Founder and member of the B.C. Association of Friendship Centre's Elder Council. She has served as President of the Aboriginal Mothers' Centre, Senator of the National Association of Friendship Centres, Vice-President of Luma Native Housing, Chair of the Vancouver Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee, member of the Pacific Association of First Nation Women, the Vi Fineday Transition Society, Huu-ay-aht Government, and

Vancouver Aboriginal Transformative Justice Service Society. Marjorie is the recipient of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Commemorative Medal, the International Year of the Volunteer Award from Correctional Services Canada, the Women Making a Difference Award from the Vancouver Society of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women, the Volunteer Recognition Award from Volunteer Vancouver, the Women of Distinction Award from the YWCA, the Gold Feather Award from the Professional Native Women's Association, and the Courage Award from the Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centres Society. In addition, she was previously appointed to the Langara College Board, Citizenship Courts, the Vancouver Police Commission and the Safer Cities Task Force. Marjorie was appointed to the Order of BC in 2016. She has two daughters, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Dr. Lorna Williams (Member)



Dr. Lorna Williams is a member of the Lil'wat First Nation of Mount Currie. Until her retirement in 2013, she was the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Knowledge and Learning, an Associate Professor in Indigenous Education, Curriculum and Instruction and Linguistics, and Program Director of Aboriginal Education at the University of Victoria. Before joining the University of Victoria, Lorna worked at the Ministry of Education as Director of the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Branch. Prior to that, she worked as a First Nations Education Specialist with the Vancouver School Board.

Lorna received her Doctorate in Education at the University of Tennessee. She has co-directed a series of videos called *First Nations: The Circle Unbroken*, has written children's books and teachers' guides, and has developed Lil'wat language curriculum to teach people to read and write the Lil'wat language. Lorna was invested into the Order of British Columbia in 1993 for her work in education.

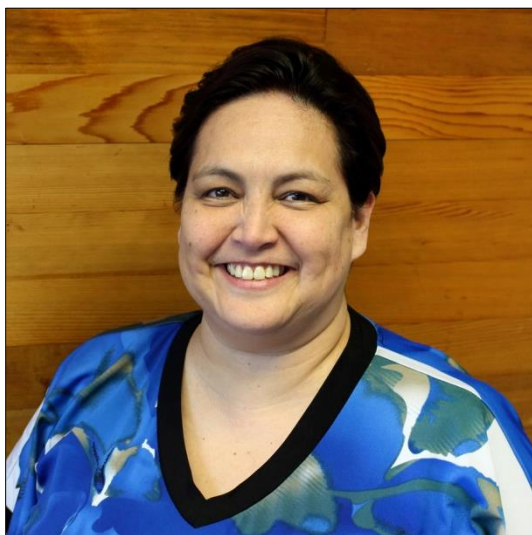
Sarah Robinson (Youth Representative)



Sarah Robinson was born and raised in Prince Rupert and is a proud citizen of the Fort Nelson First Nation and the Saulteau First Nation in northern B.C. She completed her undergrad at the University of British Columbia and is an alumnus of the B.C. Aboriginal Youth Internship Program (2008-2009). In 2014, Sarah was selected as one of 16 people from across Canada to participate in the annual Action Canada Fellowship, Canada's premiere leadership development program. She most recently worked as Director of Operations at the Toquaht Nation, one of the signatories to the Maa-nulth Treaty, before starting her business, Rainwatch

Consulting. She is based in Toquaht's small community of Macoah along the shores of beautiful Barkley Sound with her fiancé Carlos and an array of animals. Find her on Twitter @sarahc_robinson.

Karen Joseph (Member)



Karen Joseph is co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Reconciliation Canada. She is a proud member of the Kwakwaka'wakw People. Karen brings more than 18 years' experience of inspiring diverse partners to collaborate and achieve effective, positive change. Karen's desire to affect meaningful, systemic change and contribute to her community led to a career in health. She spent several years working with Vancouver Coastal Health and as an independent healthcare advisor, where she developed programs to improve healthcare outcomes for Indigenous communities. Her work focused on community engagement and

education towards removing systemic barriers to healthcare access. Karen founded

Reconciliation Canada in 2012 to uphold a dream held by her father to witness thousands of people walking together for renewed relationships. In September 2013, the Walk for Reconciliation brought 70,000 people to the streets of downtown Vancouver to display a commitment to transforming relationships among Indigenous peoples and all Canadians. Karen grew up in Campbell River, where she was active in music, sport and community activities. As the eldest daughter of Chief Robert Joseph, Karen can speak first-hand to the impacts of inter-generational trauma and the current realities of the residential school legacy. In the true legacy of Kwakwaka'wakw traditions and culture, Karen holds a lifelong commitment to family and community.

Coreen Child (Member)



Coreen Child carries the ancestral Kwak'waka name 'Yakawilas, the place where property is given'. She is from the Kwakiutl (Kwagiulth) First Nation and lives with her husband and three daughters in their home community of Tsaxis, near Port Hardy on northern Vancouver Island. Yakawilas is a descendant of many high ranking Kwakiutl chiefs and their families, and can trace her lineage back 14 generations to the origin places of her ancestors. She carries a diploma in Indigenous child and youth care, a diploma in language revitalization, as well as a Bachelor of Education degree with a specialization in

Kwak'waka language learning. She has recently completed her third consecutive term in service to her nation, most recently as Chief Councillor. Coreen continues to advocate and serve on many boards and committees that include the First Nations Technology Council of B.C. Board of Directors, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs' All Chiefs Task Force on Children and Families, and the First Nations Education Council for School District 85, Vancouver Island North. She has also served as a representative to the BCAFN women's council. Coreen has worked at Camosun College as an instructional assistant to employment readiness preparation programs, at the University of Victoria as an Aboriginal service plan coordinator, at the Sacred Wolf Friendship Centre as a roots practitioner, and for the Kwakiutl Nation as a cultural researcher. Coreen is renowned for her many gifts of traditional dancing, singing and teaching, and she continues to play an active role as a cultural leader and educator amongst the Kwakwaka'wakw communities.

Linda Thomas (Member)



Linda Thomas, BSW, LLB, of Cree – Norwegian ancestry, is a member of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (formerly Kamloops Band) through marriage and has called the TteS community home for more than 30 years. Linda, who practices child protection and family law in Kamloops, Merritt and Lillooet, is known to be a passionate advocate for her clients. She has been a lawyer for 14 years and has worked for First Nations governments, non-profit organizations and has been a student and faculty member in the Indigenous Leadership, Governance and Management Program at the Banff Centre. Her past experience practicing

criminal and prison law, coupled with her involvement in social justice issues since a young adult, led her to establish the Cknúcwentn First Nations Court in Kamloops, a provincial sentencing court for Aboriginal peoples. It is one of four such courts operating in the Provincial Court system within B.C. Linda is the Chair of the Aboriginal Justice Council, a multi-agency committee that she established to serve as an advisory to the First Nations court. Linda is a member of the B.C. Courthouse Libraries, the Canadian Bar Association (CBA) of British Columbia Criminal Law section, the Women's Lawyers Forum, the Aboriginal Lawyers Forum and the Kamloops Child Protection lawyers group. She is also a law student mentor. In 2014, Linda was awarded with the CBA B.C. Aboriginal Lawyer's Forum Special Contribution Award that recognized not only her leadership and commitment in establishing the First Nations court in Kamloops, but also her motivation to improve relationships between Aboriginal peoples and the legal system. Linda is the proud recipient of the 2015 YMCA Peace Award that recognized her work in establishing the First Nations court in Kamloops.

Past MACAW Members

Name		Position	Term
Charlene Belleau	Esketemc First Nation	Member	2011 – 2014
Kim Baird	Tsawwassen Nation	Member	2011 – 2015
Wendy Grant-John	Musqueam Nation	Chair	2011 – 2014
Darlene Shackelly	Nooaitch First Nation	Member	2013 – 2015
Debbie Williams	Cowichan Tribes	Member	2013 – 2015
Mary Teegee	Takla Lake First Nation	Vice-Chair	2013 – 2015
Annita McPhee	Tahltan Nation	Member	2015 – 2015



APPENDIX II: 2015-2016 ACTIVITIES TIMELINE

- **June 16, 2015:** Signatories to the MOU Regarding Stopping Violence Against Aboriginal Women and Girls mark the one-year anniversary, review progress and focus on next steps. This leads to the commitment to host a family gathering in B.C., working in partnership with families, loved ones and impacted communities of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.
- **November 6-7, 2015:** MACAW members attend the Fifth Justice Summit in Vancouver.
- **November 24, 2015:** MACAW member Dr. Lorna Williams attends the Northern Transportation Symposium in Smithers, B.C.
- **December 14, 2015:** MACAW Chair Chastity Davis attends the *Five Point Action Plan for Safe Transportation Options Along Highway 16* Press Release in Victoria.
- **January 12, 2016 and January 14-15, 2016:** MACAW representatives Dr. Lorna Williams, Barbara Ward-Burkitt and Chastity Davis attend Pre-Inquiry Design meetings in Vancouver and Prince George.
- **January 31-February 2, 2016:** Along with Aboriginal leadership and the Province, MACAW co-hosts the 2016 Provincial Family Gathering for Families of Aboriginal Women and Girls who are Murdered or Missing.
- **February 11, 2016:** MACAW Vice-Chair Barb Ward-Burkitt attends the 2016 Moose Hide Campaign 5th Annual Gathering in Victoria.
- **February 11, 2016:** MACAW Pre-National Roundtable Teleconference with Laurel Nash, MARR Assistant Deputy Minister.
- **February 12, 2016:** MACAW members attend Indspire Awards in Vancouver to celebrate Indigenous achievement.
- **February 14, 2016:** MACAW members attend the February 14th Annual Women's Memorial March in Vancouver and Port Hardy.
- **February 26, 2016:** Attorney General and Minister of Justice Suzanne Anton and Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation John Rustad marked the conclusion of the 2016 National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. MACAW Chair Chastity Davis attends as part of the provincial delegation, along with families from B.C.

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